

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 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 were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Residents. Assessor Erhart & ZA Shankleton were absent.

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 November 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to accept the report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 143,293.47
Sewer Fund:	\$ 118,636.29
Water Fund:	\$ 330,566.03
Road Fund:	\$ 2,268.63

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford had nothing new to report regarding the County. / Regarding the Bates Sewer Lift Station project, the last generator was placed this past Tuesday. Duff will wire it up next week. The Vendor will come after that for set up. The small generators are quiet. M

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that he talked to the Crystal Falls Twp Supervisor who did not feel there would be enough funds to participate in 2024. He was not opposed to participating. They are working on their budget now.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Oberlin read the report with the March Board of Review dates and information regarding Disabled Veterans Exemptions processing which will now be handled by the Assessor and not the Board of Review. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent. Oberlin read the report. There have been 45 permits issued to date. / Per the recommendation from the planning commission a motion was made by Franzene to approve the front setback in the L-1, S-1, L2 as well as Recreation & Forestry districts from 100 ft to 75 ft. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Regarding the second matter of vacation of alleys, that action was tabled until the next meeting. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Stephanie Swenski gave a presentation of all that the WIDL has done for the community and the programs that they offer. There will be a millage renewal of 1.7373 mills for 2025-2029 on the February 27 ballot.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee stated that a grant they applied for has postponed their awards announcement until January. They are still collecting cans. They will definitely have \$200,000 by year end.

BHPS UPDATE

ZBA Training – A motion was made by Oberlin to pay the members for 3 meeting fees (through payroll) upon completion of the course once they turn in their certificate. The deadline for completion is March 31, 2024. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZBA TRAINING

Board of Review Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Faye Vezzetti-Atanasoff to the Board of Review, effective January 1, 2024, for a 2-year term that will expire on December 1, 2025. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Motion carried.

BOR APPOINTMT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates School Test Kitchen – Benson-Stafford is researching information from the individual interested in using the school kitchen as a test kitchen. There were residents’ concerns about the safety of the kids. She will get more details.

**SCHOOL
TEST
KITCHEN**

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Administrator Job Description – Oberlin will meet with ZA Shankleton and draft out a list of job duties.

**ZA JOB
DESCRIP.**

Federal Poverty Exemption – A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt the federal guidelines for poverty exemption. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**FEDERAL
POVERTY
GUIDELINES**

Employee Bonus – A motion was made by Oberlin to give the full-time employee a bonus of \$225 and the part time employee a bonus of \$175. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
CHRISTMAS
BONUS**

Bates Twp 5 Year Rec Plan – There will be a public hearing on January 15, 2024, at 5:00 at the Bates Township Hall for public comment on the rec plan 2024-2028.

**5 YEAR REC
PLAN**

Budget Workshop – Board members will have a workshop on January 15th.

**BUDGET
WKSHOP**

Planning Commission Dates – Public Notice: Planning Commission’s 2024 quarterly meetings are: March 4, May 6, October 7, December 2, 2024, at 6:00pm.

**2024 PC
QTRLY MTGS**

MDOT Annual Permit – A motion was made by Nelson to adopt the MDOT Annual Permit Resolution. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MDOT
ANNUAL
PERMIT**

Public Works Help Wanted – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the help wanted ad. This is for an additional full-time position.

PW JOB AD

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Oberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of a vise at \$400. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Water** – PW Benson stated he is working on the EGLE annual survey. / **Sewer** – He recommended that the lift station be upgraded one at a time. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted to know when the siding citation was going to be issued for his neighbor. Oberlin will talk to the Zoning Administrator.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- WICFD Thank you letter
- Kevin Norris Property Photos

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____