

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, November 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 & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were ZA Bofinger; Comm Stafford; Assr Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents.

**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 October 2024 was submitted. Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 186,508.52
Sewer Fund:	\$ 93,598.23
Water Fund:	\$ 406,240.08
Road Fund:	\$ 182,204.62

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated that there were 1000 early in-person voters in Iron County. / The County did receive reimbursement for the February and August elections and they will be disbursing to the local jurisdictions. / The District 2 County Commissioner seat is available and will be advertised and appointed after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Resident Golas asked if the replacement culvert at N. Trybom & Phillips was going to be done. PW Benson said that the County is working on it, but it will not happen this year, it is on the list. The permitting process is causing the delay.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was present and stated that the state rate was 5% but everyone's taxable value will go up 3.1% in 2025.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He answered several questions and visited properties to discuss permitting. / He responded to an email regarding tiny homes. / He and Assr Erhart visited a property together to discuss potential land division. / 15 permits have been issued to date. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING ADMIN APPT**

Blight & Enforcement Officer – Mike Franzene, Mike Golas & Jim Andersen are working on a constructive, creative, neighborly approach to getting blight cleaned up. Golas presented the Board with a draft letter for a Blight Program Announcement, as well as a draft of a Blight Threat of Enforcement letter. Other mentions were a tire grant program and a place for brush removal. No action taken. Tabled until the next meeting.

**BLIGHT-ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated there is a Friends of the Library program that has a \$5 membership. / Reading Tree Program. / Nonperishable donation in place of fine program.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani said the scrap iron collection day / sales brought in \$3698. / They received a \$2000 Lowes grant, (wholesale). Sue' Brother & Nephew were extremely helpful and volunteered to pick up the items. / They are waiting to hear on a federal grant application that they worked on with Rep Bergman's office. / An anonymous Bates resident will donate matching funds up to \$10,000 received during the month of November. / They will be at the December 7<sup>th</sup> craft show at the Windsor Center.

**BHPS UPDATE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

General Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that about 71% of Bates Twp registered voters actually voted. It was a very good turnout with 251 people taking advantage of Early in Person voting. The Election Inspectors did an excellent job.

**ELECTION**

MSHDA Grant Update – Clerk Benson-Stafford applied for a MSHDA grant to be used for the required Master Plan update and additional funds to review and update the zoning ordinance.

**MSHDA  
GRANT**

Public Works Dept Cell Phone – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve getting a cell phone for the public works department. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Once the cell phone is in place then PW Benson’s cell phone stipend will end.

**PUBLIC  
WORKS CELL  
PHONE**

Employee Vacation Payout / ESTA – Trustee Adams made a motion to payout one week of vacation in November and again in December to PW Benson. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford also said she is researching the new ESTA requirement that comes into law February 2025.

**PW  
EMPLOYEE  
VACATION /  
ESTA**

ZBA Training – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to authorize Clerk Benson-Stafford to pay for two more ZBA training classes at a cost of \$100/each. Supported by Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ZBA  
TRAINING**

ZBA Member Re-Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin appointed Margee Brennan to another two-year term on the ZBA. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA APPT**

Planning Commission Member – There will be an opening on the Planning Commission due to the resignation of Mike Stafford, the new Township Supervisor effective November 20, 2024.

**PLANNING  
COMM  
MEMBER**

Sunset Lake Assn – Eurasian Milfoil – Mike Golas on behalf of the Sunset Lake Assn presented the Board with a letter requesting the Township’s Role in Managing Eurasian Watermilfoil in Sunset Lake. Because Bates Township has a park/campground on Sunset Lake, the letter was seeking a continuing cooperative effort in fighting the milfoil as well as a \$5000 participation over 2025-2027. Golas stated that there are about 140 property owners on the lake of which 75+ owners have made donations to the effort. No action taken. Tabled until next meeting.

**SUNSET  
LAKE  
MILFOIL**

Windsor Center/Board Appointment – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to appoint Mike Stafford (Bates Twp Supervisor effective 11/20/2024) as the representative to the Windsor Center. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**WINDSOR  
CTR  
APPOINTEE**

ICECA Visitor Guide – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the same size ad in the Iron County Visitor Guide, estimated at \$508.75. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**IC VISITOR  
GUIDE**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson stated that they completed the job on Bates Amasa Rd. The well at the home on the river is in place but not turned on yet. As soon as it is, the water will be cut off. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Closed for the season.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Mr. Casari from the VFW Post 3134 stated that they are part of the CoVantage Cares program December 3-17. There will also be raffles and Bigari's Hardware is doing a Round Up. All donations are appreciated.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA
- Gifts From Santa Flyer
- BHPS November Fundraiser Flyer

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

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

**SUPERVISOR FAREWELL** – Supervisor Oberlin did not seek reelection. He gave a farewell statement thanking the community and the board. / A copy is on file with the Clerk and attached as part of these minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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