

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 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, Trustees Franzene & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; ZA Shankleton, Sue Passamani, BHPS; County Comm Stafford; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Mike Golas, P&R; Assessor Erhart; Residents. Absent: Treasurer Nelson.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 December 2022 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 141,615.63
Sewer Fund:	\$ 131,220.53
Water Fund:	\$ 339,581.66
Road Fund:	\$ 53,539.13

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that the Mike Hedtke was recently appointed to the Iron County Medicare Board.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that property assessments will be mailed in February. 7.9% is the consumer price index. Previous rates in years past were 1.5%. Last year it was 3.3%. This year will be 5%. / Tuesday, February 7th the BOR will have continuing education in Watersmeet via Zoom with the State Tax Commission. / Board of Review dates will be Tuesday, February 14th 3:00-9:00 and Wednesday 15th 9:00-3:00. The organizational meeting is February 9th 8:00-11:00am.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated that he has been working with compliance issues. / He made a correction to the permits to date which is 22 not 23. Six of the permits were for new home construction which adds to the tax base. / This year the planning commission adopted and changed 4 ordinances. / He will be completing his zoning certification in February. / Permits to date: 22. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – A motion was made by Oberlin to appoint Trustee Adams to the WIDL Board for a 4-year term from 1/2023-12/2026. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. Adams stated that there are 88,562 items in the library, 46,864 were circulated as checked out, 222 in person events for a total of 5641 attendees.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Passamani provided a financial report. (A copy on file with the Clerk). The financials will be audited by Marcia Cornelia. Bob Berndt will replace Lesa Behling as a Director. There are three grants that they have applied for and are waiting for a response hopefully near the end of January. They have 192 brick orders to date.

BHPS UPDATE

Water Meter Reader – Newby did a good job and will continue reading meters.

WATER METER READER

UPEA Sewer Lagoon– Chris Holmes of UP Engineers will give a report to EGLE in February.

UPEA SEWER LAGOON

Bates Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027 - GEI – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to pass the Resolution of Adoption for 5 Year Recreation Plan. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

REC PLAN 2023-2027

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Education – See Assessors report.

**BOR
EDUCATION**

Sand Spreader Attachment – A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the purchase of the sand spreader attachment for an estimated cost of \$403.00. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SAND
SPREADER
ATTACH.**

Bates Amasa Rd Waterline Abandonment – Oberlin talked to both property owners, and they were aware that the abandonment could happen. Schmidt questioned as to whether the line was plastic down to the old Mathews homestead. PW Benson said there wasn't any indication that it was. Treasurer Nelson would have to do the letters, to the item was tabled until next month for further discussion.

**WTLINE
ABANDON-
MENT**

Board Budget Workshop – Date was set for Monday, January 23rd at 4:00pm.

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP**

State of Michigan – Metallic Minerals Exploration- Information was posted at the township. Shankleton contacted Keweenaw Land Association to discuss. Rich Sloat is looking into the matter.

**SOM-
EXPLORA-
TION**

BHPS letter- It was noted that a letter from the BHPS requested that the township provide a new furnace and hot water heater for the building upon its move. Oberlin stated that he could get a hot water heater for cost for whomever was going to pay for it, the township or BHPS. It was noted that the Township was going to do a new roof but not until the building was moved. There was no decision on the furnace.

**BHPS
LETTER**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – A waterline leak was repaired on Lake 15 Road. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- ICECA – Smithson stated that WUPPDR has a MIHOPE Grant promoting energy efficiency of homes. It is income based. Applications online.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA -2022 Annual Report.
- BHPS December 16, 2022, letter

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Adams made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Supervisor Oberlin. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; Sue Passamani & Directors, BHPS; County Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents. Absent: ZA Shankleton & Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 January 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 157,522.09
Sewer Fund:	\$ 138,932.67
Water Fund:	\$ 358,538.68
Road Fund:	\$ 94,008.31

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated there was nothing new to report; the county board meeting is the 14th.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin is waiting on preliminary estimates. Meeting on the 9th with Crystal Falls and Stambaugh Townships Supervisors to discuss Andreski Plat.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Nothing new to report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was downstate for ZA SOM certification.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams reported that there is all new internet at the library.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Passamani stated they received a \$500 from the Crystal Falls Community Foundation. / They did not get a \$50,000 grant for siding & windows. / They are waiting on two grants, \$5000 and \$200000. / For a 2023 groundbreaking, they are aware of a possible November election. / Some new fundraisers are the sale of hats, tee-shirts & license plates. / A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to extend the original Township-BHPS agreement to 12/31/2023. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BHPS UPDATE

UPEA Sewer Lagoon– A motion was made by Oberlin to have Chris Holmes of UP Engineers submit a report to EGLE regarding the lagoon. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPEA SEWER LAGOON

NEW BUSINESS

Bates Amasa Rd Waterline Abandonment – Oberlin talked to both property owners. A motion was made by Oberlin to abandon the waterline effective March 1st. They will get free standard usage water for up to 2 years. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Treasurer Nelson will send them letters of notification of the terms.

BATES AMASA RD WATERLINE ABANDON.

2022-2023 Budget Amendments– A motion was made by Nelson to amend the budget. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A copy on file with the Clerk.

2022-2023 BUDGET AMEND.

BATES TOWNSHIP

February 8, 2023

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

2023-2024 Budget- A motion was made by Franzene to put the 2023-2024 budget out for 30-day public review. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**2023-2024
BUDGET**

Board Salary Resolutions – Board Members stated they would not seek an increase.

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOL.**

Department Wage Increases – A motion was made by Nelson to approve the following increases effective April 1, 2023. Full time Employee Benson \$27.55 to \$28.80/hour; Part time Franzmeier \$18.25 to \$19.00/hour; Zoning Administrator \$475 to \$700/month; Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer \$15.00 to \$18.00/hour; Park Host \$450 to \$600/month. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**DEPT
WAGE
INCREASES**

Hall & Campsite Rate Increases - A motion was made by Nelson to approve the following increases effective immediately. Campsite \$18 to \$20/night. Township Hall rent \$100 to \$175 due to the cost of cleaning the floors. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RATE
INCREASES**

Memorial Day Ceremony Committee- Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the planning & execution of the event was not a statutory duty of the Clerk. She has been honored to coordinate the event for the past 20+ years. The Board asked if there was any group of people or person that would want to take on the event. Benson-Stafford provided instructions on what is needed and what to do.

**MEMORIAL
DAY
CEREMONY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- ICECA – Smithson stated that WUPPDR has a MIHOPE Grant promoting energy efficiency of homes. It is income based. Applications online. / ICECA has been working with a housing developer that has looked at sites in Iron River, Caspian, and Crystal Falls.
- Mike Golas stated that Public Works Benson deserved every penny of a wage increase.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA -2022 Annual Report
- 2023 Reporter Focus on Education Ad Solicitation

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, 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 6:58pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Larry Nelson, Michael Thibodeau, PC; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Sue Passamani & Directors, BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 234,622.12
Sewer Fund:	\$ 141,057.56
Water Fund:	\$ 349,665.50
Road Fund:	\$ 157,660.36

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County Board promoted Lynette Lorenz to County Administrator. / The DIHD finalized the purchase of the Crystal Falls Professional Building. They hope to move in June. / The County board is working on a proposed 2nd Amendment resolution. / The old Health Dept building was offered to the WICPS; if they don't want it then it might come on the market.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that the Helgemo Rd bid from US2 to the top of the hill was \$72022.15 with possible participation from the ICRC of \$15000. A motion was made by Nelson to approve the bid. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Oberlin stated that the bid for Andreski plat was \$178620. Stambaugh Twp will participate but Crystal Falls Twp Will not. CF Supervisor Kenney says that they couldn't participate until 2025 and he doesn't want to obligate their board since he will not be seeking reelection. / ICRC Schmidt said that the road should be scarified this year.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that assessments were mailed 2/24/2023. / BOR will be held on March 15th & 16th. All protests must be on paper; email is not accepted. / The taxable value for the 2023 roll is \$67,449,866. Last year's taxable value was \$61,249,801.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton presented the board with governing bylaws to oversee the process of the planning commission as well as the zoning board of appeals. A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt the bylaws. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / He stated that there were 3 new permits issued so far this year. / The ZBA will hear a variance request on Thursday, March 16th. / Shankleton is now a licensed Citizen Planner, Master Planner and Zoning Administrator. / A copy of the report on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that the staff has all been CPR trained. / They have 7 new computers. / A Vox Box is now available; it reads to the children.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Passamani stated they did not receive the substantial grant that they had hoped for. They will continue to seek out grants and have fund raisers. Breaking ground is moved to 2025. / The contractors are still onboard. / Marcia Cornelia audited the BHPS records. / They are going to do a fund raiser sale of hats, T shirts & license plates. / Sold 197 bricks to date. / 4/15 Craft show at Windsor / Rummage sale at hall on 6/30 & 7/1.

BHPS UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

March 8, 2023

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

UPEA Sewer Lagoon– PW Benson said that UPE is waiting for the report from White Water.

UPEA SEWER LAGOON

NEW BUSINESS

UPSET – A motion was made by Oberlin to pay \$500. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPSET

Board Salary Resolutions – The Board Members declined an increase.

BOARD SALARIES

Budget Hearing Date – The budget hearing date was set for Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 4:00m. Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the date.

BUDGET HEARING

Poverty Exemption Guidelines – A motion was made by Nelson to adopt the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Supported by Oberlin. All ayes. Motion carried.

POVERTY EXEMPTIONS

Public Notice of Meetings – A motion was made by Franzene to approve the Public Notice of Township meeting dates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. / Clerk Benson-Stafford will post.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY SALES

Financial Institution Deposit Resolution – A motion was made by Nelson 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 Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DEPOSIT RESOLUTION

Planning Commission Appointment – A motion was made by Oberlin to appoint Mike Stafford to the vacant seat on the planning commission. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMM APPTMENT

North Country Website Proposal – A proposal was received from the current website host for an upgrade. Benson-Stafford will look at a few items to refresh but overall a full website upgrade is not needed. No action taken.

WEBSITE PROPOSAL

Park Signage – A motion was made by Oberlin to purchase two new signs for the park/campground at an estimated cost of \$151.74. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PARK SIGNAGE

Park Host – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that there is a possibility that last year's host might not be able to return this summer. She will know more in the next few weeks.

PARK HOST

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – A motion was made by Franzene to purchase the materials to complete the Wagner Lk Rd project at an estimated cost of \$22000. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Ernie Schmidt – Thanked the BHPS for all of their hard work. It was determined that the front entry will need a temporary fix. Oberlin/Franzene will pursue contractors/ideas.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Clean Kill Spring Reservations
- The Reporter Salute Ad / A motion was made by Adams to do the ad for \$75. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, 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 7:29pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 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, Deputy Treasurer Franzene, Trustees Franzene & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, & Ron Frailing, ICRC; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents. Treasurer Nelson & Assessor Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of March 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Trustee Adams to accept the report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 250,603.09
Sewer Fund:	\$ 147,312.74
Water Fund:	\$ 364,267.37
Road Fund:	\$ 186,017.41

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County's 2023 taxable value had increased by \$50M. / A copy of the Resolution Affirming Support of All Constitutional Rights, Including, But not limited to, the Right of People to Bear Arms and to Adequately Fund Mental Health services that the ICBC passed was distributed to the Board.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that the County would be participating in the Helgemo Rd project up to \$20,000 which reduced the cost to the Township from \$72022.15 to \$52022.15. / Ernie Schmidt stated that the SOM does not want brine used as dust control on the roads and there is a new emulsion that would be available. He said it was recommended to scarify Andreski Plat and put the emulsion on top. Residents were in attendance from Bates, Stambaugh & Crystal Falls Township requesting blacktop on Andreski Plat. There was discussion that the road is an old railroad grade and was never intended to be a blacktop road. The residents objected to the Helgemo Rd project and stated the money should be used for Andreski Plat. Oberlin stated that Crystal Falls Township will not participate this year in a project because their funds are dedicated to Long Lake Rd. Stambaugh Township had indicated earlier that they would participate. Oberlin will run some numbers and reach out to the Townships again. Oberlin stated that the bid for Andreski plat was \$178620. Stambaugh Twp will participate but Crystal Falls Twp Will not. CF Supervisor Kenney says that they could not participate until 2025 and he does not want to obligate their board since he will not be seeking reelection. / ICRC Schmidt said that the road should be scarified this year.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated that the ZBA heard a variance request on April 6th which they denied. The Petitioner indicated that they would appeal the decision. Shankleton will have a meeting with the Township Attorney to get clarity on the process. / He stated that there were 9 new permits issued so far this year. / A copy of the report on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that the library has had an incredible increase in usage. / The Watershed coalition is putting in a bench to honor the late Barb Bartel & Judy Reed.

WIDL

BATES TOWNSHIP

April 12, 2023

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Passamani stated they received a \$5000 grant from Enbridge. / They are looking at an April 2025 groundbreaking. / They have approximately 200 brick orders. / They provided a copy of their upcoming activities and fundraisers. / They will be placing a “funding thermometer” at the hall. / They are looking for volunteers for the rummage sale.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

Hall Front Porch Repair – Trustee Franzene said they are waiting for the weather to improve, and they will do a temporary repair.

**HALL FRONT
PORCH
REPAIR**

UPEA Sewer Lagoon– EGLE has the report.

**UPEA SEWER
LAGOON**

NEW BUSINESS

May Roadside Cleanup – The roadside cleanup will be Saturday, May 6th. From 8:30 – 11:00. Refreshments will be available.

**MAY ROAD
CLEANUP**

Memorial Day Ceremony – A motion was made by Oberlin to approve a \$350 budget for the continental breakfast. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

Crystal Falls MNRTF Support – Oberlin stated that the Board signed a letter of support for their project to extend the Heritage Trail.

**CF MNRTF
SUPPORT
LTR**

Water/Sewer Storage Addition to the Shop – Public Works Superintendent Benson presented the board with cost information on putting an addition on the shop. The Board will review the information. Tabled until next meeting.

**WATER/SEW
ER BLDG**

Township Hall Window Cleaning – A motion was made by Oberlin to have the windows cleaned inside and outside for \$200. Supported by Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**HALL
WINDOW
CLEANING**

Project Graduation – A motion was made by Franzene to approve \$75 for the event. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PROJECT
GRAD**

ICECA – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to approve the pledge \$2763. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ICECA
PLEDGE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

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CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Margee Brennan & Yvonne Andersen, ZBA & BHPS; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 April 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 231,017.66
Sewer Fund:	\$ 150,271.43
Water Fund:	\$ 380,782.43
Road Fund:	\$ 160,195.93

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County had bid \$135000 to get Gogebic's 911 which they had about three years ago. Gogebic chose to stay with Negaunee's bid at \$111000's. Iron County spends about \$500,000/year in wages for 911 Dispatch. If IC contracted out for this service, they could save almost \$400,000/year. / Vernon Jones is retiring as Emergency Manager. / Stafford made the board aware that the state is trying to take away local control of gravel mining which would affect the Iron County Road Commission.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that Stambaugh Twp would hold a vote on 5/10/2023 as to if they would agree to participate in Andreski Plat phase 1 which is proposed at the first ¾ mile. We may have to borrow from the general fund to do dust control. A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the Andreski Plat project contingent upon Stambaugh Twp's participation. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Benson-Stafford said that Bates should still do dust control because to not do it, would not be fair to the residents that will never get blacktop. / Oberlin stated that he would attend a Crystal Falls Twp board meeting to try and get them on board for phase 2 of the Andreski Plat project.

ROAD PROJECTS

Dust Control – A motion was made by Franzene to approve dust control. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DUST CONTROL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart gave her monthly report. /March BOR went well. / All required year end documents have been submitted to the County and State. / There is only one Bates Township property on the foreclosure list. / In 2022 there were 139 parcels that had transfer of ownership. Some were within a family; some were into a Trust. It was a variety of scenarios. (A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.)

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated that the PC met and will include the MCL # for the 300' notification requirement in the Bylaws. / The ZBA denial has been appealed to the circuit court. / He stated that there have been 10 new permits issued so far this year. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said there is nothing new to report.

WIDL

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 10, 2023

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Brennan said they are looking for volunteers for the rummage sale. They are looking for donations. There will be a food truck on site. / They have an Attorney that volunteered to write a Sparks grant application, the township will have to sign off on that. / People have been generous with their can donations.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

Roadside Cleanup – Oberlin thanked the volunteers.

**ROADSIDE
CLEANUP**

Water/Sewer Shop Addition– Tabled until next month.

**SHOP
ADDITION**

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day Ceremony – Ceremony begins at 8:00am at the cemetery. The BHPS will host the continental breakfast. They will also be selling their promotional items.

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

Water System Public Letter – Benson explained the annual water system reporting procedures and the letter that was mailed to water system customers.

**WATER
SYSTEM
LETTER**

DIISD Lease Bates School – A motion was made by Franzene to do a 5-year lease. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

DIISD LEASE

Park-Campground Opening – The Park Host will be coming on Friday. Restrooms are unwinterized. Park is open.

PARK HOST

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – A motion was made by Adams to approve the purchase of water valve marker supplies, approximately \$500. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Yvonne Anderson thanked Benson for explaining the water system reporting procedures.
- Jim Brey thanked the Board for proceeding with the Andreski Plat Road project.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, 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 7:14pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Bonnie Hager, Park Host; Jim Stolberg, WICFD; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 May 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 203,774.87
Sewer Fund:	\$ 151,195.84
Water Fund:	\$ 393,014.91
Road Fund:	\$ 167,182.14

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County hired a new Emergency Manager Chris Peterson, Powers, MI. He does the same work for Schoolcraft County. Recently Vernon Jones retired. / He stated that constituents may want to contact their Representatives because there is a bill going through the legislature that would allow the state to take away control of septic systems from the County level. / Oberlin added the state is trying to gain control of gravel pits too. Stafford said that many counties have made resolutions against that.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that Helgemo Rd is done except for the shoulder work. / Dust control will be done June 22 & 23. / The board was given information regarding "emulsion" and chip sealing. He stated that he has the same opinion as Brad, ICRC, that emulsion is not the way to go. The Board will review the information to discuss at the next meeting.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart gave her monthly report. /She is working on land value and economic condition factor analysis. / She has worked with the County on the 2023 residential sales study. / She and Treasurer Nelson have balanced the 2023 assessment roll to the tax roll. / Rogers Location, the southern part of E. Emily Lk Rd, Wildwood Lake and Perch Lake are destinations for annual review of properties this year. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated this was the busiest month per date. 75 zoning related calls, 14 new permits. He is waiting for several applications. / The siding ordinance has been in effect for one year so he will begin issuing letters of compliance. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said the next meeting is June 19th.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave a report. They recently received an anonymous gift of \$28000. / She reviewed the various fundraisers that are coming soon. Rummage sale is June 30 & July 1 at the hall. There will be food available as well as many Bates logo items for sale. / They are always looking for volunteers. / They placed an order for 208 bricks, and they already have another 8 new orders.

BHPS UPDATE

Water/Sewer Shop Addition– Franzene stated that he already has cost estimates for trusses, slab, electric & waterline. He would like to request bids if the Board thinks it will go through with the project.

WTR/SWR SHOP ADDITION

BATES TOWNSHIP

June 14, 2023

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS

MIDNR Trust Sparks Grant Application – A motion was made by Adams to pass a resolution of authorization for Bates Township to apply for a Michigan DNR Sparks Grant. The BHPS will commit a match to the project of \$150,000. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MIDNR
TRUST
SPARKS
GRANT**

ZBA Member Resignation – A motion was made by Nelson to accept the resignation of ZBA member Richard Spencer. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / Spencer will be unavailable for the coming year and said he would not be available to serve.

**ZBA MEMBER
RESIGNA-
TION**

PC/ZBA Board Membership-Ordinance Review – Oberlin stated that at one time the ZBA was a three-member board. He asked the planning commission to review “board membership” and a way to keep it equitable. Jim Anderson said a 3-person board could create a quorum issue. Oberlin countered that the 3 person ZBA board was in effect for decades. Brennan said she didn’t think only 3 people should be making these decisions.

**PC/ZBA
MEMBER-
ORDINANCE
REVIEW**

IC Fair Board Ad – A motion was made by Oberlin to do the annual ad at\$79. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

IC FAIR AD

Westside Veterans Council – A motion was made by Oberlin to contribute \$250 in support of their programs. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – A motion was made by Adams to transfer \$18166 from the water repair replacement fund to the general checking for the Wagner Lake project. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes, Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

**WESTSIDE
VETERANS’
COUNCIL**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Rich Sloat said the shelter is complete. The project originally was funded by a \$6000 grant and about \$6000 in donations. He was seeking support for materials for the kayak-canoe ramp. A motion was made by Franzene to approve \$300 for supplies. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.
- Jim Anderson wanted to know if the Board requested an extension to file documents in the Bates vs Atanasoff case.

Benson-Stafford stated that there was a variance request brought before the ZBA. As a result of the ZBA decision, the only recourse the Atanasoff’s had to the ZBA decision was to file a lawsuit in circuit court against Bates Township. For this reason, the Bates Township Board of Trustees has been brought into the case.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:49pm Benson-Stafford made the following motion. I move that the Board meet in a closed session under Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss with the Township attorney trial or settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation involving the Township and Nick and Tara Atanasoff, as this discussion would have a detrimental effect on the pending litigation if held during the public meeting. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 7:38pm a motion was made by Trustee Adams to reconvene the meeting with continued Guest Comments. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting continued.

GUEST COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Jim Anderson asked if the Board is going to consider a moratorium on the ordinances. Oberlin stated that is coming before the planning commission.
- Steve Blank stated that he is on the planning commission in his community and 2 years ago they went through their zoning ordinance and gave the people back their ownership rights. Benson-Stafford stated that there has to be some consideration because it wouldn't be right for someone to have to live next to another property owner that accumulates tons of garbage.
- Mike Golas asked about the culvert at Phillips & Noren Rd. Oberlin stated that is a county issue.
- Rick Lindbeck stated that he has lived on Sunset Lake for 72 years and this recent ZBA decision is a mess and it's a circus. How would Board members feel if they were not able to do what they wanted with their property.
- Trustee Adams stated that all of this information is new to the Board of Trustees. The case will be reviewed objectively, and Bates Townships is not about favoritism.
- Jeff Sitkoski asked if this Board will make the decision. Benson-Stafford stated that this case will not go before the ZBA again.
- Jim Anderson asked why the Board is hearing the case. ZA Shankleton said that the Board is following state statutes.
- Deb Sitkoski said that any decision could set a precedent.
- Margee Brennan stated that there has to be ordinance for a reason.
- Jim Anderson said that originally zoning was approved by the people of the township.

**RECONVENE
REGULAR
MEETING**

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- MI Par Plan Dividend Letter
- Multiple Residents/RE: ZBA Variance Decision
- Liberty Mutual Zero Loss Letter
- Westside Veterans Council

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, 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 8:00pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings. Supported by Trustee Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of June 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 214,074.77
Sewer Fund:	\$ 157,175.28
Water Fund:	\$ 392,664.53
Road Fund:	\$ 111,377.52

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County meeting postponed to July 18th. / The only entrance to the County Courthouse & offices will now be through the south entrance which will have security personnel and a scanner.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that Andreski Plat done. Waiting for invoicing. / Farhner information is tabled until the next meeting.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that the Board of Review would meet Wednesday, July 19th at 9:30. / She requested a new computer (laptop) as the current township computer is from 2007 and has been failing. Clerk Benson-Stafford will get one ordered. / There was no paper report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated the planning commission met July 10th for a special meeting. The board could not reach a consensus as to how many members to have on the Zoning Board of Appeals. / Re the ZBA variance denial of April 6th, there have been 11 letters in favor of the variance and 3 letters received opposing the variance. / 2 Violation letters have been issued and are under the 60-day warning. / 27 new permits have been issued to date. / He is waiting for several applications. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said there are amazing programs available. / There have been 3794 digital checkouts so far this year. / There is now a new "quiet pod" that adults can reserve.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave a financial report. They made over \$3000 on the rummage sale and they are still selling items. / Bake Sale will be Saturday from 9-1 at Bigari Hardware. / Margee requested that the Board consider getting rid of the wooden chairs because they scratch the floors.

BHPS UPDATE

Water/Sewer Shop Addition– Franzene stated that he there were zero bids received. Contractors are so busy they are able to charge at least 25% more and they are still getting work. Franzene advised waiting until the fall to rebid this as a spring project.

WTR/SWR SHOP ADDITION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

ZBA Variance Denial /Atanasoff vs Bates Township – Attorney Statement – Oberlin read, as of 3:40pm today, the Bates Township Attorney states that they are reviewing information that they recently received from the opposing counsel. They will be reviewing the information and making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in the coming days, at which time the Trustees can decide as to whether they will call a special meeting or make this an agenda item for the August 9, 2023, meeting.

**ZBA
VARIANCE
DENIAL
/ATANASOFF
VS BATES
TWP**

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Ordinance – Clerk Benson-Stafford provided the ordinance to the Zoning Administrator and the Board of Trustees for review for the next meeting. She is recommending more aggressive fines for illegal activities at the cemetery.

**CEMETERY
ORDINANCE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – A motion was made by Franzene to approve an impeller order for the sewer lift stations at a cost of \$3400. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Gina Gollither asked how to get the speed limit lowered on Noren Rd. Oberlin stated that the ICRC would have a speed study done and there is a chance that the speed limit could increase. He redirected her to the ICRC.
- Jim Anderson wanted to say that Ed/Public Works Superintendent worked hard and diligently to resolve the sewer lift station problem. The Township is lucky to have him.
- Jim Anderson wanted to make sure that in the court case regarding the ZBA Variance Denial Request/Atanasoff vs Bates Township that the minutes would reflect that Supervisor Oberlin stated that the Township Board of Trustees are aware of the July 25, 2023 deadline and that they did not instruct the Township Attorneys to default on that deadline.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- 3 Resident Letters / RE: ZBA Variance Decision

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, 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 7:05pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 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 & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents. Supervisor Oberlin was absent.

ATTENDEES

In the absence of Supervisor Oberlin Trustee Franzene made a motion to have Trustee Adams moderate the meeting. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's report for the month of July 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 177,195.89
Sewer Fund:	\$ 152,872.32
Water Fund:	\$ 379,948.28
Road Fund:	\$ 2,028.75

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the County gave a \$5/hour raise to the Sheriff Deputy's and an increase to the Sheriff and Under Sheriff as an incentive to retain them. / Discussions about an RFP for 911 were to give the voters information and a basis for comparison prior to having to vote for an increase in millage in February.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that she was doing field inspections. / Fay Whitehead submitted a BOR resignation letter that would be effective 12/31/2022. Erhart was thankful for Whitehead's service. / There was no written report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated that he has been answering questions. / 31 permits have been issued to date. / 2 Violation letters were issued and are under the 60-day warning; being monitored. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said there has been unbelievable use of the facility.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Nothing new to report.

BHPS UPDATE

Assessor Computer Upgrade – A motion was made by Adams to approve the upgrade of approximately \$1500. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR COMPUTER UPGRADE

ZBA Variance Denial /Atanasoff vs Bates Township – A motion to intervene was filed with the court by the Shamions Attorney, Roy Polich. The court will review the matter on October 4, 2023. The Township has no further comment.

ZBA VARIANCE DENIAL /ATANASOFF VS BATES TWP

Cemetery Ordinance – Action tabled until the next meeting.

CEMETERY ORDINANCE

NEW BUSINESS

MERS Grant - Clerk Benson-Stafford said that Supervisor Oberlin had completed a grant application under the Protecting MI Pensions. The Township was awarded \$70,486 as opposed to the \$56,935 that was applied for. The Township will not get this money, but instead a deposit will be made into the MERS account for Bates Township.

**WINDSOR
CENTER
GRANT
SUPPORT**

Windsor Center Grant Support Letter – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to adopt a resolution of support for the Windsor Center Improvement Project grant application, with no local support of financial commitment. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / The grant is being written by Wickwire.

**2023 IC
HAZARD
PLAN**

2023 Iron County Hazard Mitigation Plan -A motion was made Benson-Stafford to adopt the resolution. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**OFFICE
SHREDDER**

Office Shredder – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to authorize the purchase of a new paper shredder in the approximate amount of \$400. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BOR
RESIGNA-
TION**

BOR Resignation – Fay Whitehead, BOR member turned in her resignation letter effective December 31, 2023.

**SEWER LIFT
STATION
GENERATOR**

Sewer Lift Station Generator Committee – A committee was formed to assist PW Benson with the information gathering and installation of the sewer lift station generators. Members will be Mike Stafford, Planning Commission, Mike Franzene, Trustee & Corey Shankleton, Zoning Administrator. Benson-Stafford reminded the residents that this journey began due to the 2019 insurance company risk assessment audit where they recommended that the Township install the generators.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** –Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Dennis Tousignant requested that his water permanent shut off be removed and the water be turned back on. Construction is in process at his property on W. Sunset Lake Rd.
- Earl Metzler stated that his Section 3 Rd property experience a break in. He warned people should be aware to protect their property.
- Brett Smithson, ICECA gave a brief update on area grant awards and new Chamber memberships.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Franzene made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 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 present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents. Assessor Erhart & ZA Shankleton were absent.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 August 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 181,591.54
Sewer Fund:	\$ 121,646.93
Water Fund:	\$ 333,267.60
Road Fund:	\$ 1,818.28

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the DIHD is moved into their new building in Crystal Falls. The former building is for sale.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent, Oberlin read her report. There are 2 small claims filed with the MTT. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent, Oberlin read his report. There are 33 zoning permits to date. / 2 violation properties have now exceeded their 60 days to correct. He is following up with a 10-day compliance letter. / The planning commission will meet on October 2. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said the library will be looking to renew their millage at a 2024 election. / They have 4 new computers. / 1921 checkouts & 510 items loaned to other libraries during the past month.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave a report. They are now selling decals at \$5 each and \$7 for magnetic decals. / An anonymous person helped them to complete a grant application for Michigan Community Centers. / They will be distributing the Dina Mia Pizza fundraiser items at the Bates Hall on Tuesday, September 19th. / There was discussion about reprinting the original Bates Township Centennial Book. The BHPS has deferred the project to the Township Board. Clerk Benson-Stafford will look into this.

BHPS UPDATE

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Decoration Removal - Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the removal date which is October 1st.

CEMETERY DECO REMOVAL

Park Closing – Campground gates are closed. Park will be closed on October 1.

PARK CLOSING

ZBA & BOR Ads – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish ads for members wanted.

ZBA/BOR MEMBER AD

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

PAR Plan Grant Application Resolution - A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to adopt a resolution to authorize Supervisor Oberlin to apply for a grant for the sewer lift station generators. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PAR PLAN GRANT APPL.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Gaastra Rd / Property Sale Inquiry – An inquiry was made regarding the sale of township property on Bates Gaastra Rd. A motion was made by Nelson to investigate the value of the property. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Brennan questioned why the township would sell it. Oberlin stated for tax revenue. / Benson-Stafford said she believes it's low land. / If it was to be sold it would be published and available to any potential Buyer and sold without any liability to the township.

**BATES
GAASTRA RD
PROPERTY**

Water Fund Transfer – Per the Auditors recommendation and per the agreement with Rural Development regarding the Township water loan, a motion was made by Oberlin to authorize Treasurer Nelson to keep 591-000-002.100 (2012 Water Bond Reserve) at an \$88000 balance and move the difference to 591-000-003.100 (2012 Water Repair, Replacement, Improvement Fund). Also, stop the \$2200 quarterly deposit in the 2012 Water Bond Reserve and move it to the Water Repair, Replacement, Improvement Fund, thereby increasing that quarterly deposit to \$7834. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WATER
FUND
TRANSFER**

ZBA Training – The township is looking into having the township Attorney do ZBA training via zoom or in-person training. Clerk Benson-Stafford is waiting for the estimated cost to have the Attorney do in-person training. No action taken.

**ZBA
TRAINING**

Water Meter Reader/Animal Control – The meter reader has been bitten 3 times by dogs at different locations. There was discussion about possible solutions. The township will start with a letter to the three specific pet owners.

**WATER
METER
READER/
DOG BITES**

February Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford said with board approval Bates will be a stand-alone EVP township. The state is still finalizing the procedures.

**FEBRUARY
ELECTION**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson said they were replacing a portion of waterline on Sec 22 Rd, before DTE installs a new gas line. / **Sewer** – The lift station generator switches and slabs were in the process of being installed. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – A motion was made by Adams to put a handicap bar in the bathrooms at the park. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / **School** – Nothing new to report. **Paint River Boat Launch** – The dock has been pulled in for the season.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas inquired about the status of the siding ordinance.
- Jim Andersen inquired about the stop work order at his neighbors.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Reporter – Fire Prevention Week Ad / A motion was made by Franzene to send \$50 to the WIC Fire Dept in lieu of the ad. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, 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 7:10pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 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; Assessor Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Krist Atanasoff, PC & ZBA; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 September 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 168,348.75
Sewer Fund:	\$ 127,689.64
Water Fund:	\$ 312,701.85
Road Fund:	\$ 1,818.28

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated there will be a 911 millage renewal of 1 mil plus additional .25 mills on the February ballot.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report. There was a guest comment about the Trybom/Phillips Rd culvert, which is a county matter, not a township matter.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart discussed land divisions for metes & bounds versus platted lots are handled differently. / There are two pending tribunals in small claims. She discussed having an Attorney represent the township for the hearings. There will be more information regarding this in the future. / There was no written report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated there have been 40 permits issued to date. / A recommendation was made by our Attorney's to "remove the number of days (60) from our ordinance in regard to violations.

ZONING UPDATE

Ordinance Change Section 12.02 - A motion was made by Nelson to remove the number of days from ordinance 12.02. All violations shall be corrected following the issuance of written notice to correct. If not corrected, they shall be brought before the board for further action or civil prosecution. The violator will be given a "number of days" per violation, at the Zoning Administrator's discretion. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE 12.02

Current Violations - A motion was made by Nelson to proceed with the civil penalty phase of the current past due violations. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Zoning Permit Fee Structure - A motion was made by Oberlin to change the zoning permit fee structure to \$35 permit fee up to 700 sq ft, minimum \$35 fee. With an additional \$.05/per sq ft above 700 sq ft. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZONING PERMIT FEE

ZBA Appointment – A motion was made by Adams to reappoint Krist Atanasoff as the Planning Commission liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supported by Nelson. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZBA APPOINTMT

BATES TOWNSHIP

October 11, 2023

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams there were 2693 checkouts in September, of which 1034-kids, 58 young adults, 86 patron eBooks/audio books. / There are now Hobby Bags for checkout.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee a report. They did not get the MDNR Sparks grant, however they have applied for another grant opportunity, and they expect to know about that near the end of October. Their goal is to have \$200,000 raised by the end of 2023.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

PAR Plan Grant – There was no word yet on the grant application.

**PAR PLAN
GRANT APP**

MDNR Sparks Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that there were two applications submitted: BHPS for the township hall and the park restroom grant. Neither application was granted.

**MDNR
SPARKS GR**

Bates Legacy Book – A motion was made by Adams to authorize Clerk Benson-Stafford to have the legacy book scanned at a proposed cost of \$500. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**BATES
LEGACY
BOOK**

NEW BUSINESS

General Ops/Road Millage Renewal – A motion was made by Oberlin to approve the millage renewal language for the Presidential Primary ballot in February 2024, to be a four year renewal and read as follows: "Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Bates Township be RENEWED at 3 mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2024 through 2027, all inclusive, for Two (2) Mills for General Township Purposes and One (1) Mill for Road Maintenance Purposes; and shall the Township levy such RENEWAL in millage for said purpose? This RENEWAL raises \$131802.44 for General Operating and \$65901.22 for Road Maintenance and Improvements in the Township, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$197703.66. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MILLAGE
RENEWAL**

ZBA Training – There was discussion about the Attorney training which would be approximately \$4500 in person or \$2000 via zoom. No action taken.

**ZBA
TRAINING**

ZBA Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin stated there were three applications received. Yvonne Andersen, Ron Frailing, and Merrie Gillaspie. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Merrie Gillaspie. After discussion and no support, Oberlin rescinded his motion and made a motion to appoint Ron Frailing. After discussion and no support, he rescinded his motion, and the matter was tabled until the next board meeting.

**ZBA
APPOINT**

Rogers Location/1st Street Alleyway/Snowplowing – A resident states that the corner of his yard is being encroached on by traffic using the alley. There was discussion about blocking off that corner of the alley during the winter, however, another resident stated that would create a hardship. It was determined that one neighbors trees are overgrowing into the alley. The Township will see about getting the trees cutback and in the summer the homeowner could put up a corner fence to deter encroachment into his yard.

**1ST STREET
ALLEY
ENCROACH.**

BATES TOWNSHIP

October 11, 2023

Page Three

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Mike Stafford/Project Manager for lift station generators said that three of the generators are installed, propane tanks connected and waiting for electrical tie ins. The Vendor will come down and do the initial start-up and training. He stated that UPPCO will be doing an upgrade from 240 to 277 volts in the future. It may affect the lift station motors. That is to be determined. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas inquired about the status of the siding ordinance.
- Jim Andersen inquired about the stop work order at his neighbors.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA / Brett stated that there are Fast Track grants available.
- Fay Atanasoff wanted to make sure her BOR application was received.
- Jerry Todd wants an update on the status of the alleyway abandonment that runs through his property.
- Hynous's inquired about being notified through FOIA when there are zoning requests around Wildwood Lake. The association has sought counsel regarding the enforcement of their covenants, and this was recommended by the Attorney.
- Miskwaagamiwiziibi Park Shelter Volunteers update

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, 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 7:49pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 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; Assessor Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 October 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford 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:	\$ 164,993.22
Sewer Fund:	\$ 120,696.03
Water Fund:	\$ 322,098.54
Road Fund:	\$ 2,340.62

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that 3 lift station generators have been put in place and the Tech would be coming on Friday to do training. The large generator which was lost in shipping was found and will arrive within days.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that he was submitting the 3=Year Rd plan to the ICRC. 2024 is scheduled to finish Andreski Plat Rd to the Midsummer Drive intersection with participation from Crystal Falls Twp.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that she sees an increase in vacant land value. / She is preparing for AMAR and Bates already has many requirements in place including assessor's record cards which are online. / The Board will have to approve the Poverty Exemption Application by January. / There was no written report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated there have been 43 permits issued to date. / The ordinance has been updated and is available online. / He has contacted the Township Attorney to set up a procedure for civil penalty/enforcement. New zoning permit fees will begin with 2024 permits. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Nothing new to report.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee stated that a grant they applied for will announce awards in December, instead of October due to the overwhelming response of applications. / They are planning a Memorial Day Fundraiser Bake Sale. / They are looking to fill a director vacancy. / They will be at the December craft Show.

BHPS UPDATE

ZBA Training – A motion was made by Adams to approve ZBA training through MSU at a cost of \$100/member' BOT will take the training also. This will be a self-paced on-line course with a deadline date of completion to be announced next month. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZBA TRAINING

PAR Plan Grant – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the Township has been awarded a \$4000 grant for the lift station generator project.

PAR PLAN

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

ZBA Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Merrie Gillaspie to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term effective immediately that will expire 11/08/2026. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, no; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Motion carried.

**ZBA
APPOINTMT**

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Administrator Job Description – ZA Shankleton would like the Board to prepare a job description so that there is clarity on job duties. He is also working on a procedure's manual for the position.

**ZONE ADMIN
JOB
DESCRIP.**

Bates School Test Kitchen – Benson-Stafford stated that there is an individual that would be interested in using the school kitchen as a test kitchen. It would be for personal use and not for the general public. She will explore the details and get more information.

**SCHOOL
TEST
KITCHEN**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop–** Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson stated there have been 8 tap ins. There also is a repair of a bad valve on US2. / **Sewer** – A motion was made by Franzene to approve the purchase of new impellers at a cost of \$11500. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Various comments regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals appointment.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Caspian Progressive Men's Gifts from Santa Letter

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 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; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Residents. Assessor Erhart & ZA Shankleton were absent.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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 November 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Trustee Adams 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 143,293.47
Sewer Fund:	\$ 118,636.29
Water Fund:	\$ 330,566.03
Road Fund:	\$ 2,268.63

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford had nothing new to report regarding the County. / Regarding the Bates Sewer Lift Station project, the last generator was placed this past Tuesday. Duff will wire it up next week. The Vendor will come after that for set up. The small generators are quiet. M

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that he talked to the Crystal Falls Twp Supervisor who did not feel there would be enough funds to participate in 2024. He was not opposed to participating. They are working on their budget now.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Oberlin read the report with the March Board of Review dates and information regarding Disabled Veterans Exemptions processing which will now be handled by the Assessor and not the Board of Review. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent. Oberlin read the report. There have been 45 permits issued to date. / Per the recommendation from the planning commission a motion was made by Franzene to approve the front setback in the L-1, S-1, L2 as well as Recreation & Forestry districts from 100 ft to 75 ft. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Regarding the second matter of vacation of alleys, that action was tabled until the next meeting. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Stephanie Swenski gave a presentation of all that the WIDL has done for the community and the programs that they offer. There will be a millage renewal of 1.7373 mills for 2025-2029 on the February 27 ballot.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee stated that a grant they applied for has postponed their awards announcement until January. They are still collecting cans. They will definitely have \$200,000 by year end.

BHPS UPDATE

ZBA Training – A motion was made by Oberlin to pay the members for 3 meeting fees (through payroll) upon completion of the course once they turn in their certificate. The deadline for completion is March 31, 2024. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZBA TRAINING

Board of Review Appointment – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Faye Vezzetti-Atanasoff to the Board of Review, effective January 1, 2024, for a 2-year term that will expire on December 1, 2025. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Motion carried.

BOR APPOINTMT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates School Test Kitchen – Benson-Stafford is researching information from the individual interested in using the school kitchen as a test kitchen. There were residents’ concerns about the safety of the kids. She will get more details.

**SCHOOL
TEST
KITCHEN**

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Administrator Job Description – Oberlin will meet with ZA Shankleton and draft out a list of job duties.

**ZA JOB
DESCRIP.**

Federal Poverty Exemption – A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt the federal guidelines for poverty exemption. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**FEDERAL
POVERTY
GUIDELINES**

Employee Bonus – A motion was made by Oberlin to give the full-time employee a bonus of \$225 and the part time employee a bonus of \$175. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
CHRISTMAS
BONUS**

Bates Twp 5 Year Rec Plan – There will be a public hearing on January 15, 2024, at 5:00 at the Bates Township Hall for public comment on the rec plan 2024-2028.

**5 YEAR REC
PLAN**

Budget Workshop – Board members will have a workshop on January 15th.

**BUDGET
WKSHOP**

Planning Commission Dates – Public Notice: Planning Commission’s 2024 quarterly meetings are: March 4, May 6, October 7, December 2, 2024, at 6:00pm.

**2024 PC
QTRLY MTGS**

MDOT Annual Permit – A motion was made by Nelson to adopt the MDOT Annual Permit Resolution. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MDOT
ANNUAL
PERMIT**

Public Works Help Wanted – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the help wanted ad. This is for an additional full-time position.

PW JOB AD

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Oberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of a vise at \$400. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Water** – PW Benson stated he is working on the EGLE annual survey. / **Sewer** – He recommended that the lift station be upgraded one at a time. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted to know when the siding citation was going to be issued for his neighbor. Oberlin will talk to the Zoning Administrator.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- WICFD Thank you letter
- Kevin Norris Property Photos

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, 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 6:55pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____