

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Stafford, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack, ZA Bofinger; Assr Erhart; Mike Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Ron Frailing, ZBA/ICRC; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Fay Frailing, BHPS; Zach Hautala, ICECA; Seth Miatech, Wickwire; 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 December 2024 was submitted. Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 192,344.57
Sewer Fund:	\$ 103,748.50
Water Fund:	\$ 380,227.61
Road Fund:	\$ 213,712.02

FINANCIAL REPORT

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – District 2 is vacant. ICBC will be appointment.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA REPORT – Smithson stated the 2025 Visitor Guides will be sent to the printer next week and will arrive the end of January. / 2nd round of Fast Track grants was successful. / No news on the plans for IR City Hall. / New housing development in Crystal Falls will begin construction in 2026.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. No report on file.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He gave an update on 5 zoning violations. / He met with a few property owners to answer questions. / 16 permits were issued in 2024 and 1 in 2025. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – PW Benson said they would be chlorinating the low-pressure district. / 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.

HALL-SHOP-WTR-SWR-CEM-PARK-SCH-PR BL

Windsor Center – Nothing new to report.

WINDSOR CTR

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave an update on financials. They started 2024 with \$201,537.98, they projected year end to be \$250,000 and ended with \$26809.83. / They are still waiting for their federal grant application. / Supervisor Stafford made a motion that he and Trustee Adams will work together with the BHPS as they move forward with the project. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

BHPS

Planning Commission – Thibodeau stated they had an election of officers. They are working on a blight enforcement program and enforcement officer duties.

PC

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated the library is being painted so the meeting will be the week of the 13th.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MSHDA Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the township received the grant for “up to” \$50,000 MSHDA grant for the required Master Plan update and additional funds for a zoning ordinance upgrade.

**MSHDA
GRANT**

Sunset Lake Eurasian Milfoil – Supervisor Stafford said that participation will be part of the township budget discussion.

**SUNSET
LAKE**

NEW BUSINESS

WUPPDR Master Plan Update Contract – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the contract to hire WUPPDR to assist the Township with the Master Plan update at an estimated cost of \$15,000, which will be funded by the MSHDA grant. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WUPPDR
MASTER
PLAN**

Township Budget Workshop – Meeting is set for Monday, January 20th at 2:00pm.

**BUDGET
WKSHOP**

Cemetery Software for Shop – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve putting the cemetery software on the shop computer at an estimated cost of \$250. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY
PROGRAM**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen asked for the current status of the ZBA/Atanasoff case. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the Attorney said the case has been dismissed.
- Margee Brennan asked if there was anything new with the school. / Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____