

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 4:20 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 Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Larry Nelson, PC; Pete Judd, ICBC; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Seth Miatech, Wickwire; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

The Treasurer's report for the month of February 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.

General Fund:	\$ 312,120.07
Sewer Fund:	\$ 117,014.85
Water Fund:	\$ 379,687.52
Road Fund:	\$ 343,659.86

FINANCIAL REPORT

Invoice Approval

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Pete Judd introduced himself. Nothing to report at this time.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA Report – Not present.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. / Her report indicates that BOR has concluded. They heard 17 petitions. /A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his monthly report. / He has noticed an increase in calls. / He had an inquiry about a possible subdivision on Kofmehl Rd. / He is working on zoning violations of structures without permits. / Year-to-date permits issued: 4. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN APPT

Planning Commission – Thibodeau stated that the planning commission will be seeking input on the update of the master plan through a link on the website as well as a postcard mailing with the link and a QR code.

PLANNING COMM

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford made a motion to do Chicagon Mine Rd (0.5 miles) and Wagner Lake Rd (0.2 miles) of grading, ditch work and culverts at \$251,000. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Stafford noted that Andreski Plat has a crack in the blacktop that was done in 2023. He has been talking with the ICRC about this.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – They repaired a leak on Section 16 Rd. / Sewer – Impellers are scheduled to be replaced on 3/24/2025. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – Sabel mechanical replaced valves and float switches. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

Windsor Center – The meeting will be on the 18th. Nothing new to report.

WINDSOR CTR

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated that Judy Hemeleski did an audit of the books; they are thorough and accurate. / Kohler donated \$2500 of toilets, sinks & faucets. / They continue to fundraise, and they received another \$1000 anonymous donation from a former resident. / The BHPS is looking for a Project Manager. / They will be having a mural contest. The mural should represent farming, logging, and mining. Entry deadline will be June 30, 2025, at 4:00pm.

BHPS

Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion that the Bates Hall Preservation Society be recognized as a committee that is fundraising for the renovations, repairs and betterment of the township hall and have been doing so since January 2021. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

WIDL – Trustee Adams stated that through private donations to the capital projects fund, new carpet and a new circulation desk will be installed soon. Again, these are private donations and not taxpayer funded. / They continue to be an excellent asset to the community with 3000 digital downloads, 23 new patron cards, the meeting room was used 49 times. / Calendar of Events are available in the township office.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MDNR 2025 Trust Fund Grant Application TR25-0069/ RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION WHEREAS, Bates Township supports the submission of an application titled, "Sunset Lake Township Park Boat Launch Improvements" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for development of boat launch improvements including the replacement of the existing boat launch with a properly sized boat launch at Sunset Lake Township Park; and, WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by Bates Township's 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan; and, WHEREAS, Bates Township is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$36,800.00 matching funds, in cash; and, NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bates Township hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application for \$55,100.00, and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment of \$36,800.00 (40%) of a total \$91,900.00 project cost, during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Supervisor Stafford made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0. Motion approved.

MDNR 2025 TRUST GRANT RESOLUTION

Board Salary Resolutions – The salary resolutions were adopted and supported at the February meeting. The increase was for a 2.5% cost of living increase for the Supervisor, Clerk & Treasurer and a \$20/month increase for the Trustees. There was no opposing public comment.

BOARD SALARY RESOLUTION

NEW BUSINESS

2025-2026 Notice of Public Meetings – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the Notice of Public Meetings. Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm, with the exception of May 14th is being moved to May 7th. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

2025-2026 MEETINGS

Township Property Sale Resolution – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to adopt the resolution giving the Township Board the authority to sell township property. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Financial Institution Deposit Resolution – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to adopt the 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 Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

DEPOSIT RESOLUTION

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Letters of Support – Trustee Adams made a motion to do a letter of support for the City of Caspian, City of Iron River, and Iron River Township for Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Applications for which they have applied. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**LTRS OF
SUPPORT**

Wellhead Protection Fence – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve a wellhead protection fence at an estimated cost of up to \$28000. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WELLHEAD
PROT FENCE**

PC/MP Survey Postcard Mailing– Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the postcard mailing for the Master Plan survey. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PC/MP
POSTCARD
MAILING**

Utility Billing Printer – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of a utility billing printer for the Treasurer at an estimated cost of \$1009 plus set up. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**UTILITY
BILLING
PRINTER**

GUEST COMMENTS

- David Koski asked how to reach the owner of 144 N. Trybom.
- Hunter Frederick is interested in doing a scrap car collection at the old mine. He will talk with Supervisor Stafford and Zoning Administrator Bofinger regarding the ordinance and possible variance requirements.
- Mike Golas wanted to acknowledge the great job that ZA Bofinger is doing.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA
- Iron County Sheriff Work Van

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:23pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____