

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

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

Supervisor Stafford called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Stafford, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack, ZA Bofinger; Assr Erhart; Mike Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Ron Frailing, ZBA/ICRC; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Fay Frailing, BHPS; Zach Hautala, ICECA; Seth Miatech, Wickwire; Residents.

**ATTENDEES**

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting with a correction of the BHPS 2024 YTD fundraising total to \$268069.83. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

The Treasurer's report for the month of January 2025 was submitted. Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 240,865.05
Sewer Fund:	\$ 113,705.83
Water Fund:	\$ 391,918.92
Road Fund:	\$ 274,937.35

**Invoice Approval**

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

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Bates Township resident Pete Judd is the new District 2 ICBC. Steve Fabry, Crystal Falls Fire Chief, has been appointed to the Iron County 911 Board.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

ICECA Report – Hautala stated that the new visitor guides have arrived. / There are two Fast Track grants cycles per year. / They approved 7 mini grants in the last cycle.

**ICECA**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart provided members with a "sample" of the assessment document. The assessments will be going to the printer at the end of the week. / She received all Disabled Veteran Exemption forms, all were granted. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He is working on zoning violations of structures without permits. / He has answered inquiries. / He attended the February 3<sup>rd</sup> planning commission meeting. / Year-to-date permits issued: 2. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING ADMIN APPT**

Road Projects- Waiting for bids. Golas asked about the N. Trybom culvert. PW Benson said the ICRC is waiting for a permit.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – PW Benson said they low pressure district chlorination was successful. / They repaired a 2" pipe leak by Trybom. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – There was a loss of water pressure, waiting on an assessment of the problem and a repair. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

Windsor Center – The Windsor Board is reviewing the rents. / They have done some boiler repairs which are less expensive than replacing the boilers.

**WINDSOR CTR**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated they are still waiting on their federal grant application. / They received a \$500 donation from an out of area person with community ties. / Kohler donated 2 handicap sinks and toilets. /Scrap Iron Collection is slated for May. It might be held at an alternate location.

**BHPS**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau stated they are working on a blight enforcement program and enforcement officer duties. **PC**

WIDL Report – Nothing new to report, the meeting is next week. **WIDL**

Agenda – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the agenda. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. **AGENDA**

Miskwaagamiwiziibi Park – Rich Sloat stated that the roof is growing well on the shelter. / The kayak launch is about 80% done. / The outhouse was built in sections so that it could be moved. / The Girl Scouts hung ribbons to make trails just before deer season. They may come again. **MISKWAAGA -MIIWIZIIBI PARK**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

MSHDA Grant – Trustee Franzene made a motion to accept the WUPPDR bid of \$15000 for the Master Plan update and to accept the Beckett Raeder bid of \$18000 to do the zoning ordinance update. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **MSHDA GRANT**

Enforcement Officer Job Description – There was discussion of a \$400/month salary for 6 hours/month. / This position will be created in conjunction with the zoning ordinance review finalization and the blight program implementation. **ENFORCE. OFFICER**

MDNRT Grant Application – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to have Wickwire move forward with a grant application for the Bates Park-Sunset Lake Boat Launch repair. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **BOAT LANDING GRANT APP**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Backhoe Thumb – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the purchase of a thumb for the backhoe, estimated cost of \$14378 and have Spicer Trucking haul the backhoe to the shop, estimated cost \$1100 there & back. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **BACKHOE THUMB**

Sewer L/S Impeller Repair – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the impeller repair (on site) for L-S #10/Rogers at an estimated cost of \$10003.70. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **SEWER L/S REPAIR**

UPSET – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve \$500 for UPSET services. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **UPSET**

2025-2026 – The 2025-2026 budget is available for 30 days of public review. **BUDGET**

March Board of Review - Organizational Meeting, Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM. BOR: Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-9:00PM - Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-3:00PM. **BOR**

Website Upgrade – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the website upgrade at an estimated cost of \$3755. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **WEBSITE**

Board Salary Resolutions – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion that the Supervisor, Treasurer & Clerk receive a 2.5% cost of living increase, and the Trustees receive a \$20/month increase. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Effective 4/1/2025. **BOARD SALARY RESOL.**

**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Department Wages – Trustee Adams made a motion to increase the full time employees (2) and part time employee (1) by \$2/hour; Zoning Administrator from \$800/month to \$825/month; Assessor from \$25200/year to \$25830/year; water meter reader from \$1/meter to \$1.25/meter; Board of Review from \$125/day to \$130/day; Karnack insurance stipend from \$320/month to \$350/month. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Effective 4/01/2025.

**DEPT WAGES**

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Rich Sloat commented on how Miskwaaagamiwiziibi Park came to be.
- Mike Golas asked for invoice highlights.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA
- WIC Fire Dept Event

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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