

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Schmidt called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Schmidt requested a moment of silence because of the recent passing of former Supervisor Robert Nelson.

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; Commissioner Wills and Residents. Constable Demboski was absent.

ATTENDEES

Franzene moved to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2008 regular meeting. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND:	\$	206,655.15
SEWER FUND:	\$	125,739.40
WATER FUND:	\$	179,930.68
Road Fund:	\$	163,329.90
Liquor Law:	\$	

Schmidt stated that he would like to be able to do 100% dust control this year. It would be about double from last year which would be approx. \$8000.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Commissioner Wills reminded everyone about the up coming elections. All county seats are open. He stated that he is also on the Parks & Rec Committee. They had a milfoil meeting and they are trying to set up groups and they want to pressure Lansing to send money up the help. They have heard about a lot of different solutions from different people. Schmidt stated that there is a charge for the permit to treat the lakes. Ice Lake Residents put in all of their own money. Schmidt suggested that the state waive the permit fee. Atanasoff stated the G. Holm said that they attempted to get help from the DEQ. Students were sent up to dredge the lake and they ended up disturbing the milfoil. Schmidt also stated that the park host at Sunset Lake has permission to control the boats because we have a boat wash. Lots of people refuse to use it. Wills stated that it is a problem and the county is working on it. Wills also stated that Jim Stolberg had made his aware that there was a sign at the Fairgrounds grand stand that was "weathered" and needed repair. Wills stated that the sign will be repaired. Wills also stated that there is going to be some grants available to build up economic development. Also, Rosalie King had gone downstate to fight to keep the Iron River State Police post and the Marquette Lab. Since the Bates School is going to be closed maybe the Marquette Lab could move to Iron River. It was agreed by the Board that there are a lot of possibilities for the school building.

S2 GRANT SEWER

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**S 2 Grant / USDA Grant Update** – Schmidt stated that the letter has been drafted and is waiting for signatures. Also, Franzene, Schmidt and Bal talked to Duane Reid of USDA and there is zero money available for a sewer project at this time. He stated that Bates should raise their rates from \$24/mo to either \$35-\$40/mo to do a project. Schmidt stated that there is now way to justify the add on of sewer line and raising rates. Now that the S2 grant has fallen apart, the township will just have to patch where there's a problem. STS got the township a quote from UP Rubber Company which is the only company in the UP that does televising. The Quote was for \$12222.00 with no engineering. Benson asked if this was the company out of Escanaba. Wodzinski asked if there are any current sewer problems. Schmidt stated that there are problems with roots. Schmidt asked if we want to do maybe ½ the project this year and ½ next. We do have to let the company know because they would do it in the spring with the water runs off.

S 2 Grant / USDA Grant Update (cont'd) - Benson stated that the sewer by Ripeys does have to be addressed because we know there's a problem there. The sewer line runs right under the house besides. The line might have to be moved. Schmidt asked Franzene to look at the kind of money that we have available. Franzene asked who does the repairs. Schmidt said that the township will. The engineers get us a map. Wodzinski said that he hates to do something with one bidder. Maybe we should table until next month. Franzene said she'll look into the money but we should look in references.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Nothing new to report.

Chicagoan Lake Boat Landing – Schmidt told Dave Andreski that the township is working on this project and that he may get a call from the school.

CHICAGON  
LAKE BOAT  
LANDING

Ground water Permit – Nothing new to report yet.

GROUND  
WATER  
PERMITT

Township Website – Moncivais reminded the Board that she will bring details to the April meeting.

TWP  
WEBSITE

Board Budget Workshop – Reminder that the workshop is set for Monday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

BUDGET  
WORKSHOP

Board Salary Resolutions – A motion was made by Moncivais to raise the Trustees position to \$150/meeting. Plus \$20 per meeting for outside township meetings that they attend. Supported by Schmidt. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Moncivais, yes; Schmidt, yes; Demboski, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A motion was made by Moncivais to raise the Treasurer position to \$16,500/year with the increase being split between the water and sewer departments. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Schmidt, yes; Demboski, yes; Moncivais, yes; Franzene, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Resident Donati questioned as to what percentage of increase is being used since last year. Schmidt stated that there were no raises last year. Donati said well then the year before. Franzene stated there were no raises before. Wodzinski stated that with the hours the Clerk and Treasurer put in now they are currently making about \$5/hour. A motion was made by Schmidt to increase the Clerk position to \$16,500/year. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Wodzinski, yes; Demboski, yes; Franzene, yes; Schmidt, yes; Moncivais, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BATES  
SCHOOL  
OWNERSHIP

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Atanasoff stated that he was reviewing the documentation from the title company. Schmidt heard through the grapevine that we're going to get the Bates School Back. There is an 80 acre parcel on Bates Amasa Road. We can not sell it. It must go back to the State if we don't want it. We don't know if the land will come with the school. What we do know is that there was a mileage in 1957 for the school. The school was built and occupied around 1959. In 1967 there was a vote for consolidation. In 1968 the consolidation took place. Bate Township paid off the school and extended it's mileage and paid off the Stambaugh Elementary School. Schmidt stated that Julie Melchoiri of the IC EDC suggested that Bates and the Middle Schools remain open for a year while a solution could be found. However the school board voted to close the Bates School and keep the Middle School open. There is also a grant earmarked for \$50,000 for the roof repair of the Bates School with the school matching the grant. Atanasoff said that the 80 acres is still titled to Bates Twp School District. There was much discussion and a review of the school grounds drawing. Schmidt stated that the latest papers found so far only go to 1962. Atanasoff said that the question still remains who owns it. There appears to be no deed. Title was never transferred. Pozniak stated then it still belongs to Bates.

Schmidt said it will end up looking like Central School. We have to pursue getting it back. Wodzinski agreed. Schmidt said that the utilities cost approx. \$30,000/year for the building. Wodzinski said there are a number of things that the building could be used for. Schmidt stated there are a lot of colleges that would like a satellite in our community. Franzene suggested the Board talk more with Julie. Helgemo stated that the Board should or get a title policy. That'll show what exceptions are there and what must be done. Schmidt stated that per a school board member they want to transfer the roof repair grant for \$50,000 to another school building. Jim Burklund and Eric Malmquist voted to keep the school open for another year and the rest voted against it. Schmidt stated that the building is only 50 years old and it's a lot newer than many homes in the community. A motion was made by Franzene to apply for title insurance. Supported by Demboski. Roll call vote: Wodzinski, yes; Moncivais, yes; Schmidt, yes; Demboski, yes; Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried. Schmidt stated that maybe the Board will have to form a school committee.

Cemetery Lots/Deeds Exchanges – A request was made by a resident to transfer a cemetery lot to a relative. A motion was made by Schmidt to charge a \$25 fee for the processing of the paperwork. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried. It was agreed that the relative that is getting the lot can work out the financial part of the deal with the relative whose name it is currently in. The fee is for the township to change the name throughout the township records.

CEMETERY  
LOTS/DEED  
EXCHANGE

Cemetery Lot/Robert Nelson – A motion was made by Schmidt to donate a cemetery lot to the Robert Nelson family. Pozniak stated that it was a good idea. Schmidt stated that Bob always wanted to be in the top row of the new section and that he was instrumental in acquiring that property for the township from the neighbor. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

CEMETERY  
LOT/ROBERT  
NELSON  
FAMILY

Capitalization Policy – A motion was made by Moncivais for the Township to adopt a formal policy for repairs and maintenance, capitalization and disposal of assets as follows: Repairs and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Capital acquisitions and expenditures of \$1000 or more that increase the value or productive capacity of assets are classified as capital outlay in the fund financial statements, and are capitalized in the township wide statements. When property and equipment are retired, sold or otherwise disposed of, the assets' carrying amount and related accumulated depreciation are removed from fixed assets and any gain or loss is included in the township-wide operating statement. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried. Copy of Resolution kept on file.

CAPITALIZA-  
TION POLICY

Township Board Meeting Dates – The Board approved the dates for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm.

TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
MEETINGS  
2008-2009

Budget Amendment – A motion was made by Schmidt to amend the budget. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried. Copy on file.

BUDGET  
AMENDMENT

Iron County Community Schools Program – A motion was made by Moncivais to pay the \$1292 to sponsor the summer youth programs. Supported by Demboski. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Schmidt, yes; Moncivais, yes; Demboski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ICCS  
PROGRAM

Sunset Lake Condo Project – Atanasoff updated the Board on the Monday Zoning Board meeting. It was the Zoning Board's decision to deny both applications (Gendzwill and Kleinert). Atanasoff stated that he had not yet received a report from the Chairman of the Zoning Board. Rybicki is supposed to make the recommendation to the Township Board. Helgemo stated that the Zoning Board is proceeding with the zoning ordinance amendment workshops. They will need at least one more meeting.

SUNSET  
LAKE CONDC  
PROJECTS

**BATES TOWNSHIP**

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Sunset Lake Condo Project(cont'd) -Atanasoff stated that the work session doesn't have to be posted. Based on the advice of the attorney a motion was made by Schmidt to accept the decision of the Zoning Board which denied the Special use permits. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

Atanasoff stated that there are concerns regarding the Riparian water right in front of the neighboring parcels. There is huge resistance from the lake residents. However, there may be some that want to encourage development. Schmidt stated that he wondered if those objecting are getting one side of the story. Wodzinski stated that there must be some control over the developments. Atanasoff stated that his recommendation to the zoning board was to not disrupt the zoning ordinance. Don't entertain condo apps on less than 150'. Come up with something workable above that. Schmidt stated that as long as the lot sizes meet the minimum on the back part of the project they would be acceptable. Helgemo stated that Kleinert wants the people to have access to the water. Schmidt thanked everyone for the update and stated that we put these people on the Zoning Board and they are doing a fantastic job sifting through this process.

Cell Phone – A motion was made by Schmidt to change service to Alltel. Supported by Demboski. All ayes. Motion carried. Moncivais will handle.

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

**Hall** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer**– Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Absent. / **Park** – Park Host may come back this year. / **Water** – Resident Donati's water is still not completely cleaned up. Franzene stated that there are a few more let ones on Larson Road.

Schmidt stated that there is a serious freezing on the corner of Sunset Lake Road. Spring project.

**CORRESPONDENCE ...**

- Resident letters regarding Condo project.
- Iron Soil & Conservation – Spring sale. No action taken.
- Enbridge Update.
- Uppco – Rate increase on lift station in Rogers.
- Iron County Museum Donation Request – Per Atanasoff the township cannot donate. Schmidt, maybe we can donate some archive books.
- 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 Demboski. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. Unanimous. Motion carried. The next regular meeting to be held at the Township Hall on Wednesday April 9, 2008 @ 6:00 PM.

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Ernest Schmidt, Supervisor

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Barbara Moncivais, Clerk

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