

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, July 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, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Trustee Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack, ZA Bofinger; ICBC Judd; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Residents. Assr Erhart was 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 June 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: \$ 275,824.36
Sewer Fund: \$ 111,479.17
Water Fund: \$ 405,341.09
Road Fund: \$ 275,331.86

Invoice Approval

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

**INVOICE
APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Commissioner Judd stated the 1st Qtr of 2025 Medicare was profitable. / There was an RFP for dispatch-911; the county is looking at options. Staffing is challenging, dispatchers are seeking an increase in wages, millage funds only cover 60% of the cost.

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

ICECA Report – Brett stated that the construction for the Crystal Falls housing project will begin next spring. / Iron River City Hall sale is at a standstill. / Fast Track grants are closed, and they are currently reviewing 6 applications. / Apple Blossom Trail by the Chamber will get a renovation beginning July 21st through September.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger has been meeting with new applicants. / Working with Laura on certain properties. / Answered questions for a tower upgrade for T Mobile. / Working on violations. / Year-to-date permits issued: 15. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING
ADMIN
REPORT**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau was absent. / The next meeting is August 4, 2025.

**PLANNING
COMM**

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said dust control will be done around June 23rd. The Vendors equipment broke down. Due to the weather and time of season the township will only get one truck load. / The cost to due Andreski Plat is between \$275,000-\$300,000. Still trying to get Crystal Falls Township to participate.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – Radio’s arrived on August 7th. Setup will be scheduled for a future date. / Sewer – Rogers Lift station renovation will be done in September. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report. / Park – Franzene said that he talked with some campers that said that they had the best experience camping at the park. It was clean and the hosts were nice. / School – Nothing new to report. / Paint River Boat Launch – Nothing new to report.

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

Windsor Agreement Amendment – Nothing new to report. Meeting is next week.

**WINDSOR
CTR**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue stated the estimated cost of Phase I is \$450,000 and Phase II is \$150,000. / They did not get the \$50,000 or \$10,000 grants that they applied for, but they received positive information on the potential federal grant of \$250,000 that Bergman is working on. / Before the rummage sale they had \$278,000 now they are at \$281,713.06 and expect to reach \$300,000 by year end. / Treasurer's Report through 6/30/2025 was provided.

BHPS

WIDL – Adams had July activity calendars available. / Thursday lunch times are live presentations. / Lindwall Brother aka From Gold to Green movie producers will be available for a Q&A. / The front desk renovation is complete.

WIDL

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated that the shop addition is in progress. / The wellhead fence will be installed shortly. / The radio readers for the water meters have arrived. / The annual audit field work will begin on August 14th. / He has been working on the ordinance update and code enforcement.

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

NEW BUSINESS

Sunset Lake Milfoil Update / Golas - The Assn has purchased banners & maps. / They are identifying new infestations. The milfoil is spreading along the east end. / The strategy is to try and prevent major infestations. / It will take maybe the next 3 years to slow the spread. / They will be asking for monetary contribution from the township. / Asking about serious boat wash discipline. / They continue to dive and hand pull. / There will be more information at the coming meetings.

**SUNSET
LAKE
MILFOIL
UPDATE**

Nelson Field Lighting – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to contribute \$300 to the project. Motion died for lack of support.

**NELSON
FIELD
LIGHTING**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas asked about getting a traffic study on Sunset Lake Rd. - Stafford would look into it.
- Jim Andersen asked if there was a vacancy on the ZBA. - The Board has received no letter of resignation.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report
- Miskwaagaamiwiziibi Enhancement Updates / ICWC Oversight Committee

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, August 13, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____