

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – January 13, 2010 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 Bobnock and Wodzinski present. Also in attendance were Sewer/Water Dept Konoske (Benson not required to be there); Assessor Nelson, ZA Stowell; Attorney Atanasoff; Marian Volek –The Reporter; Residents. Constable Demboski and Commissioner Wills were absent.

ATTENDEES

Bobnock moved to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2009 regular meeting. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$	36,861.20
Sewer Fund:	\$	86,659.34
Water Fund:	\$	253,621.44
Road Fund:	\$	123,589.77
Liquor Law:	\$	

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Commissioner Wills was absent.

GUEST COMMENTS

Parks Farm Road – Wayne Koski asked the Township about having this road repaired. He stated that between Bulldozer Rd and the Net River Rd there is a 2 mile stretch that is the worst in the county. He stated that he didn’t think that it had any gravel or fill for years. He stated that he didn’t think it could be graded because of the rocks sticking out. Why was the Hematite Twp portion of the road fixed. There isn’t even dust control done on it. Supervisor Helgemo stated that he would bring it up at the Road Commission meeting. Koski said that he’s done that with no results. Helgemo will look into it.

PARKS FARM ROAD

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Rogers Blacktop Road – Nothing new to report.

ROGERS BLACKTOP

West Iron County Middle School – Supervisor Helgemo stated that the authority has been formed and they just got a tax ID number. They held their first meeting and discussed the building. He believes that there will be a rough road ahead simply because of expenses versus income. It’s a big building. It needs a major tenant. The next 4 months will be critical. The township is committed to a year. Franzene thanked Helgemo on behalf of the Board for his extra efforts.

WIC MIDDLE AUTHORITY

Timber Cutting Project – John Gendzwill asked for an extension to the deadline. A motion was made by Moncivais to grant the extension to finish the project by December 31, 2010. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes; Franzene, yes; Moncivais, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

TIMBER CUTTING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Zoning Administrator Stowell stated that he issued no permits and no violation letters in December. His year end totals were for 30 permits and 32 zoning violations. Clerk Moncivais added that he has been doing a great job. Trustee Bobnock questioned what the majority of violations were. Stowell stated junk cars. However, he staid there are some that look like junk but they have plates and are registered. Helgemo stated that we may have to hold off until spring but then the only fair thing will be to go after all violators. Clerk Moncivais has a copy of the monthly report on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Hwy US 2 Lift Station – Supervisor Helgemo stated that we have no prices yet. Most of the repairs will be done today at the lift station on US 2 by Salos. Hopefully by the next meeting we will have costs. We want to look at both the electrical and mechanical operations. All of a sudden we're hit with a rash of problems. After 30 years we have to expect that they'll need rebuilding or repair.

HWY US :
LIFT
STATION

NEW BUSINESS

ICRC Road Summary Report - The Township received a copy of this report. At this time the RC has no money to do the roads but they are confident that the funding will be authorized. We'll also be getting bids earlier this year which should be better for all municipalities. Clerk Moncivais has a copy of the letter on file.

ICRC
PROJECT
SUMMARY

Attorney Report – Atanasoff presented the Board with the ballot language for the 2 mil RENEWAL request for the road millage. It was approved by IC Equalization and Assessor Nelson. Clerk Moncivais stated that she could do a newsletter to the Residents explaining that this is a RENEWAL request and not a request for a NEW millage. The REQUIRED ballot language that is confusing. The Residents should be informed also about the great progress that has been made in road improvements because of this millage. A motion was made by Moncivais to approve the ballot language and have Attorney Atanasoff forward a copy of IC Clerk Luhtanen for final approve and to meet the Feb 23 deadline for the May election. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Wodzinski, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Moncivais, yes; Helgemo, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Atanasoff also did some research on a CoVantage foreclosure and how it affects the township. The township will not participate in the law suit because it would cost more in legal fees to do so. The water bills and taxes attach to the property and Treasurer Franzene/Clerk Monicvais are confident that the township will be made whole.

2 MIL ROAD
RENEWAL

Waterline Abandonment – There was discussion about possibly abandoning some waterlines in the future. Usually the Board will tell the affected Residents that they will have 2 free years of water from the township which will give them time to install their own wells. At this time the township will not be sending that notification to any residents however the following motion was made:

WATERLINE
ABANDON-
MENT

A motion was made by Helgemo to no longer allow any new waterline hookups on Bates Amasa Road from the Kim Perry residence aka 692 Bates- Amasa Rd to the Paint River bridge AND along US 2 from Helgemo thru the first 1/2 on Krans Rd. These Residents will be required to do wells if they want water because these lines are subject to future abandonment. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Moncivais, yes; Helgemo, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. ZA Stowell will be given a copy of this for his records.

Zoning Board / Planning Commission – Supervisor Helgemo stated that before July 1, 2011 the Zoning Board will have to become a Planning Commission. Clerk Moncivais provided a sample of the Ordinance to establish a New Planning Commission and Transfer Zoning Authority. The ordinance should be modified to suit our township's need. It will be passed, published and take effect after 60 days. Although no specific action was taken Helgemo will get a copy to ZB Chairman Autio to review. The Board hopes to take action on this during 2010.

PLANNING
COMMISSIO
N

Water Dept Con-Ed – The employees will attend Con Ed on February 4th. This is mandatory to keep their water certification.

WATER CON
ED

Budget Workshop – The Board will hold it's budget workshop on Monday February 1st at the hall at 11:00 am.

BUDGET
WORKSHOP

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Board Salary Resolutions – Supervisor Helgemo stated that he believes this Board has done a good job. This past year we found a way to save on the employee health insurance, we pursued an insurance claim on our pump station, we used the Summer Youth worker program which provided the township with free summer help that freed up and allowed our employees to go forward on other projects. The cemetery platform was rebuilt along with the fencing at the sewer lagoon. There is always a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes especially by the Treasurer and Clerk that no one sees. While the Treasurer has pretty consistent responsibilities and has a lot of contact with the public while the Clerk and Supervisor positions are constantly having new tasks/duties added. He added that the Clerk continues to go forward without complaining. Clerk Moncivais stated that it was nice to have Helgemo search out another Health Insurance company that reduced the health coverage costs. That process alone was like having a full time job. Franzene stated that the Supervisor position has a lot of other meetings to attend to keep the Board informed. Helgemo stated that he thought that the Treasurer, Clerk and Supervisor positions should get at least a \$1500/year increase. Moncivais stated that by comparison to a comparable township such as Iron River Twp our positions are underpaid especially if the number of years of experience was taken into consideration. The IR Twp Treasurer was brand new in 2008 and is currently making \$3500/year more than the Bates Treasurer – and our Treasurer has at least 14 years of experience. Their Clerk is making the same amount more as compared to the Bates Clerk position. Their Trustees make almost twice the amount that our Trustees do.

A motion was made by Helgemo to increase the Trustee positions from \$154.50/meeting to \$175/meeting. Supported by Moncivais. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moncivais to increase the Supervisor position from \$12500/year to \$14000/year. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Franzene to increase the Clerk position from \$16995/year to \$18500/year. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helgemo to increase the Treasurer position from \$16995/year to \$18500/year with the increase being divided equally between the water and sewer department. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

BOR Seminar – A motion was made by Moncivais to approve the mileage, meal and cost of seminar if the BOR members decide to go to an update seminar. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Helgemo, yes; Moncivais, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Assessor Nelson and the Board agreed that they do a great job.

Willie Shoquist – Willie wanted to go on record thanking Clerk Moncivais for her efforts in getting the money for his tree replacement. He really appreciated her efforts. I don't care how she did it but she did a good job and I'm grateful and I want it to go on public record. Thank you.

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall – Nothing new to report. / Water - Nothing new to report. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Park – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE ...

- The Reporter – A motion was made by Franzene to do a \$60 ad in support of local law enforcement. Supported by Moncivais. They do a great job for the community. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Bobnock, yes; Moncivais, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Franzene, yes.
- DICSA - A letter was received for Walk for Warmth. No action taken.
- IC MTA – Supervisor Helgemo stated that the next meeting will be at the Iron River Twp Hall on March 2 @ 6PM. It's an excellent way for communications between township.

INVOICE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Moncivais, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Franzene to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. All ayes. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be held at the Township Hall on Wednesday – February 10, 2010 @ 6:00 PM.

Grant Helgemo, Supervisor

Barbara Moncivais, Clerk

Date approved: _____