

MINUTES  
New Holland Borough Council  
February 3, 2026

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 6 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Patrick K. Morgan, Vice-President D. Michael Ireland, Michael H. Kurtz, Anthony W. Bender, Allen B. Wessel and Kenneth C. Wright. Member John M. Taylor was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, West Earl Police Chief Eric Higgins and Mayor Bryant J. Glick. Others in attendance included Borough consultant Jeff Bologa of HRG Associates, Fire Chief of Garden Spot Fire Rescue Larry Martin, Dave King, officer of Garden Spot Fire Rescue and residents Bill Kassinger and Michael Oatting.

President Morgan stated that before beginning the meeting, he is asking for a moment of silence to remember a number of community members who passed away just recently all of which served the Borough, some directly, some community wide. First is Don Herrington, a long-time volunteer with Borough activities including on the Planning Commission, Mayor and then Council. Another is Art Loewen a well-known resident, former teacher and among other things highly involved with the ELANCO Library. East Earl Township resident Jack Hillard was also an involved community member and businessman. There was also Gene Lowry, who served as Mayor of New Holland a number of years ago. These were all good people the community lost.

President Morgan then opened the meeting asking for action on the Minutes of Council's Organizational meeting of January 6, 2026.

Ken Wright made the motion that the Minutes of Council's Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2026, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Mike Kurtz made the motion that the Minutes of Council's regular meeting of January 6, 2026 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Tony Bender and passed.

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

Chief of Garden Spot Fire Rescue Larry Martin then reviewed the 2025 Report of Activities of GSFR. He noted that they recently switched to a new software program and for this Report it does not provide the priority information on the format he prefers to present. They received 656 Dispatch calls, of which 611 were what is classified as reportable incidents. The property and contents value loss experienced by the owners involved was \$926,000 in the Borough, \$1,877,050 in Earl Township and \$1,056,700 in East Earl Township. The record of calls was the same number 169 in both the Borough and Earl Township and 137 in East Earl Township. Their leave station response time is between one and one half to three minutes. The current status of the expected arrival of the new ladder truck is about March of 2027. They intend to keep the Intermunicipal Committee informed as this progresses. The updated cost projection at this time due to numerous factors impacting the original bid from Segraves is \$2.5 million. They replace their trucks every 25 years so the resale effort is not expected to be a significant amount. The current time projection for the new station to be built in East Earl Township is spring of 2027. He also noted they have established a three member committee of two senior members, Dave King, who is present this evening, long-time former President Tim Sprecher and long-time local business owner who remains involved with community activities, Jerry Weaver.

President Morgan thanked Chief Martin for the report and the continued good service.

West Earl Police Chief Higgins then reviewed his monthly summary Report. There were 363 calls for service in the Borough. Sixty-three traffic citations issued; 44 warnings and 5 criminal arrests. The list of numerous activities of the Department is included in the Report. Some of the Borough related activities included his attending the annual dinner of Garden Spot Fire Rescue at Yoders Restaurant. He met new Executive Director of CrossNet Ministries, Allison Cuthie, and also visited the New Holland Historical Society and took a tour of the Museum. As a way of clarifying some items in the Report, he explained that a “custodial” arrest does not include a citation; whereas a normal arrest does. Officer Heather Halstead was assigned to the position of Detective effective January 19<sup>th</sup>. He noted a recent arrest whereby a Borough resident turned himself into the East Earl Police Department related to aggravated assault of a child and endangering the welfare of children; involving his three month old daughter. This was not a community endangered situation. He then stated it appears the transition of services has gone well. People come up to him and comment positively about what they have seen.

Member Ireland noted he has personally seen the officers out and about throughout the town. He has received very positive comments.

Member Bender stated he also has received numerous positive comments.

President Morgan noted he too has received many positive comments. In one case a resident who did not support the dissolution of the Borough's Department is now very positive towards the new service.

There were no Property, Water or Wastewater action items presented.

Street Chairman Wright stated he had a number of items for Council consideration this evening. He then made the motion that the request of the Garden Spot High School Cross Country Boosters to close East Jackson Street between South Kinzer Avenue, east to Ranck Road be closed between 8:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026, to allow it to hold their Farmers 5k Run, be approved. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Chairman Wright next made the motion that the request of the New Holland Sales Stables to allow the closing of Fulton Street between South Railroad Avenue and South Custer Avenue from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. for its use during its special Horse Day Sale on Friday, July 3, 2026 be approved. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Chairman Wright reported that the next item is for Council's approval to proceed with the pre-project surveying, engineering, permit requirements and so on related to the potential widening of a portion of the west side of the southwest corner of the intersection of West Main Street and South Custer Avenue. He then made the motion that the proposed Engineering Services Agreement between the Borough and HRG Associates to perform this work needed for the planned street corner improvement work on the southwest corner of West Main Street and South Custer Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$64,000 be approved. He noted the next lowest proposal received was over \$100,000. This was seconded by Allen Wessel and passed.

Manager Fulcher reported that the main event of the month was the heavier snowstorm of January 25 and the subsequent immediate subzero freezing period, which is still continuing. There was some confusion between the Borough's and the Township's snow removal on street parking requirements. The Borough has none. Overall however, it turned out in his opinion to be the best street snow

clearing work performed for a large storm in memory. The severe post storm freezing caused other issues related particularly to ice forming immediately on sidewalks and the high snow piles on corners.

President Morgan stated he received compliments on the snow removal with many appreciating the additional steps by the Borough to have the snow piles removed from the cul de sacs and the central areas of Main Street.

Chief Higgins noted that reminded him of something. He is planning to have a meeting at a future date with the Township Road Masters and the Street Department Supervisors from the Boroughs to review the activities and some differences with such a storm between municipalities. Where it applies, he prefers his officers go door to door and ask people to remove their vehicles, rather than write a ticket. Akron and West Earl Township use a Snow Emergency Declaration for such storms. Earl Township has a general ordinance.

President Morgan further clarified the differences by noting the Borough does not have emergency snow routes and therefore does not use or need a Snow Emergency Declaration.

Mayor Glick stated he wished to echo the comments as to the Borough's Street crew doing a great job during the recent storm.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

March 3, 2026  
Date Approved