

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – May 13, 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 & Trustee Franzene were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, P&R & Sunset Lk Assn; Gasser, P&R; Residents. Trustee Bobnock & Assr Erhart were absent.

**ATTENDEES**

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

**MINUTES**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 176,986.75
Sewer Fund:	\$ 92,424.05
Water Fund:	\$ 280,528.37
Road Fund:	\$ 199,690.86
Liquor Law:	\$

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated that he was unable to attend the County meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He heard that Pentoga Park was going to be closed for the season. He was going to get more information on that because Oberlin stated that he heard the matter would be revisited in June.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Ernie Schmidt, ICRC was present. He stated that there are funding cutbacks due to COVID. The chip seal funding match that the RC does with the Townships will not happen this year. There will not be any crack filling and the RC will not be hiring college students this summer. He stated that road restrictions will be lifted later in the week in the southern townships.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There were 2 new permits issued. He is waiting for several applications. He is planning to send out several letters for junk car violations, however the recycling center is closed due to COVID, so he has put the letter writing on hold for now. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2020=3. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

Sewer Lift Station # 3 / Vortex Sewer Motors – Benson, Public Works presented the estimated for new Vortex Motors. A motion was made by Oberlin to purchase two new motors & parts for \$11501. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford pointed out that the only thing that should be going into sewers is human waste and toilet paper. Not wipes, not paper toweling, not feminine hygiene products. The Township needs to get that word out. The things that should not be disposed of in the sewer are ruining the sewer motors. Nelson said that she could put a notice on the water bills.

**SEWER LIFT STATION 3**

Public Works Job Description- Oberlin stated there were 4 applicants. Due to COVID the Township is unsure of its budget currently. Oberlin will reach out to the applicants and let them know that this matter is tabled until the June meeting.

**PW JOB DESCRPTN**

Paint River Project – Nothing new to report. Project is on hold due to COVID. Oberlin will reach out to GEI for an update.

**PAINT RIVER PROJECT**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Assessor Report – On April 27<sup>th</sup> Re-appraisal questionnaires were sent to all properties identified as Agricultural on the tax roll. Assessor Erhart will begin office hours on the third Tuesday of each month from 9-11am (same as the Treasurer’s collection date), as soon as the COVID restrictions are lifted. She has updated her mailing address as POB 264, Iron River, MI 49935 A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR  
REPORT**

Land Division Application - Assessor Erhart made some changes to the application. A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt the land division form as revised by Erhart in 2020. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / A copy of the form has been added to the Township website.

**LAND  
DIVISION  
APPLICATN**

Memorial Day Ceremony – The Township was informed that the Veterans were suspending their ceremonies due to the Governors Stay Home order which was in effect. It was decided that Bates Township would cancel its ceremony and continental breakfast this year, for the same reason. / PW Benson & Franzmeier put in the new bricks that were received for the Veterans Memorial. / Thank you to John Franzmeier for volunteering his time and materials in making the “sitting bench” for the Veteran’s Memorial. / It was also noted that Steven & Mary Buzzell donated \$96 to be used toward the continental breakfast in honor of Evelyn Javoroski’s 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Evelyn hosted the event for many years. A thank you letter will be sent to the Buzzell’s and Evelyn. / Clerk-Benson Stafford would make sure that a cancellation notice was published.

**MEMORIAL  
DAY  
CEREMONY  
CANCELLED**

May Township Roadside Cleanup Day – Supervisor Oberlin stated that this date would be cancelled this year due to the Governor’s Stay Home order. Perhaps the Board will revisit the idea in the fall.

**CLEANUP  
DAY  
CANCELLED**

Bates Park-Sunset Lake – Due to the Governor’s Stay Home orders, the park will remain closed until further notice. The Board will discuss this again at the June meeting and formulate a plan for the potential reopening.

**PARK/CAMP  
GROUND  
CLOSED**

Utility Customers NSF Checks – There are some chronic NSF check writers. Treasurer Nelson was given the authority to write letters to these individuals stating that the Township requires cash or money orders; personal checks will no longer be accepted.

**CUSTOMER  
NSF CHECKS**

June 10<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Tour – Clerk Benson-Stafford wanted to acknowledge that Dale Safford who conducts these tours, died rather unexpectedly. Just days before she passed, Dale emailed to apologize that she would not be able to do the Bates Tour this year. / It was also noted that Ed Benson and his wife Hydee have done hundreds of hours of research on the burials in the Bates Cemetery. Safford and the Benson’s were able to share information that helped the Township and the Find A Grave website that Safford was maintaining. / It was noted that with all the information/knowledge that Ed & Hydee Benson have, perhaps they would consider holding a tour later this year, at which Dale could be acknowledged.

**CEMETERY  
TOUR  
CANCELLED**

BSA Software Upgrade/Harris Cancellation – The Clerks payroll software will be discontinued at the end of 2020 and the Treasurer’s current utility program is obsolete. New software upgrades are being researched. Action tabled until the next meeting.

**BSA  
SOFTWARE**

Sunset Lake Boat Launch – PW Benson stated that he is waiting to hear from Golbach.

**BOAT  
LAUNCH  
REPAIR**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**-Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the school will not reopen for the balance of the 2019-2020 year. / Connors Sports Flooring will be putting in a new “dance floor” in Room 105 for Inclusion Dance. There is no cost to the Township. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- A Sunset Lake/Noren Road Resident was present and was asking about he procedure to obtain a permit to build a deck. Supervisor Oberlin will help him with that.
- A Resident was asking about the sale of the Mapleton. It is now under new ownership, and it has been said that they will be a coffee house serving breakfast and lunch. They should open sometime this summer.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Unanimous. Motion carried. / It was noted that the ICECA invoice will be held for another month, to see what their economic development plan is going forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Franzene. The meeting adjourned at 7:03pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_