

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – January 12, 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 Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Mike Golas, Sunset Lk Assn/P&R; Margee Brennan & Yvonne Andersen, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Fay Whitehead, BOR; Cty Comm Stafford. Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin 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 December 2021 was submitted. A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to accept the report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 195,463.85
Sewer Fund:	\$ 110,753.55
Water Fund:	\$ 355,133.91
Road Fund:	\$ 143,685.95

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that the County Board accepted the ICECA bid for economic development at \$35000 for 3 years. / The County Board approved a quote for courthouse windows for \$400,000, roof at \$260,000 and the boilers were \$270,000. These renovations are possible because of the ARPA money.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that there was nothing new to report at this time.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his December report with 0 new permits issued. / He has answered various zoning questions. / Violations: Permit # 20 violation – A settlement was reached. The final papers have not been made available for approval or signature yet. / Permits to date: 29. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Bates Hall Preservation Society – Margee Brennan stated that the CoVantage Cares grant came to \$121,324. / Robb Anderson with GEI will be doing a report on the foundation. She stated that they are looking at a 5-year plan. / The BHPS would like to put the sliding barn door over the table/chairs room opening. / The BHPS is meeting monthly and discussing ideas for future fund raisers. / Avie Powell is the new Director. / Charles Hynous reviewed their books and gave a verbal approval to the financials. The BHPS provided financial statements to the township board and stated they will provide them on an annual basis.

BHPS

EGLE Sewer Lagoon – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to use UP Engineers for the lagoon project. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

EGLE/SEWER LAGOON

Bates Park/Sunset Lake Vandalism – Supervisor Oberlin recommended that the township not pursue this matter via the courts. Adams recommended that a letter be written including the repairs costs. A motion was made by Franzene to ban the people from the park/campground for 5 years, 2 years if they reimburse the township costs for repair. Nelson noted that the kids also intimidated elderly campers. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / Oberlin will get a copy of the police report to get the name/address of the kids.

PARK VANDALS

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – No report received.

ASSESSOR REPORT

BATES TOWNSHIP

January 12, 2022

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Copier Maintenance Plan – A motion was made by Nelson to accept the Parts, Labor, Drum, Toner Maintenance program at \$395.00/annually. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**OFFICE
COPIER**

Poverty Exemption Resolution – A motion was made by Oberlin to accept the federal guidelines for poverty exemption. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**POVERTY
EXEMPTION**

Board of Review – Supervisor Oberlin stated that our current board of review members Girard, Puskala & Whitehead will remain on the board for 2022.

**BOR
MEMBERS**

Public Works Employee – The Board has hired Zack Powell. His start date will be Monday, January 17th.

NEW HIRE

Budget Workshop – The board will have a budget workshop on Thursday, January 20th at 3:00pm at the township hall.

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP**

Board Salary Resolutions – Each official put out their request for an increase for the coming fiscal year. It will be in the public for 30 days and voted on at the next meeting. The Supervisor and Trustees said no increase, the Treasurer asked for \$4000, and the Clerk asked for \$2080. There was discussion about the hours each official works and the number of years that there were not raises asked for. / Franzene stated that he thinks its wrong that a brand-new official can step into office and get the salary of an official with years of experience.

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOLUTION**

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. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Still waiting on the glass for the broken window repair. / The township received a notice about the elevator violations. The Township will either repair or pursue getting rid of the elevator which the state has to approve of.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Zach Hautala, Iron County Chamber Director, stated that he spoke with Louisa Kniivila, and she is willing to review how online reservations work at the RV park.
- Ernie Schmidt, ICRC, stated that he does not like to see dead-end roads paved. He noted that Passamani Rd is on the 3-year road plan. Oberlin stated that things could change, and it might be turned back to gravel.
- Mark Bromley, ICECA, asked the board to reconsider funding the organization now that the County has accepted their proposal. Initially the township was waiting to see what the County was going to do. The amount would be \$2763. (a per capita rate). Action tabled until next meeting.
- A resident asked if a park host had been hired? The board has hired Paul Conlee.

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; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____