

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – December 9, 2015 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 Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson and Trustees Bobnock & Wodzinski present. Also in attendance were Wtr/Swr Superintendent Benson; Zoning Admin-Constable Oberlin; PC Franzene & Nelson; Atty Atanasoff; Assr Erhart; Comm Brennan and Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the minutes. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of November 2015 was submitted. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL
REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 64,477.58
Sewer Fund:	\$ 144,188.96
Water Fund:	\$ 291,396.54
Road Fund:	\$ 204,946.31
Liquor Law:	\$

Supervisor Helgemo noted that there is still an outstanding invoice from the Iron County Road Commission that needs to be paid for approx. \$50000. The Board is clarifying the amount because it was different than originally expected.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Brennan encouraged Bates Residents to get involved on the County Committee's. There are many openings on several committee's and they really need people to serve. He stated that there will be a Dickinson Iron Health Dept millage renewal on the March ballot. He stated that the services are good and we all get a good deal for our money. He reminded that this is not a new millage this is a renewal. He stated that the County passed a 20 year forestry plan. He gave a brief overview of the Sr. Ctrs and stated that the money received for Iron County gets exclusively split among the Centers. He stated that they try to be fair and some people think it should be split differently but they try to split the money according to services provided and number of people served. Regarding the County Administrator position the lady that was offered the position changed her mind and there will be an ad in the paper next week as they begin the search again.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Helgemo stated the the tentative 3-year road plan was turned into the ICRC. It will go out for bids and then the board and make final decisions.

ROAD
PROJECTS

Ordinance Book Update - Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she just compiled some ordinance books for Township Officials. She just has a few additions and then she will distribute them.

ORDINANCE
BOOKS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin stated that there was 1 permit issued, 1 new inquiry, 0 new violations, 0 violations resolved. Oberlin is still working with a Resident on an old blight violation and he is working with a Resident planning to be a new home on a sub-standard lot. He inspected the bar. Permits issued to date = 29. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING
UPDATE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Restricted Roads – Supervisor Helgemo said that it is a statewide problem trying to raise money for our roads. The County owns them, the Township pays for them but there is no one to protect them. He stated that he would like to take formal action to restrict the sections of roads that were discussed at the last board meeting. Trustee Bobnock questioned as to whether the loggers can get around. Treasurer Nelson pointed out that it could be a problem for property owners that want to log their property. Helgemo stated that we are not against logging. Nelson said that she was not comfortable with restricting the roads. Helgemo stated that there have already been permits issued when requested and so far no one has been stopped from logging. Nelson said “what if the next Supervisor isn’t as liberal with the permits.” Helgemo said that the Board gets a vote also, it’s not just the Supervisor’s decision. Nelson said, well what if the Board says no? Bobnock added that property ownership changes also. Attorney Atanasoff added that from the comments that he has heard it was the right thing to do on Sunset Shores Rd. Helgemo stated that the intent was never to restrict logging or commercial enterprise. With that a motion was made by Helgemo to restrict the following additional roads: Shoquist Rd (US2 to top of hill); Section 22 Rd (Thunander Rd to Shoquist Rd); Philips & Noren (From Forsberg to Demboski). Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Bobnock, yes; Helgemo, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ROAD
RESTRICT.

Cemetery Parking/Driveway – Supervisor Helgemo stated that he is going to get a price to see what it would cost to do the parking lot and the driveways. Once the board has that information we can further discuss the pros and cons. He also stated that Clerk Benson-Stafford and Employees have been doing very extensive work on a new cemetery program and maps. The employees mapped out every single lot in the cemetery and the Clerk has been doing data entry into a new cemetery program. There has been a lot of work put into this and Benson-Stafford has put in countless additional hours. They have a lot to do yet but he would like the Board to think about additional compensation for the Clerk for this. This is going to be really nice when it’s done. Benson-Stafford also suggested a display case at the cemetery with the map so that it is easier to find specific lots which Helgemo thought was a great idea.

CEMETERY
PARKING/
DRIVEWAYS

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report - Atanasoff stated that there is nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY
REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart and presented a proposal whereby her and Treasurer Nelson would take over services that have been provided by the County in the past. By doing so the Twp would save approximately \$425 on the printing of the Assessment Change Notices and Personal Property Statements and save approximately \$1353 on printing tax rolls. Erhart also stated that the Township should have control of their own records for better accuracy. One current obstacle is that the ROD wants to charge the township \$1.00/deed. This needs to be straightened out as there shouldn’t be a fee charged to township. Atanasoff confirmed that Erhart is already performing these same services for other municipalities that she is the Assessor for. Also, Erhart said the Township should have custody of their Tax Maps, not the County. She added that she likes the Bates Twp GIS mapping program, it is user friendly. A motion was made by Nelson to accept the proposal subject to the ROD removing the fee. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes; Helgemo, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. (A copy of the detailed proposal is on file with the Clerk.) Also the AMAR review will come to the Supervisor. Helgemo stated that he heard no one in the surrounding counties has passed.

ASSESSOR
REPORT

Board of Review - Assessor Erhart stated that the Board of Review will meet Wednesday, December 10th at 10:30. This is a meeting of the Board to do “corrections only.”

BOARD OF
REVIEW MTC

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Employee Christmas Bonus- A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to give a \$100 bonus to the 3 employees. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Helgemo added that it is well deserved. Employee Benson said thank you.

EMPLOYEE
BONUS

Children's Christmas Party – Clerk Benson-Stafford reminded everyone that the party will be held Saturday, December 12th from 11:30-1:00pm.

CHILDRENS
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

Safety Jackets – A motion was made by Nelson to purchase reflective safety jackets for the 3 employees, Zoning Administrator & Assessor. These will enhance safety. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Benson-Stafford will also order the door signs for the new vehicle. Erhart also suggested that she would like an ID. Benson-Stafford will look into these.

SAFETY
JACKETS

General Ops/Road Millage 3 Mil Renewal – A motion was made by Helgemo to authorize Clerk Benson-Stafford to provide the County with the ballot language by the County deadline to put the Millage Renewal on the March ballot. Supported by Nelson. All Ayes. Motion carried.

MILLAGE
RENEWAL

IronLine Sponsorship – Josh Brindle with the IronLine Sleddog/Fat Bike race was present. He stated that the participation and interest for this year are even greater than previous years. He asked the Board for sponsorship for the 2016 races. He requested a \$200 sponsorship and thanked the Board for sponsoring the event in previous years. Supervisor Helgemo stated that since this was just brought before the Board this evening that he would like to table any action until the next meeting so the Members have a chance to review the information. The dates of the event are January 29-30 weather permitting. There are contingency dates if necessary.

IRONLINE
SPONSOR-
SHIP

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall – Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson said there was a waterline repair at Sec 22/Bates Amasa Rd. The employees installed modine propane heaters in the Chicagon Mine Rd pumphouses (front & back). There has been 1 of 3 meter pits installed and already it is clear there is a leak that the property owner will have to repair or pay for the water loss. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** Nothing new to report. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **New Truck** – The new truck should be ready next week and then the old truck will be put out for bids. No minimum bid.

GUEST COMMENTS

CORRESPONDENCE

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 6:00 PM.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date approved: _____