

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, September 10, 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; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; ICBC Judd; Residents. Assr Erhart, ZA Bofinger 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

Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the August 2025 Treasurers report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

General Fund: \$ 197,341.00
Sewer Fund: \$ 105,481.21
Water Fund: \$ 243,669.34
Road Fund: \$ 173,778.30

Invoice Approval

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

**INVOICE
APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd stated that Darren/DIHD is retiring in the spring of 2026. Interim candidate is Wade Dishaw. / Audit results are in for the ICRC & Medicare. / ICBC voted to keep 911 local.

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

ICECA Report – Absent.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Absent. Supervisor Stafford gave her report. / She will be reviewing properties that were issued permits. / She will be working on an analysis of sales to evaluate their effect on assessed values in the township.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – Absent. Supervisor Stafford gave an overview of the report. / He is working violations: structure on US2 built without a permit; shed at a residence in Rogers Location needs review for compliance; Sunset Lake fence that is out of compliance; fence on Reiman Rd constructed without a permit. / Year-to-date permits issued: 18. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING
ADMIN
REPORT**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau was absent. Supervisor Stafford said the next meeting is Monday, September 16th at 6:00pm at the Windsor Center.

**PLANNING
COMM**

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said the speed signs have been delivered. Placement is to be determined.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop– Nothing new to report. / Water – All radios have been installed, and the test run was successful. Actual read will be in two weeks. / **Sewer** – Annual lagoon samples will be taken. / Cemetery – Clerk Benson-Stafford will get the cemetery decoration removal ad published. / Park – Raft was removed on 9/8. / School – Nothing new to report. / Paint River Boat Launch – Raft will come out the end of September.

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

Windsor Agreement Amendment – Stafford said the Board is working on Bylaws. / Jon Ahlberg is replacing Gene Pellizzaro has the Stambaugh Twp Rep./ 2 maintenance employees are being moved to the building account from the recreation account.

**WINDSOR
CTR**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue stated they had a successful Dina Mia fundraiser. / November is the annual membership drive. / Rummage sale fundraiser has raised approx. \$4000. Some items are still selling. / Interest from three CD’s will be coming in October. / They will be having a 50/50 raffle. / They are still waiting to hear about the federal grant.

BHPS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

WIDL – Trustee Adams said that Iron River Twp board member spot is open. / Maltese Falcon movie will be shown. / Patron Appreciation Day is September 30th. / September activity calendars available.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated the shop addition is complete. It came in at about \$500 over budget. Pleased with the result.

SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT

Sunset Lake Milfoil Update / Golas – Golas stated that November 1st they hope to have a fact-based list of options. / They have considered a “Friends of Sunset Lake organization and/or a special assessment district.

SUNSET
LAKE
MILFOIL
UPDATE

Park Picnic Tables – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of 8 picnic tables at a cost of \$2950. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, no; Stafford, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Motion carried.

PICNIC
TABLES

MDDNR Boat Launch Grant – Supervisor Stafford said that our preliminary points are 150 out of 500. We will be submitting additional information. Final scoring will be available in November.

MDNR
GRANT

NEW BUSINESS

GIS Map Update – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the GIS switch from Mango maps to ESRI which will also include our utility maps at an estimated cost of \$588 migration fee and \$950 annual fee. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

GIS MAP

Larson Park / Meter Pit – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to put in a meter pit for Larson Park. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

LARSON
PARK

Resident Waterline Break – Treasurer Nelson received a resident request for an adjustment to a water bill due to a broken waterline that had been leaking for a few months. The ordinance states it is the homeowner’s responsibility to monitor leaks and broken waterlines on their property. An adjustment approval could set a precedent for other requests. Supervisor Stafford made a motion to not approve the adjustment. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, no; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Motion carried.

RESIDENT
WATER LEAK

Boat Landing Trees – The resident next to the boat landing received an insurance cancellation due to the overgrowth of the trees near his house. The board will have Pisoni Surveying determine who owns the trees.

BOAT
LANDING
TREES

Newman Signs Inc. – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of “No Thru Traffic Street barriers” at an estimated cost of \$430. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEWMAN
SIGNS

GUEST COMMENTS

- Larry Nelson asked if the lift station generators worked during the power outage. Response: Yes, they did-very nicely.
- Ernie Schmidt asked if there would be a public hearing regarding the sale of the school if an offer is received. Response: Yes, there will be.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.