

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Stafford, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack, ZA Bofinger; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Avie Powell, BHPS; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

The Treasurer's report for the month of November 2024 was submitted. Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 165,463.24
Sewer Fund:	\$ 97,256.48
Water Fund:	\$ 375,501.37
Road Fund:	\$ 182,390.32

FINANCIAL REPORT

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – District 2 is vacant. ICBC will be advertising the position.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA REPORT – Smithson stated the 2025 Visitor Guides are being worked on. / Shop small business Saturday had 24 businesses participate. / The Christmas Parade was a success with the most ever floats, 30. / Fast Track grants are underway.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Her report stated that beginning January in 2025 once the Disabled Veterans Exemption is granted it will remain in effect without annual reapplication by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse. Since the exemption expires on December 31st, our Veterans will need to apply one more time to put the exemption on the roll for 2025. / BOR members need to be reappointed for a 2-year term. / She noted the Federal Poverty Guidelines. / She noted the Inflation Rate Multipliers. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He was contacted by Assessor Erhart regarding several structures that were suspected of being constructed without a zoning permit. He will be following up on these. He responded to an email regarding tiny homes. / He and Assr Erhart visited a property together to discuss potential land division. / 16 permits have been issued to date. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford presented his 3-year road plan with 2025 concentrating on gravel on various roads, dust control and additional prep work on Andreski Plat Rd prior to 2026 pavement. / He will be approaching the new Crystal Falls Township Supervisor seeking participation in Andreski Plat.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop- Nothing new to report. / Water – PW Benson stated they are working on a water leak on Lake 15 Rd. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – There is a backup of the little toilets on the south classrooms. They will be worked on the 23rd. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

HALL-SHOP- WATER- SEWER- CEMETERY- PARK- SCHOOL- PR BOAT LAUNCH

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Windsor Center – Supervisor Stafford gave an update stating that the new electronic programmable signage was up. The cost was part of the Friends of Windsor fundraising/donations. / The bocce courts are new. Connors is testing a new type of flooring. 20'x60'. The Windsor Board meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 6:00pm, open to the public.

**WINDSOR
CENTER**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani said the November fund raiser was a success with \$12600 donations and a \$10,000 anonymous match donation. / They expect to hear in March about the federal grant application that they worked on with Rep Bergman's office. / Their annual meeting will be Monday, January 13th at 9:00am. / At November end they had \$253,000 and they projected to have \$265,000 by year end.

BHPS

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated the library will be closed December 24, 25 & 26th. / There will be some interior painting and carpeting upgrades to the building. / New in January will be a new program where young parents can get help for children 5 years & younger.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blight & Enforcement Officer – Tabled until next meeting.

**BLIGHT-
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER**

MSHDA Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford applied for an "up to" \$50,000 MSHDA grant to be used for the required Master Plan update and additional funds for a zoning ordinance upgrade. Waiting to hear if we got the grant.

**MSHDA
GRANT**

Sunset Lake Eurasian Milfoil – Mike Golas gave an update. The township board will be reviewing participation at budget time.

**SUNSET
LAKE**

Board of Review Appointments – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to reappoint Jessica Thibodeau, Judy Girard, and Bonnie Puskala to two years terms on the Board of Review effective January 1, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2026. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

BOR APPTS

NEW BUSINESS

Truck Supply Purchase – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for the purchase of items for the truck. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TRUCK
SUPPLIES
PURCHASE**

Employee Christmas Bonus – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve \$250 for PW Benson (FT) and \$200 for Karnack (FT started September 16th) and Franzmeier (PT). Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
CHRISTMAS
BONUS**

Monthly Public Meeting Time Change – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to keep the monthly board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month but change the time from 6:00pm to 4:00pm effective January 2025. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
MEETING
CHANGE**

Planning Commission Appointment – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to appoint Mike Golas to the Planning Commission to a 3-year term which ends on December 11, 2027, effective immediately. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PLAN COMM
APPOINT-
MENT**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas asked if the January 6, 2025, Planning Commission meeting could be published in the newspaper. /The Clerk will publish the meeting.
- Mike Golas noted that the Public Works Dept jackets are nice, and they are good for safety reasons.
- Margee Brennan asked if there was anything new with the school. / Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- EGLE Campground Information – No permanent residency allowed.
- WUPPDR – Materials Management Meeting Notice

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____