

HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Minutes of the August 11, 2026
Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge. Opening prayer led by Trustee Westveer, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor J. Partridge (Board Chair), Clerk D. Olson, Treasurer J. Phillips, Trustees D. Eichholz, B. Scheck, B. Westveer and W. Wetzel.

Also Present: 6 guests

Meeting Agenda: Supervisor Partridge advised that, if the representative from Emergency Management should arrive, he would like to move his time on the agenda up from “New Business” to before the County Commissioner. Motion made by Trustee Eichholz and seconded by Trustee Scheck to accept current agenda, with the Supervisor’s request. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ellyn Main, Library Representative of the Township – reported on the summer reading program and book sale, Sept. 15 Open House & events, as well as grant for handicap accessibility. Also mentioned, as member of Indian Hills subdivision of the start of road improvement project.

Brandon Strong – thanked public for support in Primary Election. Discussed various state & local issues of concern with State House Speaker.

Gary White – added comment regarding the letter submitted last Board meeting concerning issues of Brandon Strong and the driving school. Also informed of upcoming Precinct Delegate training open to public.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the July 14, 2026 regular meeting, emergency services reports and Library reports. Motion made by Trustee Scheck and seconded by Trustee Wetzel to accept all consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried.

New Business

1. Patrick Jansens, Barry Co. Emergency Mgt. Coordinator – introduced. Presented overview of emergency management in county, discussed rise in emergency calls, effects of weather, development of operations plan, hazard mitigation, with hope to align with surrounding community. Looking at grants, hope to upgrade outdoor warning system. Discussion on using township hall as emergency resource, also auxiliary ham radio & sheriff’s posse. Gave contact info options.

County Commissioner – R Teunessen

Commended P. Jansens for his dedication. Looking for positive representation of the district by B. Strong. Expected Open House at new COA facility Sept. 29th. Jail updates: narrowed engineering firm list down to Clark & Granger Construction. Still working on various options of remodeling / rebuilding current facilities

Unfinished Business

1. Recycling module – Supervisor Partridge in contact with county coordinator Rachel Frantz – still waiting for response on grant applications with the state. Supervisor made a motion that the recycling unit be re-opened and funds approved for the Recycling Budget be allowed for related transportation / fuel costs. Motion seconded by Trustee Wetzel. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote: Ayes – Partridge, Phillips, Olson, Scheck, Westveer, Wetzel, Nays - Eichholz
2. Computer replacements – Clerk Olson reported having received both laptops and accessories. Won’t begin transfer on Treasurer’s computer until after coming tax deadline.

3. Resolution to State regarding zoning regulations – Commissioner Teunessen informed of the commissioner board creating and submitting a response to state legislation taking control from local government regarding renewable energy zoning. Discussion followed considering the creation of a township-equivalent resolution.

New Business (continued)

2. September Board meeting – to be located at old Township Hall, at historic Charlton Park. Invitation to Director Dan Patton to attend, with refreshments following the meeting.

Warrants presented for payment – Discussion on payment to law firm Fahey, Schultz, Burkych, Rhodes PLC – exceeding the previously approved limit of \$3,000. Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Scheck to approve the warrants totaling \$31,841.29 – which does not include \$2,555.50 to law firm MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote: Ayes – Eichholz, Partridge, Phillips, Olson, Scheck, Wetzel, Nays – Westveer.

Department Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Eichholz to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
- Clerk's Report: reviewed election participation by constituents. Presented draft minutes from second Special Assessment District of the Indian Hills subdivision improvements. Motion by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Westveer to accept minutes as presented. Motion carried
- Supervisor's Report: Reported on county's fall recycling event Sept. 23rd and river clean-up. Update on Powell Road excavation activity and discussion with Drain Commissioner. Invited Board to offer suggestions for upcoming Budget renewal. Trustee Westveer reiterated the prudence of initiating dialogue with subdivisions that will need to consider road improvements in near future; discussion followed. Informed of City of Hastings' Request-for-Proposals and Ace Hardware looking to open store on M-37 corridor. Thanked Trustee Westveer for great work in clearing branches and overgrowth on township property.

Public Comment

Patrick Jansens commented on cyber communications companies and their underground installation work: public can always contact Brian Donnini of the Road Commission, responsible for approving permits.

Board Member Comments

- Trustee Eichholz – comments on recent low flying airplanes
- Trustee Scheck – observations on need for greater fire service. Recent concert: cost tax payers nothing for emergency service, completely covered by concert organizers. Upcoming fund-raiser breakfast for fire department.
- Treasurer Phillips – thanked Supervisor Partridge for good work power-washing township hall.
- Clerk Olson – presented quotes by KCI of Absent Voter ballot processing: prints voter labels with assigned ballot numbers, sorts for post office, reducing prep time and postage cost. Motion by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Westveer, to approve KCI processing per quotes, using existing township envelopes. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Scheck. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date _____.