

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
December 2, 2025

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Patrick K. Morgan, Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, Harry M. Klinger, D. Michael Ireland, John M. Taylor and Charles F. Kidhardt. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Acting Police Chief/Consultant Mark Bentzel, Mayor M. Timothy Bender and LNP Reporter Mark Hummer. Others in attendance included: Borough water consultant Jeff Bologa of HRG Associates and Borough residents Bill Kassinger, Dennis Summers, Doris Summers and Ken Wright.

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

Charles Kidhardt made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of November 4, 2025, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Bryant Glick 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.

Acting Police Chief Bentzel then reviewed the monthly Department summary Report. He noted that one officer was able to attend the Christmas on Main event for a period last Saturday morning but had to leave. There was a total of 256 incidents. There were two arrests, which were felonies or misdemeanors. There were 13 accidents, of which 7 were reportable. There were 12 citations and 7 warnings. Two juvenile contacts were referred to District Court. There were 36 medical call assists.

He then provided an update on the current status of transitioning elements over to West Earl Township. He noted that after service is changed to West Earl he will continue to the extent requested by Council and the Manager in assisting to dispose of those unneeded items that may not otherwise be used by the staff or public works departments or with other unfinished closeout elements. He next reviewed the items identified on the proposed Asset Purchase Agreement between the Borough and West Earl Township. He noted that since West Earl has opted not to utilize the Borough's body camera system, the total proportional share for the

Borough for West Earl's new system will be \$78,570 to be paid on an equal five year basis. The first year cost in 2026 was utilized as a credit off of the proposed Asset Purchase Agreement price to be paid by West Earl Township. He feels the proposed Asset Purchase Agreement is a mutually fair Agreement.

Member Glick inquired whether there is any benefit to pre-paying the new camera system cost.

Manager Fulcher noted there was no money savings benefit as to paying it up front.

Finance Chairman Ireland made the motion that the proposed Police Assets Purchase Agreement between the Borough and West Earl Township be approved. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Chairman Ireland then made the motion that Resolution #576 which is the final adoption of the 2026 Borough budget be approved. This was seconded by Bryant Glick and passed.

Chairman Ireland stated it is his pleasure to make the motion that Resolution #577, which sets the real estate tax millage rate needed to fund the 2026 budget, be approved, noting that under next year's budget, Council is able to lower the tax millage rate from the current 3.75 mills to 3.50 mills, per \$1,000 value of assessed value on a property. This is about a six and one half percent reduction over 2025. This was seconded by Charles Kidhardt. Member Klinger stated he is pleased with the Borough being able to lower the tax rate. He feels it is a complement to the Manager and other employees to be part of an efficient operation for the Borough. He noted again New Holland is one of the few, and may be the only Borough that continues to operate debt free. The county is currently struggling with its position on its 2026 budget, possibly looking at a 10 percent increase. They continue to have public discussions concerning it. The motion then passed.

Property Chair Klinger next reminded Council that there are special parties to recognize and thank at this meeting. The first is to recognize and thank the Board of the Community Memorial Park Association. This volunteer Board continues to raise funds to support capital needs at Community Memorial Park. As most are aware, this past spring, the Borough's Butterfly Garden was opened. This was a four year effort that the Park Association served as the sponsoring and fundraising leadership role as a 501c3 organization to create this special space. In addition, as

some may recall, it served the same role to make Towne Centre Green become a reality; so a special thanks to them.

Chairman Klinger then made the motion that Council approve the use of Council chambers by the Park Board for 2026 and 2027. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Chairman Klinger next stated he also has two more special recognitions this year, both related to Butterfly Garden elements. The first of these is to recognize and thank Earl Township resident Anne Treadwell for using her talents to paint the picture posing frame located at the Garden used by visitors. This season the front was only painted. During the winter, she will be painting the back side also so it becomes overall more attractive. The second Garden related item is that internationally known Lancaster sculptor and artist Tom Kloss, who is retiring and relocating his home, donated an outdoor sculpture of a fish for placement in the Garden, near the rain gardens. This is something special and unique for the Garden, which Council along with the Park Board expresses their appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Kloss for this donation.

There were no Personnel, Water, Wastewater or Streets action items presented.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received by the Borough's police department as: \$643.47 from District court; \$585 from accident reports; \$50 from fingerprinting; \$67.25 from county court fees; \$1,400 from alarm fines; and \$50 from solicitation fees. At this time as he gets ready to move on from the Mayor's office, he expresses his sincere thanks to Council and the Manager for the assistance and guidance provided to him as various challenges were faced. He especially wants to also state his recognition of the Borough Manager and employees for both the very positive financial position the Borough has maintained as well as the great job provided by the leadership and subsequent results benefitting the residents by the Manager and employees. He feels this recognition and thanks is well deserved.

President Morgan thanked the Mayor for his service and comments. He then stated he is going to read briefly from the monthly operations report. He then began, "the opportunity for Council to reduce the tax rate is an unusual positive position to be in. Earlier in the year, the Manager anticipated a mill to a mill and one-half increase if the Borough's financial situation was not improved." Instead of an over 6 percent reduction in taxes the Borough would have been facing about a 40 percent increase in the millage rate if the challenges of meeting today's police costs

for a small municipality had not been addressed. On behalf of Council, he also congratulates Manager Fulcher.

Resident Dennis Summers stated he and his wife have attended numerous meetings of Council and they greatly appreciate Council's time and concern for the community.

President Morgan then noted he has a few items to mention prior to close this evening.

First, is to thank Mayor Bender for his eight years of service in the position of Mayor. Next is Council member Glick for his six years of service as a member, now moving onto the position of Mayor. Mr. Kidhardt who provided his critical experience and knowledge while serving on Council through a portion of 2025; as well as for his many prior volunteer years on Council and other Borough Boards. And next is member Klinger, who is completing his second period of replacement service on Council; returning when his assistance was needed. The Borough's appreciation to them for serving in this voluntary role.

The meeting then adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

January 6, 2026
Date Approved