

Note: These are the proposed Minutes that will be approved at the next Board Meeting.

Town of New Hope August Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2025 – 6:00 pm

North New Hope Church, 845 County Road T North, Amherst Junction, WI

Members present: Chair Todd Knepfel, Supervisors Timm Raddatz and Ray Reser

Also present: Treasurer Dorene Stolpa, Clerk Pat Zellmer

Guests: Jennifer Chirko, Zach Kranski, Sally Prideaux, Don Romundson, Dave Swenson

1. *Call to order, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.*

The August Regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:20, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

2. *Review/Approval of Minutes.*

Supervisor Reser made a motion to approve minutes as written from the July Regular Town Meeting (07/14/2026) and the August Special Meeting (08/05/2026), seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion passed 3:0. Minutes were distributed via email to board members prior to the meeting, posted at the Sunset Lake and North New Hope Church kiosks, and will be posted on the new town website.

3. *Persons who wish to address the Board.*

- Bob Lane requested a parking sign along New Hope landing on Tomorrow River. The Board tabled the request: a two-car space is already available, and a sign is currently posted by water's edge.
- Sally Prideaux and Don Romundson, representing the South New Hope Cemetery Association, approached the Board regarding Our Savior Cemetery (Trout Creek Road). Discussion ensued. No action taken.
- Zach Kranski appeared before the Board regarding options for snow removal in 2026-27 discussed at the August Special Meeting. Several new options were discussed; Board Members will follow up.
- Jennifer Chirko appeared before the Board regarding Data Centers. Other towns were cited as examples for possible town action to protect New Hope. Following discussion, Board Members will follow up on options for the Town.

4. *Road Report.*

- Roadside mowing has been completed by Zach Kranski, including aggressive mowing along some of the town roads to reduce the need for brushing.
- Brushing and tree removal for 2026 has been completed by Swenson Tree Service.
- Noted that Asplundh Tree Expert Company sprayed boxelder on several roads along the town road right-of-way.
- The old town hall (on Town Hall Road) has been moved to a private location. Vehicles parking at that location will receive a written notice that effective October 1, 2026, the lot entrance will be chained, and private vehicles will no longer be allowed to park there.

5. *WI Towns Unit meeting (July 27, 2026).*

- Chair Knepfel and Clerk Zellmer attended the meeting. The main speaker (Rural Mutual) requested a Town Employee Safety Policy to be compliant with state statutes. The clerk will follow up.
- Jackie Beyer (WTA) requested a resolution from each town (see item 7). A signed copy will be submitted to WTA.

6. *August Primary (August 11) .*

- **Election Report:** 241 electors cast votes in the August Primary, including 41 absentee ballots.
- **Request change in poll worker pay.** Following a brief discussion, Supervisor Reser moved to increase pay for Chief Election Inspector from \$10.50 to \$17 per hour, and Election Inspectors from \$10 to \$15 per hour, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried 3:0. The Board will determine the effective date (November '26 or January '27) at the next meeting.

7. *Resolution 2026-01: Supporting a Comprehensive and Sustainable Transportation Funding Solution.*

A copy of the resolution was signed, and will be posted on the town website and submitted to WTA.

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8. New Business.

- Clerk Zellmer will submit a Security Sub-Grant to the Wisconsin Elections Commission. If successful, the subgrant would fund replacement of the clerk's computer and printer. An Election Emergency Plan (required as a condition of the grant) will be provided to the Chief Inspector and Board at the next meeting. CWES and Town of Alban have agreed to serve as emergency sites if the need arises.
- The Town Website revision is up and running.

9. Payment of Bills. Supervisor Raddatz made a motion to pay August bills totaling \$65,297.46, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried 3:0.

- August bill total was amended to include Harter's – bill not received, bank checks, and Treasurer stamps, for a total of \$73,431.46. Board was apprised of those additions, and approved the amendment.

10. Next meeting date.

- County Zoning Meeting (Public welcome): Thursday, August 27, 6:00pm Jensen Center, Amherst.
- Open Book: Monday August 31, 10:00 – 2:00 pm. Appointment recommended. N. New Hope
- Board of Review: Thursday, September 10, 5:00 – 7:00 pm Appointment required, N. New Hope
- September Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 6:00pm, N. New Hope
- Public Test for DS200, General Election: Saturday, October 24, 9:00 am, N. New Hope
- General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm – see website, N. New Hope Church

11. Adjournment. Supervisor Raddatz made a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion passed 3:0. Meeting was adjourned.