

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Schmidt called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with Supervisor Schmidt, Clerk Moncivais, Treasurer Franzene, Trustees Demboski and Wodzinski were present. Also in attendance were Water Superintendent Benson; Sewer Maintenance Konoske; Attorney Atanasoff; Zoning Administrator Rybicki; Zoning Board of Appeals Pozniak and Stowell; Zoning Board Helgemo and Stolberg; Constable Demboski and Residents. Commissioner Wills was absent.

ATTENDEES

Franzene moved to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2008 regular meeting. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of March was submitted. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND:	\$	245,123.85
SEWER FUND:	\$	128,008.51
WATER FUND:	\$	193,923.24
Road Fund:	\$	183,289.14
Liquor Law:	\$	

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Commissioner Wills was absent.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Sewer System – Rogers Location - After further research it was determined that Tunnel Vision and UP Pipe and Concrete are the same company. There is only one licensed company in our area to scope out sewer lines. Franzene stated that it would be best to do the whole thing. Wodzinski agreed it was the way to go. Konoske questioned how small of a pipe can they view. Schmidt thought it was 4". Konoske stated that Rogers Location has lots of 4". Franzene said that there is about \$20,000-\$50,000 in the Sewer Fund for repairs and maintenance. Schmidt stated that now would be a good time to get it done because the Location comes up for blacktopping in another year. A motion was made by Schmidt to hire Tunnel Vision to clean & televise the Rogers Location not to exceed \$13,000. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Demboski, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Moncivais, yes; Franzene, yes; Schmidt, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ROGERS LOCATION TV SEWER

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Nothing new to report. Schmidt reminded Rybicki to contact the snowbird residents on the issues from last fall. They should be coming back to town now.

Chicagoan Lake Boat Landing – Nothing new to report.

Bates School – Schmidt stated that the Title Company refused to provide title insurance because they felt there would be legal implications and possible suit. Schmidt stated that he felt that West Iron doesn't own the building. Moncivais reiterated that the Bates residents paid for the Bates School and then continued their millage to help payoff the Stambaugh Elementary School. Atanasoff stated that it looks like it will be around \$30,000 a year in expenses. A motion was made by Franzene to do a letter to the West Iron School board so that we could be on their agenda for the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting stating that we want the school. Supported by Demboski. Roll call vote: Wodzinski yes; Moncivais, yes; Franzene, yes; Demboski, yes; Schmidt, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BATES SCHOOL

Ground water Permit – Nothing new to report yet.

GROUND WTR PERMIT

Township Website – Moncivais will have final information for May meeting.

TWP WEB

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Atanasoff stated that at the last zoning board workshop the zoning board came up with an ordinance that keeps the minimum lot sizes of 150' on lakes and 200' on rivers. Each additional family would require 100'. Schmidt asked is that single family? Atanasoff reminded that a special use permit is required for all multifamily. This would keep the existing lot size. There is a zoning board meeting for April 14<sup>th</sup> but that is not a public hearing on this ordinance. Once the Zoning Board comes to a final decision the ordinance comes to the township Board for final approval, final publication and to be filed with the Twp/County Clerk. The process is still going to take a few months because it also has to go before the county planning commission. ZB member Helgemo stated that there is a lot of misinformation being circulated. Specifically a recent ad in the Reporter published by one of the Lake Association residents. He stated that he personally has received about 9 letters with wrong information. This ordinance is probably the most restrictive ordinance of its kind in the State of Michigan regarding anti-funneling. He also clarified that there is not a change in the ordinance this is adopting a new ordinance. Schmidt stated that he heard there are a lot of people claiming that property values will drop. Atanasoff stated that he and Helgemo checked property values in other areas and there is not a drop in the values. However for example Atanasoff pointed out that Jack Shamion's property obviously with 28 units next to it may not be appealing to all buyers.

Brey Frozen Waterline – We received an invoice for the thawing of the line. Schmidt stated that this was to be fixed by the township last year. The boys will get to it this year.

BREY  
FROZEN  
WATERLINE

Township Summer Tax Collection - Franzene will collect on behalf of the Township.

TWP  
SUMMER TAX  
COLLECTION

Memorial Day Program – Jean Lindbeck will coordinate the program at the cemetery. Evelyn will coordinate the hall refreshments. A motion was made by Moncivais to budget \$200 for the hall refreshments. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried.

MEMORIAL  
DAY  
PROGRAM

DS Rostagno CPA Audit – Moncivais explained that this years audit has even more state requirements. A motion was made by Schmidt to accept the bid of \$5800 for the basic audit and table a motion on the extra portion of the audit until they receive a ceiling price from the Auditor. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Moncivais, yes; Demboski, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Schmidt, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

AUDIT 2007-  
2008

General Appropriations Act – A motion was made by Schmidt to adopt the budget and the General Appropriations Act for 2008-2009. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Moncivais, yes; Franzene, yes; Schmidt, yes; Demboski, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

GENERAL  
APP.  
ACT/BUDGET  
ADOPTION

Millage Renewal – A motion was made Schmidt to pass the language for the August Primary Ballot requesting the renewal of the township's already existing millage. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

MILLAGE  
RENEWAL  
BALLOT  
LANGUAGE

Wage Increases

Assessor – A motion was made by Schmidt to increase the Assessor position from \$11012.04/year to \$11,600.00/year. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

WAGE  
INCREASES  
TWP  
WEBSITE

Hall Coordinator – A motion was made by Franzene to increase the Hall Coordinator position from \$260/month to \$300/month. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

BUDGET  
WORKSHOP

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Wage Increases (cont'd) – Zoning Administrator – A motion was made by Franzene to increase the Zoning Administrator position from \$200/month to \$225/month. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Zoning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals – A motion was made by Schmidt to increase these Board member positions from \$45/month to \$65/month with the Chair person receiving \$75/month. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board of Review – A motion was made by Franzene to increase the Board of Review members from \$75/day to \$125/day. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Constable – A motion was made by Franzene to increase the Constable position from \$20 each/month for meetings & inspections to a flat fee of \$50/month. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

Employees – There was much discussion on the length of employment and the fairness of the employee's increases. Brian Keliin questioned the fairness. Resident Pozniak stated that the bottom line is if the employee is happy then there should be no discussion. Bob Konoske stated that he was happy with his increase. He said that he understood the value of his benefits package and that a lot of other townships don't offer the same thing that he has. / A motion was made by Wodzinski to increase Konoske from \$13.79/hour to \$16.00/hour. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. With his insurance/retirement his salary/benefits package is approximately \$60,000/year. / A motion was made by Schmidt to increase Benson from \$10/hour to \$13.75/hour. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried. Benson is a flex-time/part-time employee with no benefits.

Zoning Permit Rates - No action taken.

RATES/FEE  
INCREASES

Zoning Board Variance Rates – A motion was made by Schmidt to increase the fee for the meeting from \$350 to \$400. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hall Rental Fees – No action taken.

Park Campground Fees – No action taken.

Park Pavilion Rental Fees – A motion was made by Demboski to increase the rental of the park pavilion from \$45 to \$50. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried. This will be effective for anybody that reserves the park pavilion after this date.

Cemetery Lot Rates – No action taken.

Township Mileage Reimbursement rate – Currently \$.40/mile. No action taken.

Township Property Sales - A motion was made by Schmidt to authorize the Board to sell township property or land. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

TWP PROP  
SALES  
AUTHORIZA-  
TION

Current Accounts – A motion was made by Moncivais to keep the checking accounts at Miner State Bank and the Money Markets at Edward Jones for the fiscal year 2008-2009. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

Project Graduation – A motion was made by Demboski to donate \$25 to the program which is the same as every year. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

PROJ.  
GRADUA-  
TION

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Nick Baumgartner – Moncivais stated that Rosalie King had called for Ernie. Someone had approached her about why the city had not done a recognition sign for this former resident. She stated that he was a resident of Bates Township and she would pass the request along. The Board discussed some possibilities. MDOT would require \$1000 to do a sign. Tabled until the next meeting.

NICK  
BAUMGART-  
NER SIGN

Meet The Candidates – The Township received an invitation and was asked to announce the Meet The Candidates day/time with Mark Valesano running for Sheriff and Melissa Weston running for Prosecutor.

MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

Camp Ottawa Workers – Schmidt stated that he received a letter that the work crew program may be reinstated soon. No action taken.

CAMP  
OTTAWA  
WORKERS

**HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...**

Hall – Benson got a new flag for the pole from the VFW. / Sewer– Nothing new to report. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Park – Nothing new to report. / Water – Resident Donati’s water should be okay now. Naomi Erickson’s is still not clear per her Mom. Both are on no charge/let ones. Schmidt stated that the township may have to put in a hydrant. Keep the let runs going. Benson will check that specific meter again. / Consumer Confidence Reports – Konoske told Moncivais he will inform her as to when she should publish the availability of this report.

**CORRESPONDENCE ...**

- Resident letters regarding Condo project.
- USDA – Requesting auto withdrawal of payment from township accounts. No action taken.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Franzene to adjourn. Supported by Schmidt. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried. The next regular meeting to be held at the Township Hall on Wednesday May 14, 2008 @ 6:00 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest Schmidt, Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Moncivais, Clerk

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_