

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 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, Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, P&R; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Faye Vezzetti-Atanasoff, BOR; Residents. Assessor Erhart was absent.

**ATTENDEES**

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings, with a correction to ZA Shankleton attendance. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Treasurer's report for the month of December 2023 was submitted. Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 182,797.60
Sewer Fund:	\$ 92,642.38
Water Fund:	\$ 346,770.57
Road Fund:	\$ 34,909.41

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford said there are 3 openings on the County Parks & Rec committee. / The old health department building is open for bids. / The lift station generator project is completed.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that CF Twp will not participate in the Andreski Plat project this year. The ICRC needs to know what we plan to do. Tabled until next meeting.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Supervisor gave an overview of the report. The state passed legislation on how the Disabled Veterans Exemptions are handled. / She finalized a review of the County's yearly studies. / She finished the Township Land Value Analysis & Economic Condition Factor Study. / She reviewed all parcels with permits. / This month she is working on personal property statements and finalizing the 2024 assessment roll.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated there were 45 zoning permits issued for 2023. / The planning commission had conducted 5 public meetings. / The ZBA heard one application and the case is still pending in litigation. / 3 official zoning violations were issued in 2023. / There is a request for an alley abatement in the Rogers Location. There must be a 14-day notice prior to hearing. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams gave a report of the library monthly/annual usage. She added that the library is a valuable asset to the community.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave the annual Treasurer's report. / Two directors have resigned, Betty Stromberg and Bob Berndt. They are replaced with Esther Casari & Juanita Seymour. / No word on the grant award yet. / The current fund-raising balance is \$201,537.98.

**BHPS UPDATE**

Zoning Administrator Job Description – Supervisor Oberlin and ZA Shankleton prepared a ZA job description. Trustee Adams made a motion to approve it. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA JOB DESCRIPTION**

Iron County Visitor's Guide – Trustee Adams made a motion to do a 1/2 page ad for \$508.25 for the Bates Park at Sunset Lake and the Paint River Boat Launch. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**IC VISITOR GUIDE AD**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bates Twp 5 Year Rec Plan (2024-2028) – Public hearing, January 15, 2024, at 5:00 at the Bates Township Hall.

**5 YEAR REC PLAN**

Public Works Help Wanted – One application was received. The Board agreed that it would be best if the applicant did a one-day job shadow with PW Benson to get an idea of what the job entails. Oberlin will contact.

**PW APPLICANTS**

Township Property/Shady Lane – The Board reviewed a survey indicating there is an encroachment on township land. Oberlin spoke with the party and will follow-up with a formal letter with a May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to remove the encroachment.

**TWP PROPERTY ENCROACHMENT**

MRWA – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve \$200 to the organization. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MRWA**

Water Tank Inspections – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the St. Germain Sandblasting estimates of Otto Tank-\$2800 & Chicagon Mine Tank-\$9000. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WATER TANK INSPECT.**

Waterline Abandonment – Trustee Franzene made a motion to abandon the waterline on Vinnedge Rd that services two customers. Both are prepared to put in wells. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Treasurer Nelson will send out the letters.

**VINNEGE RD WTLN ABANDONMENT**

IC Emergency Svcs Personnel Ad- Trustee Franzene made a motion to contribute \$50 in lieu of ad to the WICFD. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WICFD CONTRIBUTION**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson stated he is working on the EGLE annual survey. / **Sewer** – Sabel Mechanicals will be sending an estimate for impellers. / **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**

- Margee Brennan asked if all projects have to be put out on bids. Oberlin said no.
- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding citation on his neighbor.
- Brett-ICECA gave a brief update.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA
- IC Emergency Svcs Personnel Ad

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

Treasure Nelson made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, 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 7:15pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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