

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
November 4, 2025

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, Harry M. Klinger, D. Michael Ireland, John M. Taylor and Charles F. Kidhardt. President Patrick K. Morgan was absent. Others present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender and Police Chief/Consultant Mark Bentzel. Those also in attendance included water consultant Jeff Bologna of HRG Associates, and residents Rebekah Brown, Ray Harnish and Ken Wright, as well as Joy Dlugosz of the Eastern Lancaster County Library.

Vice-President Kurtz opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of last month's meeting.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of October 7, 2025, be approved as presented. This was seconded by Charles Kidhardt and passed.

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

Chief Bentzel then reviewed the monthly summary of activities with the Department. The on-duty officers participated at an event with the youth of CrossNet on October 15. There was a total of 355 incidents during the period. Of these, there were four arrests. There were 18 accidents, 11 of which were reportable. There were four juvenile contacts, all of which were referred to Juvenile court. There were 13 alarm responses. He noted there were no substantial details to report at this time on the review and settlement of the assets of the police department and what is desired to be utilized by West Earl Township; and what the Borough will otherwise be able to sell. He and Chief Higgins and the two Managers are having a more detailed meeting next week. Officer Stoltzfus is working a light duty position temporarily due to a non-work related accident. This is a big help with the many elements going on.

Member Glick inquired if any leftover items could be utilized by the Historical Society for the Museum.

Chief Bentzel stated that he has talked with former officer Mike Zimmerman, who is the knowledgeable staff person with these items, so this could possibly happen.

Manager Fulcher also noted that Historical Society member Wilbur Horning had come in on behalf of the Historical Society concerning this possibility.

Finance Chairman Ireland reported he is presenting for Council action consideration this evening the proposed establishment of a Post Retirement Benefit Fund to address the financial obligations from past police contracts for applicable retired officers. At this time, these obligations will exist for at least 22 years. The fund would provide some built in emergency monies should the annual budget estimate for claims and other benefits exceed the annual budget operating estimates. He is recommending an initial amount up to \$100,000 be approved. This obligation was initially discussed in relation to the future police coverage analysis. He then made the motion that Resolution #573, which establishes a Police Post-Retirement Benefits Fund to assist if necessary in meeting future financial obligations to retired police officers, be approved. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Member Taylor inquired if this would be established in an interest bearing account. Manager Fulcher replied that similar to the others, it will be.

Property Chairman Klinger reported that this was the time of year for Council to recognize those local businesses and residents who donate their services to enhance or support various elements at Borough properties. The first to publicly mention and thank is Showcase Lawn Works, Matt Kulp, owner. Showcase continues its donated landscaping services for Towne Centre Green and some special areas at Community Memorial Park. It was extensively involved from the beginning with much donated time and services as well as oversight to the Park Board's Butterfly Garden project. A second person deserving special acknowledgement is a resident who lives close to the Butterfly Garden, Laura Buck, who through her job at Creek Hill Nursery and its generosity, provided not only a large set of the initial plant donations this past spring but also again another large donation of plants just a month or so ago; which incidentally were planted again for free by Showcase. Council extends its sincere appreciation.

Member Glick noted that he feels the new plants have been noticed by the public and mentioned positively on social media. Streets Chairman Glick then made the motion that Council approve the request of the New Holland Business Association to allow it to cover the parking meters for

Thanksgiving week through January 2, 2026. This was seconded by Charles Kidhardt and passed.

Chairman Glick next made the motion that Council adopt proposed Ordinance #605, which provides additional approaches for the Borough to enforce safety concerns with dilapidated or otherwise dangerous structures. This has been reviewed and prepared by Solicitor Harris. John Taylor seconded the motion. The roll was:

Mike Ireland—Yes	Mike Kurtz—Yes
Harry Klinger—Yes	Charles Kidhardt—Yes
Bryant Glick—Yes	John Taylor—Yes

The motion passed. Ordinance #605 was adopted.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department as: \$1,063.88 from the District Magistrate’s office; \$435.01 from County court fees; \$90 from Accident Reports; \$25 from fingerprinting; and \$20 from parking tickets. He also wants to extend his thanks to those individuals and the businesses identified by Property Chair Klinger. He was fortunate to be a part of the Butterfly Garden project group and their assistance by those noted earlier was a great benefit to the effort. In addition, he thanks the Chief and officers who worked through the New Holland Parade and Fair evenings. He also noted that long-time resident and volunteer with many community organizations, particularly the Park Association and Historical Society, Steve Loewen passed away.

Bryant Glick then made the motion that proposed Resolution #574, which appoints resident Mark T. Beiler to a three year term on the Borough’s Zoning Hearing Board, beginning January 2026, be approved. This is to replace the seat of Ken Wright who is moving onto Council. This was seconded by Charles Kidhardt and passed.

Harry Klinger made the motion that residents William Kassinger and Joshua Stauffer be appointed to the Borough’s Planning Commission for four year terms, beginning January 2026. He noted that both were current members and continued to be willing to serve, of which Council is appreciative. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Joy Dlugosz, representing the ELANCO Library, then spoke to Council about happenings at the Library. Though it is in December, on December 6th, the annual

Friends of the Library's Holiday Book Sale is being held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are accepting used book donations. November 21st is the day of The Extra Give for those who make a donation that day. As always, other items are available on their website. Jen Watson is now temporarily serving as Assistant Director/ Youth Services Coordinator, while they search for a new Director.

Vice-President Kurtz thanked her for her information.

Manager Fulcher then presented and reviewed his Outline of Major Budget Items for inclusion in the 2026 budget. The priority is to address the termination of police services which will have a number of 2025 carryover payments as well as numerous other remaining obligations for various periods. The police service transition should not only avoid a needed tax increase, it should also allow a decrease in the millage rate from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a mill. Some additional street paving work may be able to be performed with general monies if it turns out positively. Based on the recent trash bids received, the only service increase in 2026 will involve the Community Trash and Recycling program which will go from the current \$340 per year to \$375 per year. The January discount option will continue. A number of regular police related items will be listed for 2026 due to paying salaries, bills, etc. through December 2025. The items indicated are planned to be included in the preliminary budget to be provided at the continued meeting of November 11.

With no further business or public comment, the meeting was recessed at 7:35 p.m., to Tuesday, November 11, 5 p.m.

November 4, 2025
Continued to
November 11, 2025

New Holland Borough Council met in recessed session from November 4, 2025, on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 5 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Patrick K. Morgan, Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, D. Michael Ireland, John M. Taylor, Harry M. Klinger and Charles F. Kidhardt. Mayor Bender attended via phone. Also present were Manager/ Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Police Chief/Consultant Mark Bentzel and Borough Bookkeeper/ Secretary Kimberly Raptosh.

President Morgan reconvened the meeting, stating that there were two items of business advertised for possible action this evening. The first is reviewing and

proceeding with the proposed preliminary budget for 2026. He noted he sent an email to everyone earlier today clarifying his initial questions on the draft. As developed, the preliminary budget includes a one-quarter of a mill reduction. The Manager intends to closely review the end of November status of general funds to identify if some additional lower adjustment could be made for the final adoption. He also noted that a big thing people will not see or remember is that if Council had not made the decision it had, we were likely facing a mill or more in a tax increase. We also do not want to have to turn around and increase taxes for 2027.

Member Klinger asked the Manager to explore the thinking for the preliminary with the quarter of a mill decrease. He noted the county is thinking of a 10 percent or more increase in the county tax.

Manager Fulcher replied that the preliminary is established recognizing that to make a balanced budget it is utilizing what he refers to as the available uncommitted operational money which becomes the year-end balance to support the following year if possible. This is in effect a small operating reserve. He was not comfortable with the end of October overall financial status to be comfortable with the preliminary at more than the one-quarter mill drop. He will be analyzing things closely at the end of November but is also aware of the significant closeout additional costs in December which due to some remaining major transition obligations will be in the 2026 budget.

Finance Chair Ireland noted he reviewed and discussed the draft budget a couple of times with the Manager and staff. He is comfortable with it and recognizes that with the current unusual transition period including the ongoing discussion of the existing assets desired by West Earl, the impact of West Earl not using the Borough's Axon body camera system, as well as the large officer closeout expenses in 2025 and early 2026, presents a different budgeting challenge for next year.

Bookkeeper/Secretary Raptosh stated that she is aware of the large officer closeout payments to be made in December and January that were included. This is a high amount that had to be accounted for.

Finance Chair Ireland then made the motion that the proposed Preliminary Budget for 2026 for the Borough be approved and so advertised. This was seconded by Charles Kidhardt and passed.

Property Chairman Klinger made the motion that proposed Resolution #575, which authorizes the exchange of two minor adjoining parcels of land between the

Borough and the owner of 109 East Conestoga Street, in order to provide both public parking for the Borough's Groff Park and nearby Butterfly Garden, as well as safer vehicle access with the operation of the adjoining Borough public water supply well and treatment facilities; as prepared by the Solicitor, be approved. This was seconded by John Taylor and passed.

There being no further advertised business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

December 2, 2025

Date Approved