

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday –February 10, 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; Mike Golas, P&R & Sunset Lk Assn; Margee Brennan & Yvonne Anderson, ZBA; Gasser Gasperini, P&R; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Fay Whitehead, BOR; Mark Bromley, ICECA; Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meeting with a correction from Golas regarding the shoreline having been cleared on Sunset Lk, where the Bates easement access is being worked on. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 118,107.14
Sewer Fund:	\$ 88,450.19
Water Fund:	\$ 317,351.06
Road Fund:	\$ 201,011.66
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the new County Board passed a resolution requesting that the State waive the liquor license and food license fees for 2021. This will be sent to the state legislature and other counties. The Board is hoping that it will help the businesses that suffered from loss of revenue in 2020.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin reviewed his 3-year road plan as follows: 2021-Pave Sunset Lk boat launch and driveway, Kofmehl Rd with Stambaugh Twp to the Iron River City limit; Gravel- Ponozzo Rd / 2022- Pave E. Lake Emily Rd; Gravel Rebuild by digging out and replace with sand and gravel on Thunander Rd and the gravel portion of Section 14 Rd / 2023 – Pave Passamani Rd. Dust control will be done again and will be coordinated with the ICRC on grading before dust control applied.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report with 1 new permit issued. He has answered several questions regarding spring and summer projects. / There is 1 ZBA meeting scheduled for March 1, 2021. /Violations: Court date is set for February 17 via zoom on the Mark Gasperini permit # 20 violation / Permits to date: 1. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Public Works New Hire – The Board agreed to publish another help wanted ad.

NEW HIRE

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – Oberlin reviewed the report. Notices of Assessments were mailed. / Board of Review Dates are: March 2nd – Organizational Meeting, March 10th 9:00-3:00, March 12th 3:00-9:00. / Clerk Benson-Stafford along with Erhart are working to update the website with Assessing information. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

ICECA – Mark Bromley – Mark gave overview of recent activity. There are two new Trustees, Nikki Hebert & Kelli Sexton. The Executive Committee had changes with Katie Clark as the new President, Rick Kinsey, Secretary & Becky Waters, Treasurer. He is working with local businesses and working on broadband access.

ICECA/ BROMLEY UPDATE

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Otto Tank Select Cut – Supervisor Oberlin stated that Terry Read had approached him about having a select cut done in this 8.5-acre parcel since there is already a logging operation nearby. Read thought it might generate about \$2000 for the township. Schmidt and Larry Nelson said there are many loggers in the area, and it should be bid out, but maybe wait until prices are better. The board tabled any action at this time.

**OTTO TANK/
SELECT CUT**

Sewer Main Ground Maintenance/Park – A motion was made by Franzene to do this project at an estimated cost of \$3500. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER MAIN
/ PARK**

Board Salary Resolutions – All members of the Board of Trustees declined any requests for salary increases for this year.

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOLUTION**

Utility Rate Increases – Larry Nelson commended the board & previous boards for doing a good job of working with the revenues received and expanding and maintaining the infrastructure. Gasser agreed with the great job of the maintenance that has been done. USDA Rural Development which holds the water infrastructure loan had recommended the increase in rates also. The water rates had not been increased since 2007 and the sewer rates were from 1995. A motion was made by Franzene to increase the rates effective April 1, 2021 as follows: water from \$35/month to \$40/month; sewer from \$24/month to \$29/month. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes.

**UTILITY
RATES
INCREASE**

Park Camping Fees/Pavilion Rental – A motion was made by Franzene to increase the camping site fees from \$12 to \$15/night. Park Pavilion rental from \$60 to \$75. Pavilion rentals already made will be grandfathered in at \$60. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CAMPING/
PAVILION
RATE
INCREASE**

2021-2022 Budget – The budget was made available to the public for review.

**2021-2022
BUDGET**

Park Host – The Board will place another ad in the paper. Whitehead/BOR suggested that maybe asking for Hosts that can cover one month at a time might bring more interest.

PARK HOST

911 Committee – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the had received a letter from the county and they are looking for a board member that would be interested in being a member of the 911 committee. Clerk Benson-Stafford asked who else is on the committee. Commissioner Stafford said it is comprised of the Sheriff, 911 director, Fire Dept Representative, Police Chief, IC Treasurer. They meet the last Tuesday of the month at 10:00. They will only choose one municipal representative. Trustee Adams made a motion and volunteered. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**911
COMMITTEE**

ICRC Memorial Bench – The ICRC requested permission to put a bench at the Paint River boat landing in memory of Larry Leonarduzzi who lost his life a few weeks earlier just done the road while working on the job for the ICRC. A motion was made by Franzene to authorize this. The ICRC can work with the Township on the placement of the bench. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ICRC
MEMORIAL
BENCH**

WICFD – Ernie Schmidt gave an update and stated that the WICFD won the bid at \$140,000 on a 2004 Peterbilt truck with less than 20,000 miles on it. They did a deposit of \$40,000 and will do a loan on the \$100,000.

**WICFD
UPDATE**

ICRC – Ernie Schmidt stated that they are hoping things will be back to normal this summer. They will have summer workers and they hope to do chip seal crack filling.

**ICRC
UPDATE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**-Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – A motion was made by Oberlin to purchase a new sewer motor and rail system at a cost of \$14,414. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new report.

GUEST COMMENTS

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CORRESPONDENCE

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INVOICE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, 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 7:10pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____