

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – October 12, 2022, 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, Trustees Franzene & Adams present. Also, in attendance were Benson & Powell, PW; Assessor Erhart; ZA Shankleton; Yvonne Andersen, ZBA; Larry Nelson, PC; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Jim Stolberg, WICFD; County Comm Stafford; Residents.

**ATTENDEES**

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

**MINUTES**

Treasurer's report for the month of September 2022 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; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 144,687.90
Sewer Fund:	\$ 125,142.87
Water Fund:	\$ 326,379.30
Road Fund:	\$ 129,965.46

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated that the 2023 budget has been posted for a 30-day public review. / The County is posting a Building Inspector position. / Two Medicare Board positions were available. The County appointed Chris Thompson to a 3-year term and the State will make an appointment to the other available position.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that he received the estimates as follows: Andreski Plat 1.54 miles at \$350000-\$375000 and Mid-Summer Drive .28 miles at \$70000-\$75000. ICRC Tomasoski stated that they did not scarify Andreski Plat this summer because the road had a larger percentage of good road. The ICRC will still do some additional spot work yet this fall. / Ernie Schmidt, ICRC said that maybe the township will decide not to blacktop or maybe the residents don't want Andreski Plat turned back to gravel, that they would take on a special assessment to have it blacktopped. / Oberlin will meet with the Supervisors of Stambaugh and Crystal Falls Twp to discuss the estimates. / Schmidt stated that there is a new gravel process that was done to Forsberg Rd in early June, and it seems to be holding up very well. That might be an idea for Andreski Plat. /Oberlin stated that Helgemo Rd hill needs to be done soon because the blacktop is deteriorating rapidly along the edges.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated that he has been working with compliance issues. / At the recent meeting it noted that regarding an alleyway issue in the Rogers Location, Mr. Webber's Quit Claim deed had never been recorded and that Mr. Webber has been paying taxes on the strip of township land for 14 years. A motion was made by Oberlin to reimburse Mr. Webber the \$160 in taxes plus interest for a total of \$200; and record the deed. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Also, at the recommendation of the PC a motion was made by Franzene to increase the non-zoning violation fine to \$500 at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator; and publish accordingly. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Permits to date: 20. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Clerk Benson-Stafford read the report from Margee Brennan. The BHPS continues to raise funds, they are planning more fund-raising events, there will be a bake sale. The raffle is complete at the winners will be announce on Telephone Time. / Ernie Schmidt asked about the flags on the lawn. Franzene explained that the BHPS is waiting on estimates. Schmidt asked why they were not going to keep the hall where it currently sits and just put a basement underneath it. Franzene explained that their research indicates the foundation would last longer if it was moved to the potential location.

**BHPS UPDATE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

UPEA Sewer Lagoon/ Letter of Intent– Chris Holmes from UPEA was present and gave the board an overview of the lagoon liner testing. He states that there does appear to be some leaking, however, there will be more results in 2-3 weeks. / Oberlin questioned what type testing and Holmes said that it is a standard method of testing using drums. / There was discussion about potential sewer related grants that may be available. An “intent to apply” letter must be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to have UPEA submit a an “intent to apply” letter. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**UPEA SEWER  
LAGOON-  
INTENT TO  
APPLY LTR**

Bates Township Rec Plan 2023-2028 – Mike Stafford, Parks & Rec Chairperson stated that they had received good public input. There will be a meeting on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the hall to review what GEI has put together.

**REC PLAN  
2023-2028**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY  
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was present and gave her report. / December BOR will be Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. /She found that a parcel of land near Perch Lake had been dropped from the tax roll in 2003, it will be added back on. Property owners are aware of this. / She states one of the biggest problems is that the PRE-Affidavit is filled out incorrectly. She states that often times that have to be returned to the property owner for additional information or to have incorrect information completed. She states that on the form itself she must certify that the information is correct. She does try to work with the property owners to get the correct information. There is also an appeals process available if a PRE is denied.

**ASSESSOR  
REPORT**

Bates Street Signs – Oberlin led the discussion about safety concerns with the street signs being stolen. Missing signs can make it difficult for emergency service personnel to find addresses. Benson-Stafford stated that it’s too bad that the pranksters don’t think about the consequences. There is no official policy in place for sign theft. PW Benson said that it’s not a “good resident’s fault” and that Sue Passamani should be reimbursed for the sign stolen from her road. / a motion was made by Oberlin to replace the stolen signs and reimburse Sue Passamani. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BATES  
STREET  
SIGNS**

GEI Letter of Intent /Water Systems – A motion was made by Oberlin to have GEI do a “intent to apply” letter for water system grants. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**GEI INTENT  
TO APPLY  
LETTER**

WIDL Board Appointee – The current appointee Jennifer Berlinski will be resigning effective December 31, 2022. Adams stated that she researched the information, and the board appointees are as follows: 2-Iron River City, 1-Each Township, 1-Volunteer. Terms= 4 years and the meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. A motion was made by Franzene to appoint Adams as the Bates Township Appointee to the WIDL Board. Supported by Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**WIDL BATES  
APPOINTEE**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**-Oberlin stated that Stik Bilt Construction had completed the shingle repairs on the east hall roof. Benson-Stafford stated that now there are some issues on the west side roof. Oberlin stated that clearly the original contractors did not do a good job. /**Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson stated they are clearing a section of Wagner Lake Rd to prep for a waterline repair. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Benson stated that the dock has been pulled in and the park closed for the season. / **School** – Benson-Stafford was given permission to talk to an electrician about the electric issues at the school.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS (Cont'd)**

Water Meter Reader – Richard Spencer resigned from meter reading. He would like to be done asap. The position pays \$.75/meter which averages out to about \$414/month. The meter reading process should take 1.5-2 days a month. The position will be published.

**WATER  
METER  
READER**

**GUEST COMMENTS**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

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