

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

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

Roll call was taken with Supervisor Helgemo, Clerk Moncivais, Treasurer Franzene, Trustees Wodzinski and Bobnock were present. Also in attendance were Sewer & Water Dept's Konoske and Benson; Attorney Atanasoff; Zoning Board of Appeals Pozniak and Stowell; Assessor Nelson, Residents. Constable Demboski and Commissioner Wills were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$	15,367.17
Sewer Fund:	\$	95,150.50
Water Fund:	\$	213,853.07
Road Fund:	\$	21,275.59
Liquor Law:	\$	

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Commissioner Wills was absent.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

SEWER GRANT

Sewer Grant – Nothing new to report.

Zoning Update - With the Zoning Administrator's resignation Supervisor Helgemo has been overseeing the position until a new appointment can be made. Since November 12th there were only two Resident requests and both were delayed until the appointment can be made. Supervisor Helgemo researched a barking dog complaint on Chicagon Mine Road and has found that Rybicki had the problem resolved. / Section 14 Road – There will be a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on December 18th. A letter of request for information under the FOIA was received from Attorney Roy Polich's office regarding the matter. Attorney Atanasoff stated that he believed that this was the second request and that former ZA Rybicki supplied the information at the time.

SECTION 14 RD

Christmas Party – Supervisor Helgemo reminded everyone that the Youth Christmas party will be Saturday December 13th from 1 – 2:30.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Atanasoff reiterated that the Amendment had been approved by the Board at the last meeting. He stated that he posted it the hall and had it published in the newspaper. He integrated the amendment into the Ordinance book and saw some typos. Supervisor Helgemo stated that the Zoning Board was aware of the typos and that Don Autio ZB Chairperson was working on the corrections. He will then turn them over to Clerk Moncivais for correction and then it can be put up on the website. Clerk Moncivais stated that she would make the corrections and pointed out that she was not the one that typed the original ordinance book.

MULTI FAMILY WATERFRONT ORDINANCE

Board Members Sight Evaluation / Seminar Pay – Supervisor Helgemo stated that when he first got on the Zoning Board he didn't realize that the members were paid. Most people see it as a community service. At the time he felt that the \$45/meeting was more than fair. Last year it was raised to \$65/meeting. After some research he learned that Crystal Falls Twp pays \$30/meeting plus mileage. Franzene stated that the township pays mileage. Supervisor Helgemo added that the township pays for the actual seminar and meals. Attorney Atanasoff stated that there can be "exceptional expenses" that can be presented to the Board on a case by case basis. ZBA Member Pozniak stated that when you run to the far parts of the township at least someone should compensate for mileage and that it doesn't make a difference to him on paying for the time at the sight.

ZB- ZBA SIGHT EVAL/SEM PAY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

County Board Meeting – ORV Ordinance – Supervisor Helgemo noted that there will be a meeting @ 1PM December 23 at the IC Courthouse to discuss the proposed Ordinance. It appears that the ordinance will open all roads to ORVs. Prior to this there were 4 roads that were excluded. The point is to promote tourism. It appears that the present commissioners are in favor of this. Attorney Atanasoff asked to read a letter that he proposed that the township send to the county stating with proposed language that would better address the noise problem, (referring to Sec 7). He believed there was not enough detail to address the noise problem. He reminded the board that Bates has had to deal with noise problems the last couple of years. A motion was made by Helgemo to authorize Atanasoff to send the letter on to the county on behalf of the township. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

CTY ORV
ORDINANCE
MEETING

Randy Jump Lake – At the last meeting it was suggested that Jump check with the Forest Svc regarding renaming the lake. Supervisor Helgemo stated that a conversation with Jump indicated that he received a letter from the Forest Svc stating that they have no bearing on the lakes. Wodzinski stated that someone must have the authority. 28 Lake has had a name change. Franzene asked if the title company would know what to do. A motion was made by Wodzinski to send Jump a letter stating that the township has no objection to him renaming the lake Roscoe Lake but that we don't have the means to make it official. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

JUMP /
ROSCOE
LAKE

Digital Mapping – A question was raised as to whether the township sent a letter to the county in favor of digital mapping. Clerk Moncivais noted that a letter was sent by Assessor Nelson. She would review records to see if the township sent a letter and if they didn't she would send one. Former Supervisor Schmidt reminded everyone that the Board previously did vote in favor of the mapping. It was pointed out that the county would pay for half.

DIGITAL
MAPPING

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Attorney Atanasoff stated that Assessor Nelson asked him to review a request that she received for a land division by Perch Lake. The property is owned by 4 people which consists of relatives and spouses. They want to divide into 4 parcels but the frontage doesn't meet the new waterfront ordinance. He drafted a letter to send to them (he read the letter) indicating that the division does not meet the current requirements. The letter stated that they could possibly seek a variance for lesser splits and this would involve input from the neighborhood. Supervisor Helgemo added that apparently these people were told by Surveyor Pisoni that they could get a variance. This might not be true because in Helgemo's opinion the ZBA may not approve because it doesn't meet guidelines. Atanasoff reiterated that the approval does lie with the ZBA. Assessor Nelson stated that she can grant them a land division as long as it meets certain criteria but that doesn't mean that they can build. Atanasoff will mail the letter to the residents.

LAND
DIVISION
PERCH LAKE
REQUEST

Zoning Administrator Appointment – Supervisor Helgemo stated that we were fortunate to have interest from two very qualified people and asked Clerk Moncivais to read the two letters from the applicants – Jon Oberlin and Gale Stowell. (copies on file) Moncivais stated that she would like to see the position filled with someone that will take the calls and answer them promptly. Someone that can do their own correspondence and follow-up. Someone that will turn in the proper documentation in the proper time frame to the proper officials. Someone that would be capable of handling their own email/faxes/letters, etc. Moncivais stated that because the applicants were both highly qualified that she wished there was room for two appointments. Former Supervisor Schmidt stated that the hardest part of the position is when you have to tell people face to face that they need to clean up their yards. Franzene questioned Oberlin as to whether or not there would be a conflict with his other job.

ZONING
ADMIN APPT

Oberlin stated that this work would probably mostly be done in the mornings and evenings around his current job. Helgemo added that he appreciates seeing younger people getting interested in these appointments. Wodzinski added that we certainly don't want to lose Oberlin. Moncivais asked if Oberlin would consider filling in Stowell's vacancy on the ZBA. He said yes. Bobnock stated that he agrees that both applicants have the qualifications. Franzene stated that we definitely need someone that is clerically capable. Too much has fallen on the Clerk and Treasurer in the past. She asked Stowell if he thought he could do that. Stowell said that he had his own computer and fax machine and he was ready to go. A motion was made by Helgemo to appoint Gale Stowell as the New Zoning Administrator. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Helgemo- yes; Wodzinski- yes; Bobnock – yes; Franzene – yes; Moncivais – yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. There was some discussion about whether or not Oberlin could be immediately appointed to fill the ZBA vacancy. Franzene stated that a "call for ad" should be published. Moncivais asked Oberlin if she could transfer his letter of interest to the ZBA vacancy and he said yes. Moncivais will publish an ad with a deadline of Tuesday January 13, 2009 at 5 PM. Helgemo added that there is a very important ZBA meeting coming up on December 18th and that he wants a full ZBA so that this appointment will become effective December 19th.

Zoning Board Member Appointment – Two letters of interest were received. The applicants were Thomas Kniivila and Mark E. Gasperini. Supervisor Helgemo stated that he would be abstaining from a vote because of his affiliation with Gasperini. Wodzinski stated that both applicants were well qualified. Franzene stated that she knew Mr. Kniivila was very involved with the waterfront multifamily dwelling zoning meetings. Helgemo stated that he knew that Gasperini applied in sincerity. He would like to become involved. A motion was made by Franzene to appoint Kniivila to the Zoning Board to fill the vacancy that was created when Helgemo became Supervisor. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Moncivais, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Franzene, yes; Helgemo, abstain. Motion carried. Helgemo noted that the ZB members are to be on staggered terms. He stated that Moncivais did some research and it appears that the two new appointments will be up in 2012. The others are staggered in 2010 and 2011.

ZB MEMBER
APPT

Board of Review Appointment – The three current BOR members were the only ones that applied. Moncivais stated that they have been doing a good job and the township has invested a lot in their education. A motion was made by Helgemo to appoint Robert Pozniak, George Holm and Keith Locke to another 2 year term on the BOR. Supported by Moncivais. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Moncivais, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BOR APPT

Employee Work Hours – Supervisor Helgemo stated that since he was new he just wanted an idea what the employee's work schedule was for everybody's benefit. He had the minutes from a meeting in July 2006. Helgemo questioned are we paying for an hour for lunch? And why is there overtime? Konoske stated that he understood that he got a 1 hour paid lunch in exchange for reading the pumps on the weekends and coming to the monthly board meeting. Former Supervisor Schmidt stated that the lunch hour was never to be paid and that the pump read and the meeting were to be a part of the regular 40 hour work week. Franzene stated that she knew the guys were supposed to park the township vehicle at lunch and use their own. Benson stated that he knew things have changed since that meeting because there were 2 full time employees back then. He stated that probably the pumps could be read in about an hour each day. Bobnock commented on making Konoske's position a salaried position. You don't need overtime is salaried. Schmidt stated that at the time of the meeting the budget was tight and changes were made accordingly. Benson questioned is it wise to expect a 40 hour work week with 7 days and no overtime? Also, Helgemo stated that the township is paying 100% health insurance which costs about \$2013/month for one employee.

EMPLOYEE
WORK
SCHEDULE

Employee Work Hours (cont'd) - It was decided that a special meeting would be held on Tuesday December 16th at 6PM to have different insurance carriers present their programs. Helgemo stated that he would like Konoske and his wife at the meeting. We certainly want to do what is right for them and of course the township. Helgemo stated that at the meeting the Board can also discuss the work schedule. That will give the Board members time to refresh their memories. The three insurance quotes would come from Hannula Insurance, Fred Stoor, and Paul Baeten. Resident Bonk said why don't you get all three carriers to the meeting. Helgemo stated that this is what the Board is trying to do.

Employee End of Year Bonus – Supervisor Helgemo stated that he wanted to change the name of the bonus from Christmas Bonus to Year End Bonus. A motion was made by Helgemo to give a \$75 bonus to the three employees, Konoske, Benson and Richards. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

YEAR END
BONUS

Water Cash Bond CD – Franzene stated that this is money the township can't touch anyway. She usually shops around to MSB, WF, EJ & Citizens. A motion was made by Moncivais to authorize Franzene to shop around for the best CD rate and transfer is necessary. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

WATER CASH
BOND CD

ZB - Planning & Zoning Commission – Supervisor Helgemo stated that the state mandates that the ZB become a Planning & Zoning Commission by 2011. We have enough time to research the process and make sure that we do the transition correctly. Table an action until future Board meetings.

ZB /
PLANNING
COMM.

GUEST COMMENTS...

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall – Konoske stated that Benson insulated the hall basement door. Benson said that should work – we don't have to let run so far. / Sewer - Nothing new to report. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Park – Nothing new to report. / Water – Konoske stated that they fixed a flush valve by Little Finland Road, a leak by Schmidt's log yard and a leak by Nelson Road. Benson stated that the repaired locator came back like new. He thanked the Board and asked the Board to consider getting the other one fixed in the near future. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE ...

- ICRC Mtg – Helgemo stated that people should go to the meetings to see whats going on. No action taken.
- Watershed Council – No action taken.
- Supervisor Helgemo noted that a letter was received from the DEQ about our water system. He stated there they mandate a lot of policies/procedures/things. He said that Ed's been doing a lot of the locating shutoff and identified them. He said that there are a lot of things that the employees do that the residents don't see or understand. He said that he knows that Bob and Ed are the face of the township because they're in the trucks riding around.

INVOICE APPROVAL

WIKB – Moncivais stated that the station does play our PSA. The township usually participates in the greeting program for this reason. Wodzinski that the station should do the PSA for nothing. A motion was made by Moncivais to do two holiday greeting for \$59. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / A motion was made by Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Franzene to adjourn. Supported by Wodzinski. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried. The next regular meeting to be held at the Township Hall on Wednesday – January 14, 2009 @ 6:00 PM.

Grant Helgemo, Supervisor

Barbara Moncivais, Clerk

Date approved: _____