

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – January 8, 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 Water/Sewer Superintendent Benson; County Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, P&R/Sunset Lk Assn; Gasser, P&R; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

**ATTENDEES**

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to approve the minutes with a time correction; meeting began at 5:00pm not 6:00pm. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Treasurer’s report for the month of December 2019 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.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 100,429.28
Sewer Fund:	\$ 75,850.58
Water Fund:	\$ 309,222.06
Road Fund:	\$ 84,811.71
Liquor Law:	\$

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Commissioner Stafford was present and stated that the county budget was passed with approving \$2500 for WUPPDR, \$10,000 for the ICECA and \$15,000 for MSUE/4-H All amounts were below requested amounts and previous support. /During the reorganizational meeting Sharon Leonoff was voted Vice Chair. / Oberlin asked Stafford how these underfunded organizations would go forward. Stafford commented that the community has really stepped up to support the ICECA. There will be a 4-H meeting on Thursday, January 9 so he’ll see what their plans are.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated gave board members the draft of the 3-year road plan which will be subject to change, and bidding results each year. 2020-PAVE-Larson Rd, Demboski Rd (portion of), Sunset Lk Boat Launch Park Area; GRAVEL-10,000 gravel – Ponozzo Rd; 2021-GRIND & PAVE -E. Lk Emily Rd, PAVE- Thunander Rd, Section 14 Rd; 2022-GRIND & PAVE- Kofmehl Rd (8/10’s mile shared with Stambaugh Twp), Passamani Rd, PAVE-Wagner Lk Rd.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There were 0 new permits issued. One application waiting on return. No new zoning questions. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2019=19. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk. / He would also like to do a Permit Amnesty letter to residents that should have gotten permits and didn’t. There would be a “window of time” that they could request the permit and pay the fee without penalty. After that, there would be fines accordingly. He is going to investigate the cost of the mailing.

**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 to draft a letter to residents. Golas asked if there was anything the lake Assn could do? There was discussion about education. Maybe some residents don’t know that sump pumps cannot be directed into the sewer system.

**SEWER SYSTEM AUDIT**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin read the highlights of the report which were that Personal Property statements were mailed on 1/7/2020 and are due by 2/20/2020. Also, small business personal property tax exemption forms last year will not need to file again this year. This is the first year they will not have to refile.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

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**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Board Budget Workshop date – The board will hold a budget workshop at the Bates School on January 22 at 5:00 pm, at which time the board members can look at the building.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

UPSET – A motion was made by Oberlin to support with \$500. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**UPSET**

Sewer Ordinance/Sewer Shut Off – There have been some Resident requests to stop paying for sewer that they don't use. Oberlin will do more research; however, the board is inclined to continue as before. If the line runs through the property and is an available utility, there will be a monthly charge.

**SEWER ORDINANCE**

Park Host Position – Treasurer Nelson created an ad that will be posted on campground sites to secure 2020 park hosts. The Board will wait a few weeks to see if there is any response before publishing ads.

**PARK HOST**

Bates Township Center/Board Meetings – Tabled until further notice.

**BATES BOARD MTGS**

MERS – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that there have been some inquiries from MERS regarding employee new hires. She feels that while employees should have a retirement benefit, MERS is a deal with the devil and should be avoided at all costs. She will research the original enrollment and Supervisor Oberlin will gather the information to do an opt out resolution if one hadn't already been done. County Commissioner Stafford pointed out that MERS has Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Program.

**MERS**

**Hall**-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**-Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson stated that there is a water leak there he is actively trying to find. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she got an inquiry into the Bates School from the 4-H Sharp Shooters. The board was uncertain that they could offer a permanent type space. More research will be done, and Benson-Stafford will ask the Sharp Shooters to look over the space. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – The new signage should be ordered to be install in April and Benson stated that we need to find a golf cart or something for the hosts.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Mike Golas stated that the ICRC has done a super great job of plowing. Also, maybe they should think about a snow fence on the east end of Sunset Lake (Soderquist/Blank property). During drifting it has gotten down to barely one lane. Oberlin will talk to the RC.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICRC Public posting of meetings for 2020.
- The Reporter solicitation. No action taken.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. 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 5:26pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_