

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – April 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Jon Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Jon Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson & Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Margee Brennan & Yvonne Anderson, ZBA; Gasser Gasperini, P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meeting with the correction that (Guest Comments) Krist will donate the materials (dirt) not the labor to the BHPS hall foundation project. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of March 2021 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 192,867.14
Sewer Fund:	\$ 92,565.81
Water Fund:	\$ 310,936.40
Road Fund:	\$ 286,431.66
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that the county received a \$50,000 quote for countywide GIS mapping from Coleman Engineering. The county had \$20,000 budgeted. Coleman is going to do a requote. /The County will have Rockford maps do the new plat book, instead of Mapping Solutions. / The County passed a resolution to encourage the state to do wolf management. Delta County had passed a great one. It appears to be more of a UP issue than statewide. / The County is looking into additional information on the American Rescue Plan money. At this time there is little information available on what the money can be used for.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to approve the bids for the Sunset Lake boat launch at \$36675 and the Bates portion of Kofmehl Rd at \$140,590.63. (Total Kofmehl Rd bid is \$281,181.26 to be shared with Stambaugh Township.) Oberlin stated that he is waiting on a bid for East Lake Emily Rd for next year. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. /The invoice was received and paid for the Larson Rd project which was approved previously at \$58537.37. / Oberlin stated that gravel can be purchased at \$5.50/ton from Gasser’s pit. No action taken.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report with 2 new permits issued. / He is waiting for 5 applications to be returned. / Violations: Permit # 20 violation is the next court date set for July 22 and the trial is set for September 8. / Permits to date: 5. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Public Works New Hire – Oberlin stated that he thought it might be a good idea to reach out to Gogebic and Bay Colleges water program students.

NEW HIRE

Park Host – There was some talk about a summer youth worker for the park, however, two potential hosts stepped forward so the Board talk to them first.

PARK HOST

MDNR Paint River – FAI Final Draw – A motion was made by Franzene to approve the final draw for the project. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MDNR PAINT RIVER GRANT

Bates Hall Preservation Society - Margee Brennan/BHPS stated that she met with the plant Manager at Connors and they are very enthusiastic about doing the floor in the hall. It is not official yet, but she is hopeful.

BHPS

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NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin gave an overview of the report. The Board of Review (BOR) went well, and all decisions have been mailed to the Petitioners. / The County Equalization Department has given the final approval for our Agricultural Reappraisal (review in 2020, implemented for 2021). / The Township’s 2021 Assessed Value \$81,864,568 & (2020) \$77,717,430 and 2021 Taxable Value \$57,572,744 & (2020) \$55,287,482. / All affidavits from Veterans who received Disabled Veterans exemptions & one new one, were all processed at today’s BOR. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Social Media Policy – Tabled until next month.

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
POLICY**

Hall & Pavilion Rental Agreements – Tabled until next month.

**HALL/PAV.
RENTAL
CONTRACT**

Park/Campground Weekly Inspections – Trustee’s Franzene and Adams will visit the park and complete the first report to start the season. /There was discussion about whether to open the showers this year, but action was tabled until the next meeting.

**PARK/CAMP
GROUND
INSPECTION**

Chicaugon Lake Assn – Sharon Polich representing the association made a request for a \$2500 donation to treat the milfoil in the lake. She stated that Stambaugh Twp was donating \$5000. There was much discussion about the type of treatment. She stated that currently of the 143 members only 51 members donated last year. Some residents object to the herbicidal treatment; they would like to use the DASH treatment which is hand pulling the milfoil. It was determined that approximately 18 properties on the lake are in Bates Township. No action was taken. Tabled until the next meeting.

**CHICAUGON
LAKE ASSN**

EGLE Sewer Lagoon – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the township has been working with Coleman Engineering and EGLE regarding Compliance Communication. A response letter is due to EGLE by 4/30/2021. PW Benson has been working with Coleman on the matter.

**EGLE/SEWER
LAGOON**

Water Reader Meter/Water Rates – There was discussion about whether to charge a flat fee or continue with a meter reader. No action was taken. Tabled until next month.

**WATER
METER
READER**

Road Millage – A motion was made by Oberlin to put the 2-millage renewal request for roads on the November ballot. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Ballot language to follow later.

**MILLAGE
RENEWAL**

Memorial Day Ceremony - A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the \$300 budget for the event. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / Benson-Stafford reminded the Board that last year a \$95 dollar donation was made to celebrate Evelyn Javoroski’s birthday. Evelyn was the continental breakfast host of the event for many years.

**MEMORIAL
DAY
CEREMONY**

Veterans Memorial Name Additions- Public Works Benson will contact the Vendor and get the Veterans names added to the Memorial, that recently passes away.

**VETERANS
MEMORIAL**

Planning Commission Appointment – A motion was made by Oberlin to appoint Mike Thibodeau to the vacant position on the Planning Commission. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson-yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PLANNING
COMM APPT**

Cemetery Trees – Supervisor Oberlin stated that there were a couple of trees that needed to be taken down. He received an estimate from Limbwalkers. Franzene stated that maybe another bid should be gotten. Franzene was going to see if he could get another bid.

**CEMETERY
TREES**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Sunset Lake Dock Bids – A bid was received from Detterbeck Dock and Lift for a dock at the boat launch. Oberlin stated that the bid was lower than the estimate received last fall from American dock. A Resident questioned if there was a bid from Bob Hildabrandt. Detterbeck stated that his company is the Vendor for the docks now. There was an estimate on grate and trex style docks. The grate was a 4' at \$6982 and 6' at \$9332. The grate style was 4' at \$8100 and 6' at \$10432. A motion was made by Nelson to accept the grate style 6' at \$9332. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Oberlin also stated that Wildlife Unlimited was going to contribute 50% of the cost of the dock.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– PW Benson stated that the Chevy 2500 needs tires and the estimates are coming in at \$800-900. He will try Poms in Iron Mountain also. Gasser offered to mount the tires if Poms delivered them. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – PW Benson stated that they will be finishing up the clean up on the park beach after putting in the sewer line drain tile. He will need about \$500 in finishing rocks, materials, etc. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she would like to replace the vacuum at the school with the current vacuum at the hall; then purchase a new one for the hall.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Chicaugon Lake Residents/ Roads - Several Bates Township residents that reside on Midsummer Drive were present to request that something be done with Andreski Plat Rd. They stated that it is terrible to drive on. Approximately 6+ years ago it was turned from gravel to chip seal. Oberlin stated that he does not see that the township can blacktop the road. He stated that it could be turned back to gravel. The residents said that they did not want gravel. They stated that traffic has increased. Oberlin reminded everyone that the project was a cooperative effort with three municipalities participating: Bates, Crystal Falls Township and Stambaugh Township. Oberlin stated that he would reach out to the other townships to see what their plans are.
- ICECA/Mark Bromley – Mark stated that the ICECA has appreciated Bates's support and with April being the support renewal month that he hopes Bates will continue to support their efforts.
- Miskwaagamiiwiziibi Shelters/Rich Sloat – Sloat questioned if the Board was going to deny "road/walking into" access to the shelters. It was his intent that the shelters would be accessible from the rivers and a person could "walk into" the shelters. The Board said that it was not going to deny access to those that wanted to walk in; however, Franzene stated that if it becomes a nuisance problem then access should be shut down to address the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE

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INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____