

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, P&R; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Faye Vezzetti-Atanasoff, BOR; Residents. Assessor Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings, with a correction to ZA Shankleton attendance. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 182,797.60
Sewer Fund:	\$ 92,642.38
Water Fund:	\$ 346,770.57
Road Fund:	\$ 34,909.41

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford said there are 3 openings on the County Parks & Rec committee. / The old health department building is open for bids. / The lift station generator project is completed.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that CF Twp will not participate in the Andreski Plat project this year. The ICRC needs to know what we plan to do. Tabled until next meeting.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Supervisor gave an overview of the report. The state passed legislation on how the Disabled Veterans Exemptions are handled. / She finalized a review of the County's yearly studies. / She finished the Township Land Value Analysis & Economic Condition Factor Study. / She reviewed all parcels with permits. / This month she is working on personal property statements and finalizing the 2024 assessment roll.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated there were 45 zoning permits issued for 2023. / The planning commission had conducted 5 public meetings. / The ZBA heard one application and the case is still pending in litigation. / 3 official zoning violations were issued in 2023. / There is a request for an alley abatement in the Rogers Location. There must be a 14-day notice prior to hearing. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams gave a report of the library monthly/annual usage. She added that the library is a valuable asset to the community.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave the annual Treasurer's report. / Two directors have resigned, Betty Stromberg and Bob Berndt. They are replaced with Esther Casari & Juanita Seymour. / No word on the grant award yet. / The current fund-raising balance is \$201,537.98.

BHPS UPDATE

Zoning Administrator Job Description – Supervisor Oberlin and ZA Shankleton prepared a ZA job description. Trustee Adams made a motion to approve it. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ZBA JOB DESCRIPTION

Iron County Visitor's Guide – Trustee Adams made a motion to do a 1/2 page ad for \$508.25 for the Bates Park at Sunset Lake and the Paint River Boat Launch. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

IC VISITOR GUIDE AD

NEW BUSINESS

Bates Twp 5 Year Rec Plan (2024-2028) – Public hearing, January 15, 2024, at 5:00 at the Bates Township Hall.

5 YEAR REC PLAN

Public Works Help Wanted – One application was received. The Board agreed that it would be best if the applicant did a one-day job shadow with PW Benson to get an idea of what the job entails. Oberlin will contact.

PW APPLICANTS

Township Property/Shady Lane – The Board reviewed a survey indicating there is an encroachment on township land. Oberlin spoke with the party and will follow-up with a formal letter with a May 15th deadline to remove the encroachment.

TWP PROPERTY ENCROACHMENT

MRWA – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve \$200 to the organization. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MRWA

Water Tank Inspections – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the St. Germain Sandblasting estimates of Otto Tank-\$2800 & Chicagon Mine Tank-\$9000. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

WATER TANK INSPECT.

Waterline Abandonment – Trustee Franzene made a motion to abandon the waterline on Vinnedge Rd that services two customers. Both are prepared to put in wells. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Treasurer Nelson will send out the letters.

VINNEGE RD WTLN ABANDONMENT

IC Emergency Svcs Personnel Ad- Trustee Franzene made a motion to contribute \$50 in lieu of ad to the WICFD. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

WICFD CONTRIBUTION

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson stated he is working on the EGLE annual survey. / **Sewer** – Sabel Mechanicals will be sending an estimate for impellers. / **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

- Margee Brennan asked if all projects have to be put out on bids. Oberlin said no.
- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding citation on his neighbor.
- Brett-ICECA gave a brief update.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- IC Emergency Svcs Personnel Ad

INVOICE APPROVAL

Treasure Nelson made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, 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 7:15pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

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 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Assessor Erhart; Larry Nelson, PC; 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

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes for the 2024-2028 Bates Rec Plan Public Hearing. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**REC PLAN
PUBLIC
HEARING
MINUTES**

Treasurer's report for the month of January 2024 was submitted. Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion 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.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 218,233.62
Sewer Fund:	\$ 89,965.15
Water Fund:	\$ 364,629.83
Road Fund:	\$ 85,374.18

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

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was present and gave her report. / 2024 Assessment notices will be mailed February 20th. / BOR will be in March. / County land studies affect township values. / Taxable values will go up 5%. / Veterans taxable and assessed values will be reflected on their tax bills but their "exemption" will not be affected.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton stated he received 2 permit applications and there are 3 additional applications that will be coming. / Little Finland continues to be a violation so the case will go to the courts. / He is issuing a violation notice on a home on US 2. / He is working on a ZA procedures manual that he hopes to present to the Board in the coming month. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING
UPDATE**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated the library usage has been high and they attribute it to the nice weather and people are out and about.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – The BHPS submitted a copy of their financial review letter from Judith L. Hemeleski, indicating that they have done a thorough and accurate job on their books. / The BHPS did not receive the grant for which they had hoped. There were 1000 applicants for up to \$60 million in funds. Total grant requests submitted were over a billion dollars. / They have other grant applications in the works. / Their goal is to still break ground in 2025.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

NEW BUSINESS

Highline / METRO permit approval – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the permit application subject to the conditions set forth by the Township Attorney. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**HIGHLINE /
METRO**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

2023-2024 Budget Amendments – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2023-2024 budget. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / A copy on file with the Clerk.

**2023-2024
BUDGET
AMEND**

2024-2025 Budget – The 2024-2025 budget is out for 30-day review.

**2024-2025
BUDGET**

Board Salary Resolutions- Supervisor Oberlin stated he did not want an increase. / Trustee Adams & Franzene stated they did not want an increase. / Clerk Benson-Stafford wanted to present the board with a resolution that was being drafted by the Attorney since Clerks across the state are overwhelmed with additional responsibilities because of Prop 2. / Treasurer Nelson did not want an increase. / There was discussion, and some audience members said the Board should take a cost-of-living increase at 3.5. The Assessor said the state is using 5% on assessments. Jim Andersen said the board should consider 4%. The matter is up for public review and action is tabled until the March meeting.

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOLUTION**

FOIA – Clerk Benson-Stafford informed the Board that she is working with the Attorney on updated FOIA procedures, prices, and forms.

FOIA

Department Wages – Trustee Franzene made a motion to increase the full-time position from \$28.80/hour to \$29.50/hour (\$.70/hr.) and the part time position from \$19.00/hour to \$19.50/hour (\$.50/hr.), effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**DEPT
WAGE**

Zoning Administer Salary- Trustee Adams made a motion to increase the ZA salary from \$700/month to \$800/month, effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZON. ADMIN
SALARY**

Assessor Salary – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to increase the Assessor salary at 5% COL from \$24000/year to \$25200/year, effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ASSESSOR
SALARY**

Election Inspectors Wage – Trustee Adams made a motion to increase the Election Inspector wage from \$15/hour to \$16/hour, effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ELECTION
INSPECTOR
WAGE**

Water Meter Reader – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to increase the water reader meter fee from \$.75/meter to \$1.00/meter, effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WATER
METER
READER
RATE**

Park Host Wage – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to increase the park host salary from \$600/month to \$700/month, effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PARK HOST
SALARY**

Water Rate Increase - Regarding water ordinance section 5.4 rates, a motion was made by Oberlin to increase the water rate from \$40/month to \$41/month up to 4000 gallons, an increase of \$1.00/month with overage gallons remaining the same; and an increase in the structure hook up fee from \$600 + boring expenses to \$900 + boring expenses; effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WATER RATE
INCREASE**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Sewer Rate Increase - Regarding sewer ordinance section 4 user charges, Oberlin made a motion to increase the sewer rate from \$29/month to \$31/month, an increase of \$2.00/month and an increase in the structure hook up fee from \$200 + boring expenses to \$400 + boring expenses: effective April 1, 2024. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER
RATE
INCREASE**

Park Pavilion Windbreaker – Trustee Franzene will meet with PW Benson and measure and plan out a solution for this that will not hinder the view of the lake from the pavilion.

**PARK
PAVILION**

Park Restrooms – Clerk Benson-Stafford suggested per a conversation with the Park Host that the showers be separated from the restrooms. Supervisor Oberlin will take measurements and come up with the specs to bid out the job.

**PARK
RESTROOMS**

Caspian Letter of Support – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to do a letter of support for the City of Caspian who is applying for funding from the USDOT RAISE Grant Program. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CASPIAN
LETTER OF
SUPPORT**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Closed for the season. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that there was someone interested in renting the school cafeteria/library area which would require Spring A Roo gymnastics to move to the gym. It was mentioned that SAR should be paying more rent if their equipment is there all of the time. Also, their equipment would require floor braces if moved to the gym. Further research is needed. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

-

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- IC Serving Our Country Ad – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the 3x3 ad at \$75. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**REPORTER
AD**

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, 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 8:40pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

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 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Michael Thibodeau, PC, Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Mike Golas, P&R; Residents. Assessor Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent.

ASSESSOR REPORT

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

BOR APPOINT

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

ZONING UPDATE

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

WIDL

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

BHPS UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

March 13, 2024

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS

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

**5 YEAR REC
PLAN**

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

**BOARD
SALARY
RESOLUTION**

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

**PARK
RESTROOM/
SHOWERS**

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

**PARK
PAVILION**

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

**ZBA/
SHAMION-
ATANASOFF**

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

**WATER
METER
PARTS LIST**

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

PC APPOINT

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

**PUBLIC
NOTICE
MEETINGS**

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

**TWP PROP
SALE
RESOLU-
TION**

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

**FINANCIAL
INSTIT.
RESOLU-
TION**

BATES TOWNSHIP

March 13, 2024

Page Three

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

BLIGHT

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

**SCHOOL
GLASS
ESTIMATE**

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

**ROADSIDE
CLEANUP**

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

GUEST COMMENTS

- Brett w/ICECA – April 16th 11:00

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

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 10, 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 & Trustee Adams were present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; Assessor Erhart; Michael Thibodeau, PC, Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS, Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Fay Frailing, BHPS; Bob Berndt, BHPS; WLUC TV 6; Residents. Trustee Franzene and ZA Shankleton were absent.

ATTENDEES

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meetings. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of March 2024 was submitted. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 293,103.44
Sewer Fund:	\$ 93,822.20
Water Fund:	\$ 369,333.25
Road Fund:	\$ 185,315.51

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford said due to lack of snowfall, the lake levels are on the low side. He expects the Drain Commissioner will be hearing about it.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve Van Damme dust control scheduled for June 17th, at \$22560; with 2 passes on the unpaved portion of Andreski Plat. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart said that the new process for Disabled Veterans is they will have one more year to apply for an exemption; after that they will stay on the roll like a PRE. / The method for a company to file their EMPP has changed. Only “initial” EMPP’s need to be submitted to the Assessor; if there is an existing EMPP, then the company can file directly with the State. / All required year end documents have been submitted to the state and county.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent. Oberlin read the report. March was a quiet month. He continues to answer questions, work on several non-compliance issues and continues to work on a comprehensive zoning procedures manual. / 4 permits issued to date. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that April 8-13th is National Library week. / There are 3 new computers in the children’s center; there are packages of seed available for free; 3 Authors will be visiting this summer.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Bob Berndt gave a presentation of the current condition of the hall foundation accompanied by a letter from Mountain Engineers and photographs. Berndt asked if the Township could do some mitigation of the water infiltration into the basement. / Sue Passamani stated that they can break the projects in “phases” if they do not have enough funds to do the project at once in its entirety. The project estimate is \$700,000. They expect to have \$215,000 by the end of 2024. Phase 1 would be about \$400,000 which would involve the new foundation and moving the building, holding off on the parking lot, commercial kitchen, siding, and windows. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to renew the Township/BHPS agreement through March 2025. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BHPS UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

April 10, 2024

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update (cont'd) – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the BHPS Scrap Iron collection days, May 4 & 5, 8:00-3:00 at the township hall. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**BHPS
FUNDRAISER**

Township Roadside Cleanup Day Reminder – Annual roadside cleanup day is Saturday, April 20th, 8:30-11:00, weather permitting. Meet at the township hall.

**ROADSIDE
CLEANUP**

NEW BUSINESS

ICECA Pledge – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the 2024 ICECA per capita pledge of \$2763. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ICECA
PLEDGE**

Road Millage Renewal / 2 Mills – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the proposed ballot language for Bates Road Repair millage renewal request.

Shall the present tax rate in Bates Township be renewed at 2 mills (\$2 per \$1000 of taxable value) for road improvements, repair, and maintenance for the years 2025 through 2028, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$145,573. (This is a RENEWAL of the Bates Township Road repair millage of 2 mills). Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ROAD
MILLAGE
RENEWAL**

Memorial Day Ceremony Budget – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve a \$400 budget for the Memorial Day continental breakfast. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

UPSET – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to pledge \$500 to UPSET. Supported by Supervisor Oberlin. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

UPSET

129th Annual UP Volunteer Fire Fighter Tournament – In support of the local West Iron County Volunteer Fire Dept. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to place a full-page colored ad in the program at an estimate of \$350. Supported by Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**WIC FIRE
DEPT
TOURNY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of 4 impellers and wear rings at a cost of \$9700 for the sewer lift stations. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Benson said the fishing pier and the boat launch are now available for the season. / **School** – Nothing new to report other than the safety glass estimate. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – The boat launch is now available for the season.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding violations. Oberlin told him to talk to ZA Shankleton.
- Jim Andersen asked about the status of the ZBA-Shamion-Atanasoff case and was told that it currently is in pending status. The Township has to wait on the court and the other counsel.
- Bob Berndt wanted to know how long the couch (blight) would remain in front of the hall.
- Ernie Schmidt asked about the blight process.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Clean Kill – The Board agreed to have the hall/shop added to their spring spray list.

BATES TOWNSHIP

April 10, 2024

Page Three

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

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 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

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

ATTENDEES

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

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

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ASSESSOR REPORT

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

ZONING UPDATE

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 8, 2024

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

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

WIDL

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

**BHPS
UPDATE**

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

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

NEW BUSINESS

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

**PROJECT
GRAD.**

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

**ZONING
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER**

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

**BSA/CREDIT
CARDS**

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

**BATES PARK
PROPERTY**

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

**VETEERANS
MEMORIAL**

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

**LIFT
STATION
REPAIR**

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

**2022-2023
AUDIT
SUMMARY**

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 8, 2024

Page Three

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

GUEST COMMENTS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 12, 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 PW Benson; Mike Golas, P&R; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents. County Comm Stafford, ZA Shankleton & Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024, Special Meeting regarding Nick Baumgartner’s request to purchase a piece of land within the Bates Park boundaries. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 282,986.28
Sewer Fund:	\$ 104,633.23
Water Fund:	\$ 386,091.42
Road Fund:	\$ 204,262.33

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford was absent.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin said that dust control was scheduled for June 17 & 18 to coincide with the country grading.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. / Supervisor read her report. She said the state audits PRE’s cyclically and they come with significant interest and penalties. Bates Township had no denials. / A copy of her report is on file with the clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent.

ZONING UPDATE

Zoning Enforcement Officer – Trustee Franzene gave an overview of the newly formed committee (Mike Franzene, Mike Golas, Jim Andersen, Brett Smithson) that are discussing ways to handle/eliminate blight. Consideration is being given to exploring the possibility of sharing enforcement officer with other townships, having a tire collection, creating a brochure listing the Vendors that haul away blight. They will continue to meet and present more information at the next board meeting.

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that there are no more packages of seed left. / There will be a Teen summer reading adventure. /Bonnie Wilgreen is starting a book club for adults.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave an update stating that they are continuing to do fundraisers and they have received anonymous donations as well as a \$2000 donation from Enbridge. May ending balance is \$219,294, exceeding the \$215,000 2024-year end projection.

BHPS UPDATE

BSA/ Township to Accept Credit Cards – Treasurer Nelson stated that the township can now accept credit card payments for utilities and taxes through the township website’s “online payment” portal.

BSA/CREDIT CARDS

NEW BUSINESS

Miners Bank Account – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the opening of an account at the Miners Bank for the purpose of using it as the credit card payments clearing account as was recommended by the Auditor. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MINERS-
NEW
ACCOUNT**

Letter of Support – City of Iron River – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to do a letter of support for the \$200,000 in MDOT grant funding that they are applying for to use on the Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SUPPORT
LETTER-
COIR**

Letter of Support – City of Caspian – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to do a letter of support for the \$3.97 million in USDOT grant funding that they are applying for to use on street improvement. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SUPPORT
LETTER-COC**

New Cemetery Road Expansion – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to get bids for blacktop on a new road in the cemetery for expansion purposes as well as a gravel road out to the Bates Amasa Rd. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY
ROAD**

Sewer Line Repair 4th & Rogers – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the repair of the sewer line that runs along 4th St and under Rogers Avenue to the lift station. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER LINE
REPAIR**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson will talk to the park hosts to see if they would be interested in weed whipping the fire hydrants. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said that he expects the sewer line on Sunset Lake Rd repair to happen within the month. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted clarification on the current status of the court case.
- Jim Andersen stated it should be mandatory for the ZA to be present at the monthly meeting.
- Linda Hauser & Jim Andersen promoted the Father’s Day weekend event.
- Brett Smithson stated that the ICECA has Fast Track grants that they can help businesses with.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Shamco Lumber Inc – Open House Flyer
- Iron County Fairbook Ad – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the \$81.40 ad. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**IC FAIRBK
AD**

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, 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 7:00pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

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 10, 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 PW Benson; Larry Nelson, PC; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents. County Comm Stafford, ZA Shankleton & Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 269,291.90
Sewer Fund:	\$ 98,805.98
Water Fund:	\$ 403,412.78
Road Fund:	\$ 204,470.51

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that due to the mild winter, the milfoil is bad at Chicaugon Lake. The County has doubled their donation to fight the milfoil. Also, there is a push for a DNR grant for a boat wash.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin said that dust control is done.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that it is best when people call ahead of time with their questions. It is better than trying to correct information after the fact. / July BOR is July 17th at 9:30. /A copy of her report is on file with the clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Appointment – There were two applicants. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to appoint Jonathan Bofinger. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / No action taken on an Enforcement officer at this time.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated it has been a busy summer, and the summer concerts are happening on Thursdays.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave a copy of the financials. June 2024 balance is \$223747.51. The rummage sale brought in \$5127.42 plus there are additional pre and post sales. There will be another scrap iron collection day at the hall on Saturday, September 7th. / Margee stated that the pop can collection is going well. Also, she would appreciate any volunteers that could help with heavy lifting.

BHPS UPDATE

New Cemetery Road Expansion – PW Benson stated there is nothing new to report. He still needs to reach out to get bids.

CEMETERY DRIVEWAY

NEW BUSINESS

Windsor Center Recreation Authority & Windsor Center Joint Public Bldg Bd – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the appointment of a Board Member had not happened since the Boards became effective in the beginning. The appointment was tabled until the August meeting to get clarity on the appointment schedule, because terms need to be staggered.

WINDSOR APPTS

BATES TOWNSHIP

July 10, 2024

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Primary Election / August 6th - Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that Saturday, July 27 is day one of 9 days of early in person voting and the polls will be open from 7:00am-3:00pm. Tuesday, August 6 the polls will be open from 7:00am-8:00pm.

**PRIMARY
ELECTION**

E Lake Emily Sign – PW Benson will talk with the MDOT about sign regulations. Since they have a sign up already, they may not allow a sign at the street. If they allow it, Benson will order it.

**E. LAKE
EMILY SIGN**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said they did a sewer line repair at Rogers & 4th. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Trustee Franzene said that he would like to hold a meeting to explore in further detail whether the township offices should be moved to the school or if it would be better to sell the school. He invited anyone that would like to be at the meeting to let him know. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen wanted an update on the siding violations and issuance of fines.
- Jim Andersen stated it should be mandatory for the ZA to be present at the monthly meeting.
- Someone asked if a new full-time worker had been hired.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Spring A Roo Gymnastics – Thank you photo.

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 Supervisor Oberlin. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

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 14, 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

ATTENDEES

Cty Comm Stafford; ZA Bofinger; Assr Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Fay Frailing, BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Brett Smithson, ICECA; Residents.

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

MINUTES

General Fund:	\$ 228,858.55
Sewer Fund:	\$ 79,659.28
Water Fund:	\$ 417,345.53
Road Fund:	\$ 181,930.78

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the Northwoods Animal Shelter was asking the county to put a millage request on the November ballot. It is illegal for the county to do that; however, they are willing to renegotiate the stipend that they currently budget to the shelter. / The boat launch at Chicagoan Lake is open again. / There were no nominating petitions turned in for District 2.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin there is nothing new to report. The ICRC has requested the 3-year road plan.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that the BOR met in July as required. / The Basso’s have filed a case to the tax tribunal. She has completed her required assessor training. /No paper report was submitted.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his first monthly report. He has been answering zoning questions. / He worked with Trustee Franzene on issuing a couple of new permits. / He has conducted a review of the township zoning policy. / 12 permits have been issued to date. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Enforcement Officer – No action taken to date.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated it has been a busy summer. Judy Reed donated \$1000 towards children’s book purchases. There are outdoor music concerts on Thursday at noon.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave the financial report. They have had many successful fundraisers. / All promo items are gone except stickers and magnets. / There current balance is \$232,000. Year end 2023 balance was \$201,538 and they hope to hit \$250,000 by 2024-year end. / Reminder there is a scrap iron fundraiser Saturday, September 7th.

BHPS UPDATE

New Cemetery Road Expansion – Nothing new to report.

CEMETERY DRIVEWAY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Windsor Center Recreation Authority & Windsor Center Joint Public Bldg Bd – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the appointment of a Board Member had not happened since the Boards became effective in the beginning. He will remain on the Boards until his term ends in November.

**WINDSOR
APPTMNTS**

Bates School Meeting Update – Trustee Franzene and Adams met with a group of residents to discuss the possibilities of the school disposition. The consensus is to keep the township offices at the hall and explore selling the school with deed restrictions. / We want to honor the renters' leases.

**BATES
SCHOOL**

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Waterline Agreement/Delinquent Water Accounts – Treasurer Nelson has no recourse on delinquent water accounts in the jurisdictions that Bates serves. Per waterline agreements, Bates is supposed to be able to send the bill to the municipalities for collection or payment. Clerk Benson-Stafford pointed out that the agreements were put in place years ago and the current boards at those jurisdictions may not know about them. Supervisor Oberlin with talk to the Iron River Township Supervisor about a delinquent issue.

**MUNICIPAL
WATERLINE
AGREEMENT**

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment – There were two applicants for the two vacant positions. Kyle Detterbeck did not want to continue on the ZBA. Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to reappoint Jim Dennis and newcomer Ron Frailing, both to three-year terms which will expire 7/2027. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA
APPOINTEES**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson is waiting on quotes for PRV pit inspections. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said the county will be cutting the lagoon again this year. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – See above. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen – Every Tuesday in town-5:00-7:00 car show.
- Jim Andersen – Wants to know the process for siding violations.
- Mike Golas – Sunset Lake milfoil update which was found a couple of days ago. Good news- caught early however a number of volunteers are needed to help remove it.
- Brett Smithson/ICECA – There are \$2500 startup grants available.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, 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, September 11, 2024.

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 11, 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; Assr Erhart; Mike Golas, P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Residents. Cty Comm Stafford & Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

The Treasurer's report for the month of August 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 203,174.80
Sewer Fund:	\$ 85,959.85
Water Fund:	\$ 372,836.60
Road Fund:	\$ 182,122.38

COUNTY COMM REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford was absent.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Comm is working on the 3-year road plan.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent but provided a report. / She completed the sales study for the 2025 assessment roll. / Her and ZA Bofinger had a meeting about procedures. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He issued 1 new permit. / Met with Assr Erhart to discuss procedures. / Answered zoning questions. / He did a site inspection of a previously issued permit and requested utilities to be remarked, survey and building location to be re-staked prior to the beginning of construction. He will be notified when the site is ready for his review. / 13 permits have been issued to date. / The next planning commission meeting is Monday, October 7th. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Enforcement Officer – Mike Franzene said that he is still in discussions with neighboring townships to see about a shared Enforcement Officer. He, Andersen and Golas will meet again.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that September 30th will be patron appreciation day. / September is Library Card sign up month. / The library offered free family portraits. 80 families participated. / September 27th is Armchair Travel to Sweden. / Tuesdays are Storytime and Wednesdays are Knitting/Crocheting Club.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee Brennan said that the Scrap Iron collection day was a success. / There are still upcoming fundraisers this year.

BHPS UPDATE

New Cemetery Road Expansion – Nothing new to report.

CEMETERY DRIVEWAY

Bates School Possible Sale – No final decision made. Nothing new to report.

BATES SCHOOL

NEW BUSINESS

Dorner – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the Dorner bid for the PRV inspections at an estimated cost of \$6276.00. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PRV INSPECTION

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

New Hire – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve full time position hire of Nick Karnack to the Public Works Dept., per terms of the agreed upon hiring package, effective Monday, September 16th. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Supervisor Oberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of water valve markers at an estimated cost of \$560. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said the county did cut the lagoon. No invoice received yet. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – See above. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas – Mike said there were about 22 people helping to remove the milfoil. They may have to hire professional help and get this done every year.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- WUPPDR – Materials Management Plan information

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

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 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Clerk Benson-Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were ZA Bofinger; Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Merrie Gillaspie, ZBA; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Residents. Supervisor Oberlin & Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to appoint Trustee Franzene as the meeting moderator, due to the absence of Supervisor Oberlin. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MEETING
MODERATOR**

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

MINUTES

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting for the audit presentation. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIT PRES
MINUTES**

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

General Fund:	\$ 188,093.61
Sewer Fund:	\$ 92,845.33
Water Fund:	\$ 392,028.10
Road Fund:	\$ 182,012.94

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that the 2025 County budget was available for public review at ironmi.org. The next county board meeting will be November 12.

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Clerk Benson-Stafford asked ICRC Schmidt for an update on the condition of a portion of W. Lake Emily Rd. Schmidt stated there is a beaver problem that is being addressed and that should resolve the problem.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent but provided a report. / She is working on the annual land value analysis, economic condition factor studies and annual review of field inspections. / In the past month she has visited 21 properties with current year and past permits. / At present she is working on 14 current year permits, 30 follow ups (partial completion), and 18 flagged parcels, (flagged by property owner request or assessor noted.) / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He attended the planning commission meeting on October 8th. / He referred a land division request to Assr Erhart. / Answered zoning questions. / 13 permits have been issued to date and 1 in process. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING
ADMIN APPT**

Enforcement Officer – Mike Franzene said his committee is working on an Enforcement officer job description. Clerk Benson-Stafford said there is a grant opportunity to have a review of the zoning ordinance. No action taken. Tabled until the next meeting.

**ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated that October is a very busy month. / There are many great programs available.

WIDL

BATES TOWNSHIP

October 9, 2024

Page Two

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani said the scrap iron collection day was a success bringing in \$3481. / 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. / Bigari Hardware is a corporate sponsor and will hold a “round up” during the month of November. / After the election they will be reaching out to their contractors to get updated bids. / There are still upcoming fundraisers this year.

**BHPS
UPDATE**

NEW BUSINESS

General Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that Early In Person voting will begin at the township hall on Saturday, October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd, from 7:00am-3:00pm. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5 and polls are open from 7:00am-8:00pm.

ELECTION

Chicaugon Mine Rd Waterline – Trustee Adams made a motion to proceed with the repair/replacement of the waterline at an estimated cost of \$25,000. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CHGN MINE
RD WTRLINE**

Shop Scanner/Printer – Trustee Adams made a motion to purchase a scanner/copier/printer for the shop at an estimated cost of \$500 plus installation. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SHOP
SCANNER/
PRINTER**

Side x Side Tires – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to purchase new tires at an estimated cost of \$731. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SIDEXSIDE
TIRES**

Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer Education – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the attendance of the Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer to continuing education, at a seminar cost of \$294 plus mileage. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TREAS
TRAINING**

Public Works Jackets – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to purchase replacement jackets for the public works employees at a cost of \$375. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PW JACKETS

Water Pump – Trustee Adams made a motion to purchase a water pump for the water/sewer departments at an estimated cost of \$1500. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PW
WATERPUMP**

Truck Tires – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase of new truck tires for the Ford from Wyatts at an estimated cost of \$1350 followed up by an inspection and alignment at Town & Country. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TRUCK
TIRES**

Pole Saw – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of a pole saw from Bigaris at an estimated cost of \$200. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

POLE SAW

Iron River Twp Waterline-Treasurer_Nelson made a motion to move an account to inactive with no charges until Mr. Papadopoulos can determine if the waterline is salvageable or if he will need to put in a well. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / This is a property in Iron River Twp and Bates supplies the water. The property was recently purchased by Mr. Papadopolous.

**IR TWP
WATERLINE**

BATES TOWNSHIP

October 9, 2024

Page Three

NEW HIRE – PW Benson introduced the new employee, Nick Karnack. Benson said he is excited to have him aboard and he comes with years of experience.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – PW Benson said that Oberstar came and did a repair on an earlier project. Benson said they also repaired another leak with no cost to the township. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Boat launch will be out of the lake by November 1st. / **School** – See above. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Boat Launch has been removed for the season.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Ernie Schmidt wanted an update on the school. Clerk Benson Stafford stated that the DIISD is not interested in purchasing it.
- Brett Smithson/ICECA – Stated they are ready to release the guidelines and application information for Round 2 of the Fast Track Grant Program.
- Tom Haight – Made some welcome suggestions such as, putting the planning commission meeting minutes on the website, giving a longer period of time for the notice of a public hearing regarding zoning and ordinance changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA

INVOICE APPROVAL

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: 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 7:20pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

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 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 1st.

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 7th 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.

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 11, 2024, at 6:00 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; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Avie Powell, BHPS; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

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

General Fund:	\$ 165,463.24
Sewer Fund:	\$ 97,256.48
Water Fund:	\$ 375,501.37
Road Fund:	\$ 182,390.32

FINANCIAL REPORT

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – District 2 is vacant. ICBC will be advertising the position.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA REPORT – Smithson stated the 2025 Visitor Guides are being worked on. / Shop small business Saturday had 24 businesses participate. / The Christmas Parade was a success with the most ever floats, 30. / Fast Track grants are underway.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. Her report stated that beginning January in 2025 once the Disabled Veterans Exemption is granted it will remain in effect without annual reapplication by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse. Since the exemption expires on December 31st, our Veterans will need to apply one more time to put the exemption on the roll for 2025. / BOR members need to be reappointed for a 2-year term. / She noted the Federal Poverty Guidelines. / She noted the Inflation Rate Multipliers. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He was contacted by Assessor Erhart regarding several structures that were suspected of being constructed without a zoning permit. He will be following up on these. He responded to an email regarding tiny homes. / He and Assr Erhart visited a property together to discuss potential land division. / 16 permits have been issued to date. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford presented his 3-year road plan with 2025 concentrating on gravel on various roads, dust control and additional prep work on Andreski Plat Rd prior to 2026 pavement. / He will be approaching the new Crystal Falls Township Supervisor seeking participation in Andreski Plat.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop- Nothing new to report. / Water – PW Benson stated they are working on a water leak on Lake 15 Rd. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – There is a backup of the little toilets on the south classrooms. They will be worked on the 23rd. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

HALL-SHOP- WATER- SEWER- CEMETERY- PARK- SCHOOL- PR BOAT LAUNCH

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Windsor Center – Supervisor Stafford gave an update stating that the new electronic programmable signage was up. The cost was part of the Friends of Windsor fundraising/donations. / The bocce courts are new. Connors is testing a new type of flooring. 20'x60'. The Windsor Board meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 6:00pm, open to the public.

**WINDSOR
CENTER**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani said the November fund raiser was a success with \$12600 donations and a \$10,000 anonymous match donation. / They expect to hear in March about the federal grant application that they worked on with Rep Bergman's office. / Their annual meeting will be Monday, January 13th at 9:00am. / At November end they had \$253,000 and they projected to have \$265,000 by year end.

BHPS

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams stated the library will be closed December 24, 25 & 26th. / There will be some interior painting and carpeting upgrades to the building. / New in January will be a new program where young parents can get help for children 5 years & younger.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blight & Enforcement Officer – Tabled until next meeting.

**BLIGHT-
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER**

MSHDA Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford applied for an "up to" \$50,000 MSHDA grant to be used for the required Master Plan update and additional funds for a zoning ordinance upgrade. Waiting to hear if we got the grant.

**MSHDA
GRANT**

Sunset Lake Eurasian Milfoil – Mike Golas gave an update. The township board will be reviewing participation at budget time.

**SUNSET
LAKE**

Board of Review Appointments – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to reappoint Jessica Thibodeau, Judy Girard, and Bonnie Puskala to two years terms on the Board of Review effective January 1, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2026. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

BOR APPTS

NEW BUSINESS

Truck Supply Purchase – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for the purchase of items for the truck. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TRUCK
SUPPLIES
PURCHASE**

Employee Christmas Bonus – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve \$250 for PW Benson (FT) and \$200 for Karnack (FT started September 16th) and Franzmeier (PT). Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
CHRISTMAS
BONUS**

Monthly Public Meeting Time Change – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to keep the monthly board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month but change the time from 6:00pm to 4:00pm effective January 2025. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC
MEETING
CHANGE**

Planning Commission Appointment – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to appoint Mike Golas to the Planning Commission to a 3-year term which ends on December 11, 2027, effective immediately. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**PLAN COMM
APPOINT-
MENT**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas asked if the January 6, 2025, Planning Commission meeting could be published in the newspaper. /The Clerk will publish the meeting.
- Mike Golas noted that the Public Works Dept jackets are nice, and they are good for safety reasons.
- Margee Brennan asked if there was anything new with the school. / Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- EGLE Campground Information – No permanent residency allowed.
- WUPPDR – Materials Management Meeting Notice

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, January 8, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____