

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 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 & Trustee Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; Assessor Erhart; Michael Thibodeau, PC, Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS, Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Fay Frailing, BHPS; Bob Berndt, BHPS; WLUC TV 6; Residents. Trustee Franzene and ZA Shankleton were absent.

ATTENDEES

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meetings. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of March 2024 was submitted. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 293,103.44
Sewer Fund:	\$ 93,822.20
Water Fund:	\$ 369,333.25
Road Fund:	\$ 185,315.51

COUNTY COMM REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford said due to lack of snowfall, the lake levels are on the low side. He expects the Drain Commissioner will be hearing about it.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ROAD PROJECTS

Road Projects- Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve Van Damme dust control scheduled for June 17th, at \$22560; with 2 passes on the unpaved portion of Andreski Plat. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ASSESSOR REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart said that the new process for Disabled Veterans is they will have one more year to apply for an exemption; after that they will stay on the roll like a PRE. / The method for a company to file their EMPP has changed. Only “initial” EMPP’s need to be submitted to the Assessor; if there is an existing EMPP, then the company can file directly with the State. / All required year end documents have been submitted to the state and county.

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent. Oberlin read the report. March was a quiet month. He continues to answer questions, work on several non-compliance issues and continues to work on a comprehensive zoning procedures manual. / 4 permits issued to date. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that April 8-13th is National Library week. / There are 3 new computers in the children’s center; there are packages of seed available for free; 3 Authors will be visiting this summer.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Bob Berndt gave a presentation of the current condition of the hall foundation accompanied by a letter from Mountain Engineers and photographs. Berndt asked if the Township could do some mitigation of the water infiltration into the basement. / Sue Passamani stated that they can break the projects in “phases” if they do not have enough funds to do the project at once in its entirety. The project estimate is \$700,000. They expect to have \$215,000 by the end of 2024. Phase 1 would be about \$400,000 which would involve the new foundation and moving the building, holding off on the parking lot, commercial kitchen, siding, and windows. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to renew the Township/BHPS agreement through March 2025. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BHPS UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

April 10, 2024

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update (cont'd) – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the BHPS Scrap Iron collection days, May 4 & 5, 8:00-3:00 at the township hall. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**BHPS
FUNDRAISER**

Township Roadside Cleanup Day Reminder – Annual roadside cleanup day is Saturday, April 20th, 8:30-11:00, weather permitting. Meet at the township hall.

**ROADSIDE
CLEANUP**

NEW BUSINESS

ICECA Pledge – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the 2024 ICECA per capita pledge of \$2763. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ICECA
PLEDGE**

Road Millage Renewal / 2 Mills – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the proposed ballot language for Bates Road Repair millage renewal request.

Shall the present tax rate in Bates Township be renewed at 2 mills (\$2 per \$1000 of taxable value) for road improvements, repair, and maintenance for the years 2025 through 2028, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$145,573. (This is a RENEWAL of the Bates Township Road repair millage of 2 mills). Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ROAD
MILLAGE
RENEWAL**

Memorial Day Ceremony Budget – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve a \$400 budget for the Memorial Day continental breakfast. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

UPSET – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to pledge \$500 to UPSET. Supported by Supervisor Oberlin. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPSET

129th Annual UP Volunteer Fire Fighter Tournament – In support of the local West Iron County Volunteer Fire Dept. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to place a full-page colored ad in the program at an estimate of \$350. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**WIC FIRE
DEPT
TOURNY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of 4 impellers and wear rings at a cost of \$9700 for the sewer lift stations. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Benson said the fishing pier and the boat launch are now available for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report other than the safety glass estimate. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – The boat launch is now available for the season.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding violations. Oberlin told him to talk to ZA Shankleton.
- Jim Andersen asked about the status of the ZBA-Shamion-Atanasoff case and was told that it currently is in pending status. The Township has to wait on the court and the other counsel.
- Bob Berndt wanted to know how long the couch (blight) would remain in front of the hall.
- Ernie Schmidt asked about the blight process.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Clean Kill – The Board agreed to have the hall/shop added to their spring spray list.

BATES TOWNSHIP

April 10, 2024

Page Three

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, 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, May 8, 2024.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____