

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 12, 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 & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; Mike Golas, P&R; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents. County Comm Stafford, ZA Shankleton & Assr Erhart were 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**

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024, Special Meeting regarding Nick Baumgartner's request to purchase a piece of land within the Bates Park boundaries. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 282,986.28
Sewer Fund:	\$ 104,633.23
Water Fund:	\$ 386,091.42
Road Fund:	\$ 204,262.33

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford was absent.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin said that dust control was scheduled for June 17 & 18 to coincide with the country grading.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. / Supervisor read her report. She said the state audits PRE's cyclically and they come with significant interest and penalties. Bates Township had no denials. / A copy of her report is on file with the clerk.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent.

**ZONING UPDATE**

Zoning Enforcement Officer – Trustee Franzene gave an overview of the newly formed committee (Mike Franzene, Mike Golas, Jim Andersen, Brett Smithson) that are discussing ways to handle/eliminate blight. Consideration is being given to exploring the possibility of sharing enforcement officer with other townships, having a tire collection, creating a brochure listing the Vendors that haul away blight. They will continue to meet and present more information at the next board meeting.

**ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that there are no more packages of seed left. / There will be a Teen summer reading adventure. /Bonnie Wilgreen is starting a book club for adults.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave an update stating that they are continuing to do fundraisers and they have received anonymous donations as well as a \$2000 donation from Enbridge. May ending balance is \$219,294, exceeding the \$215,000 2024-year end projection.

**BHPS UPDATE**

BSA/ Township to Accept Credit Cards – Treasurer Nelson stated that the township can now accept credit card payments for utilities and taxes through the township website's "online payment" portal.

**BSA/CREDIT CARDS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Miners Bank Account – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the opening of an account at the Miners Bank for the purpose of using it as the credit card payments clearing account as was recommended by the Auditor. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MINERS-  
NEW  
ACCOUNT**

Letter of Support – City of Iron River – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to do a letter of support for the \$200,000 in MDOT grant funding that they are applying for to use on the Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SUPPORT  
LETTER-  
COIR**

Letter of Support – City of Caspian – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to do a letter of support for the \$3.97 million in USDOT grant funding that they are applying for to use on street improvement. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SUPPORT  
LETTER-COC**

New Cemetery Road Expansion – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to get bids for blacktop on a new road in the cemetery for expansion purposes as well as a gravel road out to the Bates Amasa Rd. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY  
ROAD**

Sewer Line Repair 4<sup>th</sup> & Rogers – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the repair of the sewer line that runs along 4<sup>th</sup> St and under Rogers Avenue to the lift station. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER LINE  
REPAIR**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson will talk to the park hosts to see if they would be interested in weed whipping the fire hydrants. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said that he expects the sewer line on Sunset Lake Rd repair to happen within the month. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Jim Andersen wanted clarification on the current status of the court case.
- Jim Andersen stated it should be mandatory for the ZA to be present at the monthly meeting.
- Linda Hauser & Jim Andersen promoted the Father’s Day weekend event.
- Brett Smithson stated that the ICECA has Fast Track grants that they can help businesses with.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA
- Shamco Lumber Inc – Open House Flyer
- Iron County Fairbook Ad – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the \$81.40 ad. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**IC FAIRBK  
AD**

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, 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 7:00pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

---

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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