

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – February 12, 2020 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, Treasurer Nelson & Trustees Franzene and Bobnock were present. Also, in attendance were Public Works Superintendent Benson; County Comm Stafford; Gasser, P&R; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of January 2020 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

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|---------------|---------------|
| General Fund: | \$ 126,705.09 |
| Sewer Fund: | \$ 78,369.70 |
| Water Fund: | \$ 322,227.05 |
| Road Fund: | \$ 118,626.57 |
| Liquor Law: | \$ |

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Commissioner Stafford was present and stated that the county board approved a countywide GIS system that will be handled by Coleman Engineering. They will start by “addressing” and then they enter plat information. There will be a committee formed and Stafford was looking for a participant from the Township to join the committee. The Township will also be contacted about releasing its data to the county system. Oberlin asked if the County intends to charge the municipalities if the county maintains the data. Stafford did not know.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- A motion was made by Oberlin to crush 10,000 tons of gravel for next fall at a cost of \$5.28/ton for \$52800. The County will spread it. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Oberlin stated that the County is almost finished with Ponozzo Rd and it’s possible that Perch Lake Rd will be done in the future. / He stated that he did talk to the ICRC about a snow fence on the east end of Sunset Lake Rd.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There was 1 new permit issued. No new violations. A few new inquiries. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2020=1. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Township Hall Foundation - Nothing new to report.

TWP HALL FOUND.

Sewer System Sump Pump Audit – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he is working with the Township Attorney. Atanasoff had indicated that the Township might have to go to court for a blanket search warrant. Atanasoff suggested the Township try to initially pinpoint specific homes.

SEWER SYSTEM AUDIT

Park Host Position – There was one applicant. When Oberlin tried to discuss the position, the applicant has not responded. / It was also mentioned that perhaps a riding lawnmower without a deck could pull the trailer that the hosts use to collect garbage.

PARK HOST POSITION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

MERS – The Township has provided a Defined Benefit “Cadillac” retirement program for a previous (now retired) employee. It would cost \$225000 to buy the township out of that obligation. Instead a motion was made by Oberlin to change our program to a Uniform 457 Retirement plan. Employees can opt in or remain out. They can choose a Roth or Traditional IRS with contributions through payroll. Township does not have to contribute. Program has no fees to the township. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Benson-Stafford wanted it on record that MERS is a deal with the devil. Her yes vote is only because the Township could not afford the \$225000 to buy out the Defined Benefit program and be done with MERS. The previous Board of Trustees that put the MERS plan in place could never have guessed how future participation in MERS would strap the municipality as it has done across the state.

MERS

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin read the highlights of the report which were the hours of the Board of Review meetings: Tuesday, March 3 at 1:00pm is the Organizational Meeting; Wednesday, March 11 from 9:00-3:00 & Friday, March 13 from 3:00-9:00pm. / Her report included an overview of the function of the Board of Review.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Poverty Exemption Guidelines – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to adopt the US Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2020. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**POVERTY
EXEMPTION
GUIDELINES**

Huntington Water Loan Payoff – A motion was made by Nelson to amend the 2019-2020 budget for account 591000009 known as the 2007 Water Debt Retirement Fund, and to allow the payoff of the water loan with a payment in full of \$61222 by March 1, 2020. The fund balance for the earmarked account is currently \$68918.05. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**HUNTINGTN
BANK WATER
LOAN
PAYOFF**

Township Building(s) Appraisals – A motion was made by Oberlin to hire and Michigan licensed Appraiser to provide appraised valuations of the hall/shop and the school (separately). Estimated appraisal cost of \$2000. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPRAISALS

Assessors Supplemental Contract Payment – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to authorize the contract payment of \$900 to be paid to Treasurer Nelson, as directed by Assessor Erhart. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, abstain; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Motion carried.

**ASSESSORS
SUPP
CONTRACT**

Board Salary Resolutions – All Board Members declined any request for a salary increase.

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOLUTION**

2020-2021 Budget – A motion was made by Franzene to approve the 2020-2021 budget prepared at the January 22nd workshop, for the 30-day public review period. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**2020-2021
BUDGET**

Budget Hearing – The Budget Hearing meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, March 11th at the Bates Township Hall. Public welcome. Clerk Benson-Stafford will post and publish the meeting date.

**BUDGET
HEARING**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Presidential Primary Election – Benson-Stafford reminded all that the election will be held Tuesday, March 10th. Polls are open from 7:00am-8:00pm. Anyone that is interested in an absent voter ballot should contact the Clerk for an application.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**–Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson stated that the water leak from the previous month was found in a seasonal home on US2. The basement filled with water, extensive damage. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – A motion was made by Nelson to approve a payment of \$432 to various counties to acquire death certificates of people buried in the cemetery for our records. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the Sharp Shooters will begin renting in March at the school in Room 107. One night a week/\$50-month. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Gasser asked about the water infiltration culvert on Sunset Lake Rd.
- Clinton Otto complained about his water bill usage. He states that he is running a small pencil size stream of water. This is an unauthorized let run. PW Benson will check the water pit meter for accuracy. If he continues the let run, he will be responsible to pay the bill.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The Reporter solicitation. No action taken.

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____