

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
February 5, 2025

New Holland Borough Council met on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Patrick K. Morgan, Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, William Clisham, Harry M. Klinger, D. Michael Ireland and John M. Taylor. Also present were: Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief William Leighty and reporter Megan Glockley. Others in attendance included Pennsylvania House of Representatives member of the 43rd District which includes New Holland, Keith Greiner, Darryl Keiser, Chief, Garden Spot Fire Rescue, residents Todd Burkhart, Bill Kassinger and Lino Vescovich, police Lieutenant/Detective Josh Bitner, police Detective Heather Halstead and Borough staff member Paula Walsh.

President Morgan opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of Council's prior meeting.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of January 7, 2025 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Bill Clisham made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

President Morgan noted that as Representative Greiner is present this evening, the Agenda will begin with the Mayor's report first.

Mayor Bender stated his first item of business is to note the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$5,200 from alarm fines; \$951.53 from the District Justice's office; \$261.74 from fingerprinting; \$190 from accident reports; and \$5.50 from Right to Know requests. His second item relates to the upcoming retirement of Chief Leighty from police services to return to the private sector. He has spent 36 years in the profession; the last seven and one-half with New Holland. Chief Leighty helped move the Department to higher standards. He has provided quality leadership. It was a benefit working with him for the community. He commends him for the bar he set as well as overseeing the accomplishment of qualifying for Accreditation. He has been a proven leader.

State Representative Greiner stated he is well acquainted with Chief Leighty. He also knows his family and parents. The Chief is also active with his home

community and church. He has always been a person of high integrity and was known and respected in the profession. He then read the Citation recognizing the public service of William D. Leighty, as approved by the House:

Whereas, The House of Representatives of Pennsylvania takes great pleasure in recognizing those citizens who selflessly devote their lives to ensuring the safety of the residents of their communities and ultimately of all the people of this great Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Chief William D. Leighty is being honored upon his retirement after a career spanning thirty-eight years of dedicated and distinguished service to the field of law enforcement; and

Whereas, a 1979 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College with a degree in business administration and management, Chief Leighty also earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and law enforcement administration from Columbia Southern University. He began his career in 1987 with the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. In 1989, Chief Leighty began working for the New Holland Police Department, and the following year, he joined the East Cocalico Township Police Department. He became Chief of Police of Clay Township in 1999 before becoming employed with the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department as an Administrative Sergeant in 2012. Chief Leighty took on his current role in 2017, when he returned to the New Holland Police Department. In addition to his law enforcement duties, he is a member of the Bareville, Leola, Leacock Lions Club and an usher for the Lancaster Evangelical Free Church. Chief Leighty faithfully displayed great loyalty, commitment and professionalism in the performance of his duties during his career. He served with consummate skill, upheld the laws of this Commonwealth and served as a role model for all those who aspire to a career in law enforcement.

Now therefore, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pays a respectful tribute to Chief William D. Leighty upon his richly deserved retirement; notes with pride and gratitude, his record of service, which far exceeds those standards normally ascribed as exemplary; offers best wishes for every future success and happiness;

And directs that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Keith J. Greiner on January 21, 2025, be transmitted to Chief William D. Leighty, 148 Snapdragon Drive, Leola, Pennsylvania 19540.

Councilman Glick reported he has heard from Congressman Smucker's office, which is also working on a similar Citation for Chief Leighty.

Fire Chief Keiser noted that the Report of Activities for Garden Spot Fire Rescue was distributed previously and he will answer any questions related to it. There was a total 583 calls and another 498 incidents during 2024. The one major fire event was the fire at the residential dwelling at 443 West Main Street; the one where two firemen were injured. There was an unexpected flare-up from a window falling in, which burned their clothing as well as minor burns to themselves. In response to a question, the Chief stated that the cause of the fire was not formally confirmed but a good deal of evidence indicates it may have been

someone smoking on the front porch. The second main item impacting the organization the past year was the passing of long-time volunteer Jack Rutter. He had 70 years of volunteer service; was Chief at one time; and was a veteran for this country.

Councilman Glick inquired about the status of the plans for the new station at Blue Ball as well as the planned new Ladder truck.

Chief Keiser replied that in working with its consultant, Cornerstone Design, they are getting close to going out to bid for the new station. The Ladder truck has been ordered and is anticipated in the spring of 2027. Another capital campaign is being proposed.

Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly Report. There was a total of 12 arrests, 2 non-traffic summaries and 5 DUIs. There were 16 total accidents, of which 6 were reportable. There were 15 citations and 13 warnings. There were 24 alarm responses. He stated regarding the Accreditation, he is happy to report that following the final inspection in mid-month of the Department, they were informed all criteria were satisfied and it will be recognized in April. He noted Administrative Assistant Lisa Gehr directly oversaw this process and kept it moving.

Mike Kurtz then made the motion that police officer candidate Roberto Lopez who is the recommended candidate through the Civil Service process, be hired as a probationary police officer at the After 3 Years, Step 3 level. This was seconded by Harry Klinger. Chief Leighty reported that his exact start date has not been identified yet as there are remaining items to be completed. The members then approved the motion.

Water Chairman Ireland stated that following the proper advertising and opening of bids for the planned Locust Street water line and street improvement project, he makes the motion that the bid be awarded to Mason Dixon Contractors of Willow Street, at the cost of \$967,420; and further that upon successfully meeting all pre-construction requirements, the contract be signed. There was a total of 12 bidders on the project. He noted that consulting engineer Bologna is present this evening if anyone has any questions on the project. This was then seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Streets Chairman Glick made the motion that the request of the Garden Spot High School Booster Club for the cross country team, to allow the use and closing of

East Jackson Street between South Kinzer Avenue and Ranck Road, on Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 8:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. for its annual Farmers' 5K, be approved. This was seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Chairman Glick next made the motion that the request of the New Holland Sales Stables to close and use Fulton Street between South Railroad and South Custer Avenues, on Friday, July 4, 2025, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. as part of its Special Horse Sale day, be approved. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

There were no Finance, Property, Personnel or Wastewater action items.

Lee Vescovich, in reporting for the ELANCO Library, stated that the Board will miss Chief Leighty's reading to the children. The Library still has 14 Early Learning Kits available to the community. There is a Birding 101 activity on February 12 at 6 p.m. Many other activities continue to be posted on the Library's website.

The Council members around the table then thanked the Chief for his leadership and service to the Borough and wished him well.

Resident Todd Burkhart stated he previously served on Council for eighteen years, the last nine of which he served as Chairman of the Police Committee. He thinks there is a cancer in the Police Department. It seems the Chiefs only stick around three to five years. He feels Council needs to do something about the Department.

Detective Halstead then read a personal note to Chief Leighty outlining her positive experience working with him.

President Morgan thanked Fire Chief Keiser for his report and the volunteers' dedication to the community. He also expressed good wishes and peace in his new activities to Chief Leighty.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

March 4, 2025
Date Approved