

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – April 13, 2022, 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 Corey Shankleton, Zoning Administrator; Larry Nelson, PC; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA, Yvonne Anderson, ZBA/BHPS; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Doug Tomasoski & Ron Frailing, ICRC; Jim Stolberg, WICFD; Benson & Powell, PW; County Comm Stafford. Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

**ATTENDEES**

A motion was made by Treasurer Franzene to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meeting. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Treasurer’s report for the month of March 2022 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 241,372.25
Sewer Fund:	\$ 126,043.11
Water Fund:	\$ 374,688.79
Road Fund:	\$ 247,553.29

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated that the County GIS project is moving forward. The GIS is functional and online, he is hoping by month end it will be available to the public.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that the road bid for East Lake Emily Rd came in at Bacco-\$232465, Payne & Dolan-\$279576.53, FA-\$262555.52. After discussion about the condition of Andreski Plat, a motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the Bacco bid of \$232465. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Oberlin stated that the Township will do dust control this year. Last year was \$.71/gallon and this year is \$.93.7/gallon. It will cost approximately \$16000. / Many residents were present from Mid-Summer Drive. Oberlin stated that he has received a verbal commitment from Stambaugh Township to participate in a road project for Andreski Plat, which was a joint project between Bates, Crystal Falls Twp & Stambaugh Twp previously in 2016. Schmidt recommended scarifying the road for now. Oberlin disagreed. Tomasoski said that the ICRC could do that if weather permits, and they have time to do that. Oberlin stated the road would have to be done in phases because of the cost. Benson-Stafford said that the Township should be able to indicate to the residents that there is a plan. Adams stated that the Township should listen to the experts. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to scarify the road this summer, based upon recommendation from the ICRC. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton gave a report. To date 6 permits have been issued. 4 permits for construction of new homes; 2 in the platted division of Sunset Lake, 1 on Mid Summer’s Drive, 1 on Noren Rd. Estimated investment of 1.5 million dollars into our community. / ZBA will meet on April 19 at 7:00pm to hear a variance request for 135 Noren Road. / Shankleton is currently collaborating with the Clerk to update zoning related forms-activities. / Currently working with 3 additional zoning permit requests. / Permits to date: 6. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Zoning Ordinance Request/Siding – The Planning Commission has approved the following action and seeks the approval of the Board of Trustees to adopt a siding ordinance. A motion was made by Franzene to adopt the siding ordinance as follows: “All structures must have a permanent type external covering, such as stone, vinyl, or wood siding. No structure shall be without such covering for more than 1 (one) year. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Ordinance will be effective 30 days from publication.

**ZONING –  
SIDING  
ORDINANCE**

Zoning Policy Change Request/Hall Rental Agreement – The Planning Commission has approved the following action and seeks the approval of the Board of Trustees to proceed with implementation: A motion was made by Franzene to indicate on the Bates Township Hall rental agreement that the use of all marijuana is prohibited on Bates Hall property and the sale of all adult items as well as any paraphernalia related items is prohibited. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZONING –  
HALL  
RENTAL  
AGREEMENT**

Zoning Resolution Request/Dark Sky – The Planning Commission has approved the following action and seeks the approval of the Board of Trustees to adopt the following resolution. A motion was made by Adams to adopt the Dark Sky Resolution which states the following: “Bates Township is a Dark Sky Conscious Community. This Resolution is for the benefit of attracting tourism as well as getting Bates included in the State of Michigan Dark Sky Tourism Campaign. Dark Sky is an already existing natural resource in our community and requires no additional resources to maintain. The Planning Commission would oppose any additional ordinances mandating residence to maintain this resource but does feel it beneficial to promote.” Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZONING –  
DARK SKY  
RESOLUTION**

Zoning Permit #20 Violation Update – Oberlin stated that the Judge will be reviewing the case and may force a settlement. The Board requested to go to trial which will happen in June, if the Judge does not force a settlement. Andersen’s asked why they were not kept in the loop regarding upcoming dates. Brennan stated that the Board has an obligation to enforce its ordinances. Adams stated that is what we are trying to do and why we requested to go to trial.

**ZONING-  
PERMIT #20  
VIOLATION**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave an update and said that there is a raffle ticket fund raiser and a Buy A Brick Fund raiser. Both are receiving great community support. / Also, they have met with Lou Golbach /General Concrete about a foundation. They are talking to other Contractors that have good references.

**BHPS**

EGLE Sewer Lagoon– Oberlin stated that the agreement has been signed with UP Engineers. Testing should begin in May.

**EGLE-SEWER  
LAGOON**

Perch Lake / Waste Disposal – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he did research and provided the information to the Perch Lake Assn.

**PERCH LAKE  
WASTE  
DISPOSAL**

Bates Twp Sign/Nick Baumgartner Update – Supervisor Oberlin still has to talk to KC from Krist regarding ideas for sign placement. No action taken. Tabled until next meeting.

**BATES SIGN-  
NICK  
BAUMGART-  
NER**

Park Campground Hosts/Reservations – Treasurer Nelson stated that the original host had to back out because he was no longer coming to the area. A local Bates Township couple signed on to be Park Hosts. It will be determined if they will also be taking the reservations. This will be decided by Memorial Day.

**PARK HOSTS  
RESER-  
VATIONS**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY  
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Oberlin gave an overview of the report which included the March BOR which saw 11 Disabled Veterans Exemptions, 8 petitions regarding uncapping and 2 assessed value appeals. Assessor Erhart thanked Trustee Adams and the BOR members for their extra work on the assessing records retention as well as Clerk Benson-Stafford for getting the filing cabinets and supplies for the project. Erhart hopes to complete the project this summer. / Oberlin contacted McBroom’s office trying to get the state to supplement the loss of tax revenues due to Veterans exemptions.

**ASSESSOR  
REPORT**

Windsor Center Millage – Gary Pisoni was present and requested the Board adopt a resolution to put the Windsor Recreation Authority millage request language on the August ballot. Trustee Adams asked if there is a plan in place if the millage does not pass. Pisoni stated the Board has 5 volunteers and at this time the building could not support itself without the millage. A motion was made by Adams to pass a resolution allowing the millage language to be on the August ballot. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WINDSOR  
CENTER  
MILLAGE**

Bates Township Rec Plan – The plan will expire at the end of 2022. A rec plan must be in place in order to apply for any MDNR grants. A motion was made by Franzene to reach out to GEI for an estimate since they have been involved with helping to create the past two plans. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BATES REC  
PLAN**

Ballot Storage Containers – Clerk Benson-Stafford explained that every 4 years the Iron County Board of Canvassers must inspect the ballot storage containers to make sure they are secure. Since the Bates storage containers are old/obsolete she made a request to purchase new containers at an estimated cost of \$500. A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the purchase. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BALLOT  
STORAGE  
CONTAINERS**

Employee 90 Day Review – Benson-Stafford request the wage increase for Powell who was coming on the 90-day review. She noted that he is doing an exceptional job. Benson-Stafford made a motion to increase his wage from \$18.00/hour to \$19.00/hour. Oberlin stated that he would like to see the increase be \$.50/hour as originally proposed at hire. \$19.00/hour was supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE  
90 DAY  
REVIEW**

Memorial Day Ceremony Budget – A motion was made by Oberlin to approve a budget of \$400 for the continental breakfast. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEMORIAL  
DAY BUDGET**

Veterans Memorial – PW Benson will contact the Engraver to get the names on the memorial.

**VETERANS  
MEMORIAL**

Clean Kill – A motion was made by Adams to have the hall and shop sprayed for flies at an estimated cost of \$350. Supported by Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CLEAN KILL**

Project Graduation - A motion was made by Oberlin to support the project with \$75. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PROJECT  
GRADUA-  
TION**

May Roadside Cleanup – Oberlin will head up the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual roadside cleanup on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00-11:00. Leaving from the Bates Township Shop.

**MAY  
ROADSIDE  
CLEANUP**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – A motion was made by Nelson to purchase a new meter reader at an estimated cost of \$9380 from Core & Main. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Sewer** – Lift station #3 is having problems from homeowners landscaping. PW Benson does not feel this is the Township’s responsibility to repair. He will be talking to the homeowner. / **ARPA** - A motion was made by Oberlin to purchase sewer lift station generators with the AARPA money. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – The township is waiting for a response from Otis Elevator. Benson-Stafford will see if Bach Mobilities can help.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

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**GUEST COMMENTS**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA monthly newsletter.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee 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 8:35pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

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