

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 11, 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, Assr Erhart; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Residents. ZA Bofinger & 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 accept the May 2025 Treasurers report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL
REPORT

General Fund: \$ 304,944.53
Sewer Fund: \$ 110,920.27
Water Fund: \$ 407,944.18
Road Fund: \$ 268,971.64

Invoice Approval

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

INVOICE
APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Judd was absent.

COUNTY
COMM
REPORT

ICECA Report – No present at meeting.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that Bates passed the AMAR audit 100%. She continues to work with Jonathan on property information.

ASSESSOR
REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger was absent. / 1.25 mil home is being built on Lake St. Catherine. / A recent ZBA variance on Midsummer Drive was approved. / Year-to-date permits issued: 11. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING
ADMIN
REPORT

Planning Commission – Thibodeau there was a PC meeting on June 2. / The PC is reviewing the first draft of the master plan. / The next meeting is August 4, 2025.

PLANNING
COMM

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said dust control will be scheduled in June pending the road commissions schedule. / The Chgn Mine & Wagner Lake Road projects are completed. / The bid received on Forsberg Rd was \$85,000. No action taken.

ROAD
PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – Nick Karnack received his water certification. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery– Open for the season. / Park – Open for the season. / School – Nothing new to report. / Paint River Boat Launch – Open for the season.

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

WIDL – Adams stated the construction has begun on the front desk. / There will be music/activity in the outdoor bandshell on Thursdays 12-1pm. / Monthly calendar of activities are available.

WIDL

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue gave well wishes to Margee who underwent a kidney transplant. / They received a \$1000 donation for a new laptop. / Jul 3 & 5 is the annual rummage sale at the hall. / They are waiting to hear the results of a \$50,000 and \$300,000 grant applications. / End of May total was \$276,851.00, waiting on final amount of scrap iron day.

BHPS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Supervisor Statement – He congratulated Assessor Erhart on passing the State of Michigan audit and Nick Karnack on becoming certified in water systems. / The master plan and zoning ordinance projects are underway. Special thanks to the planning commission, the zoning administrator for their hard work on these projects. / Bates nor the City of Iron River received the Egle tire grant. We may consider a date later this fall and do something on our own. / He will be meeting with Brad, ICRC to further discuss Andreski Plat and the cost to complete.

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

Shop Addition – Stafford stated the project is underway with the floor concrete being poured and the north wall under construction.

**SHOP
ADDITION**

Water Meter Radio Read System – The radios have been ordered.

**WATER
RADIO READ**

Wellhead Protection – Stafford said that he signed off on the agreement for the fencing which will be done sometime in July.

**WELLHEAD
PROTECTION**

NEW BUSINESS

Windsor Agreement Amendment – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the resolution to amend the original language to the agreement of the Joint Public Building Restoration Administrative Board. (New language below). Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Resolution:

**WINDSOR
RESOLU-
TION**

WHEREAS the **TOWNSHIPS OF BATES, IRON RIVER AND STAMBAUGH**, the **CITY OF IRON RIVER** and **THE WEST IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** in November and December 2009 entered into an Agreement of a Joint Public Building Restoration Administrative Board.

WHEREAS the **WEST IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** in a correspondence dated July 1, 2024, has elected to terminate its participation in the Joint Public Building Restoration Administrative Board commencing July 1, 2025.

WHEREFOR EFFECTIVE July 1, 2025, paragraph 15 (c) is amended and to read as follows:

(c) In order to initially fund the board, during the first year of operation, The Township of Iron River, The Township of Stambaugh, The Township of Bates, and the City of Iron River shall each pay \$5,000 and the West Iron County School District will pay \$45,000. The initial funding amount from each public agency shall be due and payable quarterly based on need. The first payment in total will be \$10,000 proportionally from all agencies. Proportional funding will be 8.5% for each municipality, 66% school district. Actual expenses incurred less revenue generated-net cost to be funded by each public agency proportionally. Expenses incurred by the school district from July 1, 2009, until the agreement is approved will be reimbursed by the board proportionally as stated above. Other than the initial contribution, no future capital contribution shall be required of any member.

All remaining portions of the Joint Public Building Restoration Administrative Board Agreement, other than as hereafter specifically amended shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties execute this Agreement pursuant to the authority of resolution duly adopted by their governing bodies.

Iron County Fair Book Ad – Trustee Franzene made a motion to approve the \$84 ad. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**IC
FAIRBOOK
AD**

Code Enforcement – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve ZA Bofinger as the temporary Code Enforcement office at a monthly salary of \$400 plus mileage. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CODE
ENFORCE.
OFFICER**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Nelson Field Lighting – Craig Richardson, on behalf of the WIC Booster Club made a request for the Township’s participation in the Nelson Field football field and tennis court lighting upgrade. The cost of the upgrade is \$122,000. \$85,000 has been received in private and distant donors. The City of Iron River has contributed \$23,000. Bids will be solicited this summer. The Board questioned what other townships have contributed. No action taken, tabled until the next meeting.

**NELSON
FIELD
LIGHTING**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas gave an update on the Sunset Lake Milfoil remediation process.
- Sue Passamani commended the township on the Memorial Day program and the appearance of the cemetery.
- Jim Andersen invited all to the Father’s Day car show and events.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:17pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____