

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 13, 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; Michael Thibodeau, PC, Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents. Assessor 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**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 286,229.15
Sewer Fund:	\$ 86,766.53
Water Fund:	\$ 356,609.60
Road Fund:	\$ 152,888.11

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford said the old health department building received two bids. One from a Connecticut company and one from a local couple. The County accepted the bid from Jim and Joceyln Mylchreest who will be moving their daycare into the building after renovations.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

BOR Appointment – It was determined after the appointment that Faye Vezzetti-Atanasoff was not eligible to be on the Board of Review because she has a conflict with being on the West Iron County Public School Board. Oberlin stated that Jessica Thibodeau was appointed to fill the vacancy. The term will end on 12/31/2025.

**BOR APPOINT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated he has issued 3 permits to date. /The Planning Commission met on March 4, 2024. Michael Thibodeau was elected Chair, Larry Nelson, Vice Chair and Mike Stafford, Secretary. / The PC recommended a change to the current zoning permit ordinance from 1.04B Exempt Accessory Buildings and Structures The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to the erection or repair of any accessory building or structure not exceeding 120 square feet, such as barns, sheds, pens, provided setbacks are observed. To read as follows: 1.04B Exempt Accessory Buildings and Structures The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to the erection or repair of any accessory building or structure not exceeding 200 square feet, such as barns, sheds, pens, provided setbacks are observed. This change would simplify the understanding of the permit requirement as state law is 200sqft for a building permit and this often confuses applicants. The board tabled action until the next meeting and have the PC look into concerns about utilities. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated the library is grateful for the millage renewal. Nothing new to report, the board meeting was postponed.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Nothing new to report. / The BHPS and Township agreement is up for renewal. There was discussion about whether there was a Plan B in place in the event that the needed funding is not available for 2025 groundbreaking. Trustee Adams & Clerk Benson-Stafford will meet with the BHPS to share the board's concerns so that they can be prepared for the April meeting. The action on the agreement was tabled until the next meeting.

**BHPS UPDATE**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

5-Year Rec Plan – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the Township received confirmation from the DNR that the 5-Year Rec Plan has been approved.

**5 YEAR REC  
PLAN**

Board Salary Resolutions – Treasurer – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve a 3% COL increase for the Treasurer position. Supported by Supervisor Oberlin. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, abstain; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Motion carried. / Clerk – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve a 3% COL increase for the Clerk position. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, abstain; Adams, yes. Motion carried. / Supervisor & Trustee's positions declined an increase. / Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve a resolution approving temporary township clerk compensation for February, August, and November in the amount of \$2000. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, abstain; Oberlin, yes. Motion carried.

**BOARD  
SALARY  
RESOLUTION**

Park Restroom/Shower Renovations – Oberlin presented three potential plans for renovations to separate the showers from the toilet/wash basin areas. Because of ADA compliance the project could cost several thousand dollars. At this time, PW Benson will block out "showers" from the park signage. The Board will see if that helps to eliminate outsiders. The showers are meant for the campers.

**PARK  
RESTROOM/  
SHOWERS**

Park Pavilion Windbreaker – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to accept the bid/approve the purchase of materials at a cost of \$150/per section, from Franzene to do three panels of windbreakers on the pavilion. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PARK  
PAVILION**

ZBA - Shamion/Atanasoff- At the direction of our Attorney, to give the Board flexibility to update the agreement, Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve substantially in form the Stipulated Consent Judgment in *Atanasoff v Township of Bates*, 23-6535-AA, which grants certain dimensional variances to Atanasoff to replace an aging cabin, which has been agreed to by Mr. & Mrs. Shamion, and which will terminate this litigation." Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA/  
SHAMION-  
ATANASOFF**

Water Meter Parts Price List – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the parts price list as presented by PW Benson. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**WATER  
METER  
PARTS LIST**

Planning Commission Appointments – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve Oberlin's 3-year terms re-appointment of Mike Thibodeau and Larry Nelson to the Planning Commission. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / Thibodeau will expire 4/14/2027 and Nelson will expire 3/10/2027.

**PC APPOINT**

Public Notice of Meetings – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the Public Notice of Township meeting dates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford will post.

**PUBLIC  
NOTICE  
MEETINGS**

Township Property Sale Resolution – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to adopt a resolution giving the Township Board the authority to sell township property. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes, Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TWP PROP  
SALE  
RESOLU-  
TION**

Financial Institution Deposit Resolution – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to adopt a resolution to continue to keep/use the accounts that the township currently has through the Miners State Bank; and reserve the right to use a second depository. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL  
INSTIT.  
RESOLU-  
TION**

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**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

**BLIGHT**

Blight – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to put the couch found on Andreski Plat in front of the hall with a \$200 reward sign and advertise it in the Reporter. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL  
GLASS  
ESTIMATE**

School Glass Replacement – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the estimate of \$5974.54 to replace various glass at the school for safety reasons. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ROADSIDE  
CLEANUP**

Township Roadside Cleanup – The annual roadside cleanup date has been set for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:00 weather permitting. Meet at the township hall.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report other than the safety glass estimate. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Brett w/ICECA – April 16<sup>th</sup> 11:00

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, 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 7:48pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_