

TOWN OF NEW HOPE, Portage County
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
7:00 p.m. Regular Town Board Meeting
North New Hope Church, 845 County Road T N, Amherst Junction

Members present: Chair Todd Knepfel, Supervisors Timm Raddatz and Ray Reser
Also present: Treasurer Dorene Stolpa, Clerk Pat Zellmer, Guest Pat Luteman

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Chair Knepfel called the regular town board meeting to order at 7:10.

Minutes of the Annual Budget Workshop (November 6, 2023) and the November regular meeting (were emailed to board members prior to the December meeting; hard copies were distributed at the meeting. Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the Annual Budget Workshop minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

Supervisor Reser moved to approve the November Regular and Special Electors meeting minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.

2. Persons who wish to address the Board and North New Hope Church

Ms. Pat Luteman, Chair of North New Hope Lutheran Church Council, met with the New Hope Town Board to address continued use of the church and a desire to continue the current relationship with New Hope. Discussion of rental fees (including information about other towns using similar spaces), possible storage space for voting equipment, possible use in the Emergency Management Plan, and an option to plow snow for the church ensued.

Because of increased usage of the church, Karen Johnson (Joint Parish Secretary/Treasurer for North New Hope Church) will be contacted (715 677 4631, faithnhope@wi-net.com) regarding meetings and elections to coordinate the use of the church basement.

Ms. Luteman was invited to the March Regular Board meeting for continued discussion.

3. Update on Our Savior Cemetery

Greg Row (representing Our Savior Church) contacted Chair Knepfel; although the survey has been completed, the landowner of the segment of land between the road and cemetery has not responded yet. Sally Prudeaux (Treasurer, South New Hope Cemetery Association) provided some information to Chair Knepfel about adjacent properties.

4. Road Improvement report

Glodowski Construction submitted a bill \$3430 for sanding/plowing in December. Noah Swenson submitted a bill for completed work on Kozelek and Town Hall Road brushing for \$26950. Glodowski was paid in full and a portion (\$14,000) of Swenson's bill was paid from the 2023 budget, with the balance for Swenson (\$12950) to be paid in January.

5. Review of Garbage Special Charge

In preparing the special charges for refuse (garbage/recycling) for the 2023 tax bill, it was noted that approximately 25 residences were not charged for 2022 garbage pickup. A master list of residences will be provided to Harter's (who currently hold no master list) mid-year during preparation of the 2024 tax bill.

The Board agreed to a policy of no refunds for special charges for less than \$1000 except to reverse a charge for uninhabited parcels.

6. Change to .gov addresses

Chad Wolding reported that the Town of New Hope website has a new address (<https://tn.newhope.wi.gov/>); anyone searching for the town website will be re-directed to this site. To complete the conversion for board and staff emails to a .gov address, the purchase of Microsoft 365 Business Basic, an online software package for \$6.00/user/month for an annual rate of \$360 is required.

This package will allow a .gov address to be assigned to each member, and will not interfere with current programs installed. It is anticipated that the conversion to .gov should be completed by early January in time to submit a state subgrant request to cover the conversion.

Supervisor Reser moved to approve the subscription, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.

7. Election Equipment and Training:

Clerk Zellmer reported that the DS200 Tabulator (purchased and paid for by Town of New Hope) and three ExpressVote units (purchased and paid for by Portage County) have been delivered, as well as two Badger Books and accessories (also purchased and paid for by Town of New Hope). Training will be provided to poll workers in January.

8. Caucus: The next caucus will be held in Spring 2025. No action taken.

9. Financial Review/Audit: The Annual Audit for Town of New Hope will be held on Tuesday, January 23 at 6:00 pm at North New Hope Church.

10. Payment of Bills

Supervisor Raddatz moved to pay bills in the amount of \$34,921.63, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

11. Set date for next regular Board meeting

The next regular town board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 at North New Hope Church.

12. Adjournment

Supervisor Raddatz moved that the December meeting be adjourned, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted to the Board by Clerk Pat Zellmer.