

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

Town of New Hope September Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026 – 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: Don Gullickson, Dave Swenson, Brandon Schuster, Arnie Schuster

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

The September Regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes. Minutes were posted online on the town website (tn.newhope.wi.gov) and at the two kiosks (Sunset Lake and N. New Hope Church), and were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting.

a. August Regular Board Meeting (08/20/2026). Supervisor Reser made a motion to approve minutes as written from the August Regular Town Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried 3:0.

b. July Regular Board Meeting, Amended (07/14/2026). Minutes were amended to correct the amount of bills paid in July. Supervisor Reser made a motion to approve the amended minutes as written from the July Regular Town Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried 3:0.

3. Persons who wish to address the Board.

- a.** Schuster LLC. Arnie and Brandon Schuster appeared before the Board regarding road work. Discussion ensued.
- b.** Don Gullickson appeared before the Board regarding plow damage to Gullickson Road by Glodowski Construction in April. The Town will have the road damage wedged; Chair Knepfel will contact Glodowski to prep the site.
- c.** Dave Swenson requested that snowplowing on the corner of Waller and Trout Creek be widened after future snowstorms as a safety concern.

4. Road Report. Discussion ensued regarding pothole repair on Krogwold, Grayson and Taylor Roads, and possible brushing work by Swenson along Hotvedt Road south County MM.

5. Elections.

a. Change in poll worker pay effective date. In August, the Board approved a pay increase for election inspectors due to increased responsibilities and required training, but postponed determination of the start date. Clerk Zellmer reported a cost estimate comparison in an election-heavy year with two primaries and two general elections: estimated \$2370 annual current cost, estimated \$3630 using the approved pay increase, with an annual increase of \$1260 (34.7% increase). Supervisor Reser moved to implement the pay increase beginning with the November 2026 election, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried 3:0.

	Chief Inspector Current Rate \$10.50/hour	Inspectors Current Rate \$10.00/hour	Chief Inspector Revised Rate \$17.00/hour	Inspectors Revised Rate \$15.00/hour
Spring and August Primaries (14.5 hours/inspector, 15 hours/chief insp.) -1 chief inspector @ 15 hours per primary x 2 primaries = 30 hours and -2 inspectors @ 29 hours/primary x 2 primaries = 58 hours	\$ 315.00	\$ 580.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 870.00
April and November Elections (14.5 hours/inspector, 15 hours/chief insp.) - 1 chief inspector @ 15 hours/election x 2 elections = 30 hours and - 4 inspectors x 14.5 hr x 2 elections = 116 hours	\$ 315.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 1,740.00
Total in election-heavy year	\$ 2,370.00		\$ 3,630.00	
Difference:	\$ 1,260.00	Increase		

Discussion or discussion and action may occur on any of the items listed on the agenda.

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the clerk at 715-677-4784 (clerk@tn.newhope.wi.gov) prior to the meeting.

Submitted by Clerk Zellmer, posted on website, and at Sunset Lake and New Hope Town Hall

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6. Board of Review.

The 2026 Board of Review was completed September 10, 2026.

7. New Business.

a. Air B&B

Per request from a town resident, prospective Air B&B owners should consult with Portage County Planning and Zoning for required information. No advertising is permitted per New Hope Town Plan.

b. Update Confidentiality Ordinance No 2025-02

Clerk Zellmer requested a clean signed copy of Confidentiality Ordinance #2025-02 and 2025 BOR Procedures Policy (with no changes.) The Board re-signed both.

c. Harter's and Recycling

The Board discussed the current contracts with Portage Co. Solid Waste and Harter's. Amanda Haffele (Portage Co. Solid Waste) will be invited to the October meeting.

d. New Construction Zoning question

Chair Knepfel will contact Portage County Zoning regarding the zoning restrictions on construction of a 32 x 32 shop per inquiry from Dick Thompson.

e. Zoning Violation

Portage Co. Planning and Zoning issued a violation for zoning and lack of permits to property belonging to Larry Fechter, following an inquiry by the assessor, and posted sale of property.

f. Town Right of Way Issue

Supervisor Reser will follow up with Laurel Young and Travis Bassett regarding a possible issue with town right of way and possible survey requirement on Jerry's Lane.

g. Tax Bill

Per the Board, there are no additional insertions needed for the 2026 tax bill.

8. Payment of Bills.

Supervisor Raddatz made a motion to pay September bills totaling \$13,257.26, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried 3:0.

9. Next meeting date.

a. Portage Co. Towns Unit Meeting, Monday, Sept. 28: Ryder's Roadhouse & Grill

b. October Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 pm, N. New Hope Church

c. 2027 Budget Initial Workshop: Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00 pm, Clerk's Office

d. Early Voting (In Person Absentee) begins Tuesday, October 20 (by appointment w/clerk)

e. Public Test for DS200, General Election: Saturday, October 24, 9:00 am

f. General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm – see website

10. Adjournment.

Supervisor Raddatz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion passed 3:0. Meeting adjourned.

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