

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – December 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

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

Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin; Clerk Benson-Stafford, Trustees Franzene and Bobnock were present. Also in attendance were Wtr/Swr Superintendent Benson; ZA Oberlin; Atty Atanasoff; and Residents. Treasurer Nelson, Assr Erhart, County Comm Brennan were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of November 2016 was submitted. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Bobnock. All Ayes. Motion carried. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 58,013.76
Sewer Fund:	\$ 168,677.67
Water Fund:	\$ 267,036.21
Road Fund:	\$ 165,365.55
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Brennan was absent.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the ICRC had been paid for all invoices for 2016. / As part of the 3 yr road plan the Township plans on investing in gravel in the northern part of the township. Mark Gasperini was present and stated that if the Township wanted to increase gravel tonnage it will not be a problem. The material is there. He didn't expect the crush date to happen before July. Historically it doesn't happen before Memorial Day for sure. / Attorney Atanasoff stated that he talked with the Forest Service people and questioned them as to why if it's a forest service road they don't assist the county & townships. He was told funding is available. Oberlin asked Atanasoff to turn over the contact information to him. / Also, Oberlin stated that the County received additional funding so it is expected that the ICRC will complete an additional phase of Sunset Lake Rd this summer.

ROAD PROJECTS

Vinnedge Rd Waterline – There was much discussion about a waterline break. Property Owner Stanton was available. The Board told Stanton that it is never the Boards intention to just discontinue water service without notice to a property owner. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that it was not the Board intention to shut the water off immediately. The Board in the past has given property owners sometimes as much as 2 years notice to prepare for a well. Stanton stated that she can't afford \$7500-\$10000 for a well and without water her property would lose value. Wtr Superintendent Benson stated that the line would have to go under the swamp. The cost could be about \$4000. Stanton stated that she could probably split the cost. A motion was made by Franzene to do the project with Stanton paying for 50% of the cost. The line would be replaced to the home. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

VINNEDGE RD WTRLINE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin gave his report. There were 0 new permits issued, he met with a person building a cabin near the Paint River that will begin in the spring. He is scheduled to meet with another property owner before year end to issue a new garage permit. 0 new violations. He was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar was closed until further notice due to medical reasons. Permits issued to date in 2016 = 21. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Park Signage – This is a winter project. Benson stated that he loved the first proposal that the township received from an outside Vendor. He will give the information to Oberlin to review. Tabled until a later meeting. BATES PARK SIGNAGE

Board of Review – The Township will be accepting applications for 3 new Board of Review Members. BOARD OF REVIEW

Master Plan – The plan is in the middle of the review period. It is on the Twp website. Public comments should be in writing and addressed to the Planning Commission. MASTER PLAN

Children's Christmas Party – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the party was a bigger success than previous years. The Board thanked the Christenson-Hernandez family for the great job that they did and for their continued service to the Township. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Attorney Atanasoff stated he reviewed the policy for the Supervisor to act as the interim Zoning Administrator and there is no conflict. / He mentioned that there is a berm on the Bates School forest property and was stated that it could be hazardous. The Board stated that the school continues to feel that they own it so any problems should be directed to them. ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Clerk Benson-Stafford presented her report. She requested that the Board direct \$200 of the \$1440 invoice for additional services previously handled by the County to Treasurer Nelson for her additional time. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to pay Nelson \$200 and Erhart \$1240. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A copy of the Assessor report will be kept on file with the Clerk. ASSESSOR REPORT

MSB – Close Safety Deposit Box – A motion was made Benson-Stafford to authorize the closing of the Safety Deposit Box at Miners State Bank for lack of use. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried. MSB – SAFETY DEP BOX

MSB – Change Authorized Users – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to file the requested paperwork with Miners State Bank listing the current/new account authorized signors. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried. MSB – SIGNORS

Zoning Administrator – Supervisor Oberlin officially resigned at the Township's Zoning Administrator because of his new role as Township Supervisor. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to authorize Supervisor Oberlin to act as Interim Zoning Administrator until such time as a replacement is made. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish a call for a qualified Zoning Administrator. ZONING ADMIN WANTED

PC Member Franzene Resign/Reappointed – Trustee Franzene officially resigned as a Planning Commission Member. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to appoint Franzene to the Planning Commission as the Township's Liaison Member. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish a call for a qualified Planning Commission Member. PLANNING COMM WANTED

Township Hall Foundation – Supervisor Oberlin wanted to alert the Board that the hall foundation is in serious deterioration. This issue will need to be addressed immediately in the spring. HALL BASEMENT

Hall/Shop Lighting – Supervisor Oberlin is working with Wtr Superintendent Benson to price out LED lighting for the hall/shop. Tabled until next meeting. This could be a substantial savings to the Township. LED LIGHTING

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Employee Christmas Bonus – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to give the fulltime Employee a \$150 bonus and the part-time Employees a \$100 bonus. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CHRISTMAS
BONUS

UPSET – A motion was made by Bobnock to support with community program with \$400. Supported by Oberlin. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPSET

2017 Iron Belle Trail – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to issue a letter of support to Crystal Falls Township for the Iron County Heritage Trail Group. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

2017 IRON
BELLE TRAIL

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall/Shop–It was also noted that the foundation for the basement has some serious issues and is crumbling. This will need attention in the immediate future. / Water – A leak will be repaired on Anderson Rd. / Sewer – Benson said that he was in need of some seals. The Board approved the purchase of this inventory. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report. / Park – Closed for the season. / Backhoe – Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

GUEST COMMENTS

- Chris & Lisa/ Bates Twp Residents on Parks Farm Rd came to present their case to the Board. Because of their location they have to use an Amasa mailed address. They wanted to the Board to authorize the portion of Bates Twp that they live on to be somehow connected to Hematite Twp so that they could feel a part of their community. They also wanted to address their road condition and wanted to know what the Township would be doing about that. The Board stated that it is the County's responsibility to gravel the road. The Township can/does provide dust control. They were also told that it will never happen where Bates will turn over the portion of Bates Twp to Hematite Twp. That is just not feasible. They also wanted to know why their Bates Twp taxes were more than their neighbor's taxes that lived in Hematite Twp.

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Franzene to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 @ 6:00 PM.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____