

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Clerk Benson-Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA; Larry Nelson, PC, Mike Golas, P&R; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Bonnie Hager, Park Host; Residents. Supervisor Oberlin was absent.

ATTENDEES

Trustee Adams made a motion to appoint Trustee Franzene to lead the meeting in the absence of Supervisor Oberlin. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. / Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting regarding the 2023-2024 audit bid and future new employee package. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 288,707.59
Sewer Fund:	\$ 98,072.86
Water Fund:	\$ 378,212.40
Road Fund:	\$ 185,504.38

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford said there is a group promoting "AxMITax." While in theory no one wants to pay property taxes, he doesn't believe the plan to substitute revenues for local municipalities after the loss of property taxes has been thoroughly thought through. / County board meeting is next week.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart said that April was a quiet month. / She is also running for Stambaugh Township Supervisor. If she gets elected, it will not hinder her work as an Assessor.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton gave his report stating that blight seems to be more visible this year. He is currently working on multiple non-compliance issues regarding debris and health and safety issues. / The Planning Commission met on May 6, 2024, and voted unanimously to propose the following change to the zoning ordinance: Rescind the following language from 5.01a Lake area (L1): commonly known as the greenbelt provision: **Provide for a 25-foot strip from lake's edge, within which natural plant succession shall not be disturbed. Trees and shrubs in a space thirty (30') feet wide may be trimmed and/or pruned through the native strip for a view of the fronting waters and for access to a boat dock.** In addition, establishing a setback standard for non-dwelling structures in the (L1) Lake 1 district as follows: **All non-dwelling structures with a size of 120sqft. or smaller will have a front setback of 10 feet from high-water mark. All non-dwelling structures larger than 120 sq ft. will have a front setback of 30 feet from high-water mark.** Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the following changes to the ordinance. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes, Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Furthermore, the ZBA will be meeting on June 10th at 6pm to discuss a variance request. / 5 permits issued to date. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 8, 2024

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that there are packages of seed still available for free. / She mentioned the West End Players play of Into The Woods will be held at the Windsor Center May 30- June 2.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave an update stating that they hoped that their fund raising would be at \$215,000 by years end. They are happy to report that they are currently at \$215,620. / The scrap iron collection weekend was overwhelmingly successful. They are planning a scrap iron collection day for Saturday, September 7. They thanked numerous volunteers for their help. / They are currently having Wickwire write a federal grant proposal. / They continue to receive donations and they have numerous fund raisers throughout the year.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

Memorial Day Ceremony – Reminder the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Monday, May 27th from 8:00-8:30am at the cemetery followed by refreshments at the township hall, hosted by the BHPS.

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

NEW BUSINESS

Project Graduation – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve \$100 for event. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PROJECT
GRAD.**

Zoning Enforcement Officer – There was a discussion about separating the Zoning Administrator job from the Enforcement Officer (Constable) position. Mike Golas suggested a group of volunteers can meet to discuss creative ways to help residents get rid of blight. Trustee Franzene said he would join the group. Tabled until next meeting.

**ZONING
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER**

BSA/ Township to Accept Credit Cards – Treasurer Nelson made a presentation of a new program that BSA is offering to municipalities that want to accept credit cards. Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the proposal upon clarification that the township will not pay fees, and to authorize the purchase of the desktop credit card machine and training at an estimate of \$1300. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BSA/CREDIT
CARDS**

Bates Park - Sunset Lake Property Sale – Nick Baumgartner made a request to purchase a parcel of land to be divided off from the township park. His intent is to eventually build a structure. The "build" would be filmed for a tv show that would promote work ethic, Bates Township and Iron County. The home would be for himself and a place for his parents in the future. The Board referred the request to the planning commission for further review and research.

**BATES PARK
PROPERTY**

Veterans Memorial – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the "refresh of the memorial which would involve "reinking" of the names, as well as refreshing the walkway at an estimated cost of \$500. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**VETEERANS
MEMORIAL**

Main Lift Station Repair – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the repair of the lift station impellers at a cost of \$2231.72. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**LIFT
STATION
REPAIR**

2022-2023 Audit Summary – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 audit. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**2022-2023
AUDIT
SUMMARY**

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 8, 2024

Page Three

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water Tank Inspections – PW Benson stated that the Chicagon Mine Rd & Otto Rd water tanks inspections were complete, and the reports were submitted to EGLE. / **Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the UPPCO proposal of \$4364.24 to do the underground electrical of the lift station/generator at 181 Noren Rd. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to hire the Park Host(s) to do weed whip at the cemetery and school as needed and at the direction of PW Benson. The fee would be \$100/time based upon 5 hours of work. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report other than the safety glass estimate. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding violations. ZA Shankleton gave him a status update.
- Brett Smithson stated that the ICECA has Fast Track grants that they can help businesses with.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Project Graduation
- MSU Extension – Short Term Rental Seminar

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, 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 7:50pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____