

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, October 11, 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; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Krist Atanasoff, PC & ZBA; 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 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 168,348.75
Sewer Fund:	\$ 127,689.64
Water Fund:	\$ 312,701.85
Road Fund:	\$ 1,818.28

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated there will be a 911 millage renewal of 1 mil plus additional .25 mills on the February ballot.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Nothing new to report. There was a guest comment about the Trybom/Phillips Rd culvert, which is a county matter, not a township matter.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart discussed land divisions for metes & bounds versus platted lots are handled differently. / There are two pending tribunals in small claims. She discussed having an Attorney represent the township for the hearings. There will be more information regarding this in the future. / There was no written report.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated there have been 40 permits issued to date. / A recommendation was made by our Attorney's to "remove the number of days (60) from our ordinance in regard to violations.

**ZONING UPDATE**

Ordinance Change Section 12.02 - A motion was made by Nelson to remove the number of days from ordinance 12.02. All violations shall be corrected following the issuance of written notice to correct. If not corrected, they shall be brought before the board for further action or civil prosecution. The violator will be given a "number of days" per violation, at the Zoning Administrator's discretion. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZONING ORDINANCE 12.02**

Current Violations - A motion was made by Nelson to proceed with the civil penalty phase of the current past due violations. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING ORDINANCE**

Zoning Permit Fee Structure - A motion was made by Oberlin to change the zoning permit fee structure to \$35 permit fee up to 700 sq ft, minimum \$35 fee. With an additional \$.05/per sq ft above 700 sq ft. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZONING PERMIT FEE**

ZBA Appointment – A motion was made by Adams to reappoint Krist Atanasoff as the Planning Commission liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supported by Nelson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA APPOINTMT**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams there were 2693 checkouts in September, of which 1034-kids, 58 young adults, 86 patron eBooks/audio books. / There are now Hobby Bags for checkout.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee a report. They did not get the MDNR Sparks grant, however they have applied for another grant opportunity, and they expect to know about that near the end of October. Their goal is to have \$200,000 raised by the end of 2023.

**BHPS  
UPDATE**

PAR Plan Grant – There was no word yet on the grant application.

**PAR PLAN  
GRANT APP**

MDNR Sparks Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that there were two applications submitted: BHPS for the township hall and the park restroom grant. Neither application was granted.

**MDNR  
SPARKS GR**

Bates Legacy Book – A motion was made by Adams to authorize Clerk Benson-Stafford to have the legacy book scanned at a proposed cost of \$500. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BATES  
LEGACY  
BOOK**

**NEW BUSINESS**

General Ops/Road Millage Renewal – A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the millage renewal language for the Presidential Primary ballot in February 2024, to be a four year renewal and read as follows: "Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Bates Township be RENEWED at 3 mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2024 through 2027, all inclusive, for Two (2) Mills for General Township Purposes and One (1) Mill for Road Maintenance Purposes; and shall the Township levy such RENEWAL in millage for said purpose? This RENEWAL raises \$131802.44 for General Operating and \$65901.22 for Road Maintenance and Improvements in the Township, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$197703.66. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MILLAGE  
RENEWAL**

ZBA Training – There was discussion about the Attorney training which would be approximately \$4500 in person or \$2000 via zoom. No action taken.

**ZBA  
TRAINING**

ZBA Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin stated there were three applications received. Yvonne Andersen, Ron Frailing, and Merrie Gillaspie. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Merrie Gillaspie. After discussion and no support, Oberlin rescinded his motion and made a motion to appoint Ron Frailing. After discussion and no support, he rescinded his motion, and the matter was tabled until the next board meeting.

**ZBA  
APPOINT**

Rogers Location/1<sup>st</sup> Street Alleyway/Snowplowing – A resident states that the corner of his yard is being encroached on by traffic using the alley. There was discussion about blocking off that corner of the alley during the winter, however, another resident stated that would create a hardship. It was determined that one neighbors trees are overgrowing into the alley. The Township will see about getting the trees cutback and in the summer the homeowner could put up a corner fence to deter encroachment into his yard.

**1<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
ALLEY  
ENCROACH.**

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**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Mike Stafford/Project Manager for lift station generators said that three of the generators are installed, propane tanks connected and waiting for electrical tie ins. The Vendor will come down and do the initial start-up and training. He stated that UPPCO will be doing an upgrade from 240 to 277 volts in the future. It may affect the lift station motors. That is to be determined. / **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**

- Mike Golas inquired about the status of the siding ordinance.
- Jim Andersen inquired about the stop work order at his neighbors.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA / Brett stated that there are Fast Track grants available.
- Fay Atanasoff wanted to make sure her BOR application was received.
- Jerry Todd wants an update on the status of the alleyway abandonment that runs through his property.
- Hynous's inquired about being notified through FOIA when there are zoning requests around Wildwood Lake. The association has sought counsel regarding the enforcement of their covenants, and this was recommended by the Attorney.
- Miskwaagamiwiziibi Park Shelter Volunteers update

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_