

**Minutes for Truth in Taxation and  
Holdingford City Council Meeting  
Monday, December 8th, 2025.**

**Council Members in attendance:** Travis Harlander, Tim Winter, Eric Berscheid, Seth Young, Jayme Opatz.

**Others in attendance:** Nicky Lahr, Herman Lensing.

Travis called the Truth in Taxation hearing open at 7:00pm. No residents were present, no comments/questions were made. Tim made a motion to close the meeting at 7:02. Jayme seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Travis called the City Council meeting to order at 7:03 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Department reports:**

**Steve presented the maintenance report.** He mentioned that a loader tire had to be replaced. He also asked the Council to approve an agreement with SEH to prepare a chloride investigation and update a Mercury minimization plan as required by the MPCA as terms for the City's waste water permit. Eric made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$12,500 and Tim seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Keith gave the Fire Department report.** They responded to 157 calls this year, with 1 mutual aid in Avon, 14 in Brockway TWP, 83 in Holdingford, 53 in Holding TWP and 6 in Krain TWP.

They have 4 quotes for turnout gear, and will make final decisions soon for the purchase. If the cost is more than the grant the Fire Relief association will cover the difference. Tim made a motion to approve the purchase. Seth seconded it and it passed with all in favor. Budget for 2026 will be the same, except for a slight increase for physicals this year. Payroll was submitted for approval coming in approximately \$5000 below budget at \$40,380. Eric made a motion to approve payment, and Seth seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Calendars will be mailed out soon. Keith also mentioned that the Department is looking into purchasing 2 mini splits this coming year to keep the facility dryer, and add supplemental heat.

**Nicky gave the Clerk's report.** She explained that the carwash is officially in the City's name and we applied for tax exemption status. This may not take effect until 2027. We received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the property tax levy from Stearns County. We also received the Fire relief Associations pension funds and paid the City's portion of the pension funds to the Relief Association. Nicky shared that the Stearns County prosecutor's office called and explained that they do not prosecute the City's ordinances, so we would need to use a private prosecutor to defend the two outstanding violations. The Council discussed and asked Nicky to look into discontinuing the County prosecuting contract. They also decided to decline hiring an attorney for the two outstanding violations as they will be approving administrative fines in lieu of criminal charges in the near future.

**Old Business:** The City received payment on the \$10,000 clean water grant and applied it to the first round of well test drillings. Nicky also applied for two more grants, each for \$15,000 (one is a matching grant) that will help cover the remaining charges for the test drills.

**New Business:** Eric made a motion to approve the 2026 budget. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Eric made a motion to approve resolution 25-12-8-1 for the final 2026 levy in the amount of \$262,500 which is a 5% increase. Jayme seconded the motion. Nicky reminded the council that there are many expensive projects that need to be completed in the near future. Eric stated that an increase in utility bills would help to cover those future costs as well as make up the deficit in the water and sewer budgets. The motion passed with all in favor.

Eric made a motion approve resolution 25-12-8-2 2026 fee schedule with changes to the water and sewer fees and the addition of administrative fees for ordinance violations in the amount of \$10 per day. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Jayme made a motion to approve the 2026 Council meeting schedule. Tim seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Jayme made a motion to appoint the Clerk to sign on behalf of the Council authorizing her to close an investment with New York Depository, and roll the proceeds into a CD. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

**Additional items:** The Council discussed AFSME's MOU in regards to the State's paid leave insurance. Nicky will reach out to the union representative to schedule negotiations, or find out if email negotiation would be adequate.

The Council also discussed changing the City's ordinance 10.98 from criminal fines to administrative fines. Eric made a motion to set the fine to \$10. Tim seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor. Nicky will verify with the City Attorney that the fine can be charge daily and also how many days' notice must be given before fines start accruing.

**Looking forward:** City Hall is closed December 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>. The next council meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Jayme made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Eric seconded it and it passed with all in favor.

Signed:

Nicky Lahr *Nicky Lahr*

City Clerk-Treasurer, Holdingford