

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 9, 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, Deputy Treasurer Franzene, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack, ZA Bofinger; Mike Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA/BHPS; Sue Passamani & Avie Powell, BHPS; Brett Smithson, ICECA; Seth Miatech, Wickwire; Residents. Treasurer Nelson, Assr Erhart & ICBC Judd were absent.

**ATTENDEES**

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

**MINUTES**

Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**BUDGET  
HEARING**

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

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

General Fund:       \$ 317,141.68  
Sewer Fund:         \$ 112,524.49  
Water Fund:         \$ 399,134.21  
Road Fund:          \$ 251,006.93

Invoice Approval

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

**INVOICE  
APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Judd was absent.

**COUNTY  
COMM  
REPORT**

ICECA Report – Brett said there will be a Lunch & Learn Event May 4<sup>th</sup>. / Business After Hours on April 30<sup>th</sup> will be at Youngs, CoVantage Cares Recipients will be recognized.

**ICECA**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**ASSESSOR  
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent.

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger gave his report. / He issued 2 new permits. / He is working with a potential scrap yard permit applicant, which is currently in violation. / He and Supervisor Stafford reviewed 65 zoning permits from 2023-2025 to verify the status of the projects. / Year-to-date permits issued: 5. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING  
ADMIN APPT**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau stated that approximately 180 surveys have been returned to date. The PC seeking input on the master plan update. Next meeting is May 5<sup>th</sup>. / Golas provided a draft of a public announcement about the blight project for the board’s review.

**PLANNING  
COMM**

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said dust control will be scheduled in June pending the road commissions schedule. / Looking at adding gravel to Forsberg Rd in spots. / Section 14 has “dips in the road” where the pipeline crosses. Enbridge no longer participates in road projects.

**ROAD  
PROJECTS**

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – They repaired waterline on Bates Amasa Rd. / Sewer – Waiting on a lift station rebuild quote. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – Nothing new to report. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

Windsor Center – The board recently revised the gym & hall rental rates. The armory is no longer a venue option.

**WINDSOR  
CTR**

WIDL – Nothing new to report. The meeting is next week.

**WIDL**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated they are waiting on a project manager proposal. / They met with the Board of Trustee’s Liaison’s (Stafford & Adams). / They have currently applied for a \$50,000 grant and are looking to apply for some smaller grants. / The scrap iron collection day will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They may have another one in the fall. / They currently are at \$273,000. / The board was given a copy of the BHPS “donation” form to be used for display items in the hall. / The board received a copy of a potential buildings layout if the Board were to approve an addition to the office.

BHPS

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Supervisor Statement – He is in talks with the COIR & Iron River Twp about a shared use of a radio reader to read the water meters & an e-waste collection day. / Clerk Benson-Stafford applied for a tire grant. If received a potential collection date is June 21<sup>st</sup>. / He is working with Trustee Franzene on the plans for a 20’x53’ lean to shop addition. / He is in discussions regarding a 30’x38’ addition to the office which could potentially save the BHPS \$100,000 on their hall project. / He had an initial video meeting with Beckett & Raeder on the zoning ordinance. Another call is on Friday, including the ZA Bofinger & Clerk Benson-Stafford. / He is the Member representative for the WUPPDR Material Management Planning Committee. The project is in preliminary stages, regarding recyclables, hazardous materials, e-waste, composting.

SUPERVISOR  
STATEMENT

**NEW BUSINESS**

Memorial Day Ceremony – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve a \$300 budget for the event. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MEMORIAL  
DAY  
CEREMONY

Park Opening – May 15<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting and per the Host’s schedule.

PARK  
OPENING

Clean Kill – Clerk Benson-Stafford signed up the shop/hall for annual spraying for flies/wasps. / There was discussion about getting the windows washed.

CLEAN KILL

BHPS Agreement – Trustee Adams made a motion to extend the BHPS-TWP agreement until March 31, 2026. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

BHPS  
AGREEMENT

IC Rec Assn Projector – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to acquire a used projector for the township for a cost of up to \$300. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PROJECTOR

Paint River Sign – The state’s repair crew misplaced the wooden Paint River sign. Trustee Franzene made a motion to have the ICRC replace the sign with one of the green signs at their cost. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

PAINT RIVER  
SIGN

Illegal Garbage Dumping – A resident & Trustee Adams picked up an intentional illegal garbage dumping. The township identified the party. There was discussion about having the person do community service along with a fine and/or turn them into the IC Sheriff’s office or DNR. Trustee Franzene made a motion to have them pay \$150. Supported by Supervisor Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

ILLEGAL  
GARBAGE  
DUMPING

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Mike Golas talked about the Sunset Lake Milfoil project and the cost. He asked about a boat wash attendant. He also gave credit to numerous volunteers.
- Trustee Adams asked about the roadside cleanup. Last year only 5 people showed up, 4 board members and 1 resident: no designated date this year. Residents can clean up the roadside in their area and the township will provide the garbage bags, vests and dumping fees.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Adams made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_