

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, October 8, 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; ZA Bofinger; ICBC Judd; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, PC/P&R; Residents.

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 Franzene made a motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025, special meeting for the audit presentation. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

General Fund: \$ 182,480.61
Sewer Fund: \$ 111,332.70
Water Fund: \$ 259,084.13
Road Fund: \$ 164,491.85

**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; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**INVOICE
APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd stated that the ICBC voted to keep 911 local at this time. / State has to approve the appointment of a new health officer. / ICBC meets next week.

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

ICECA Report – Brett stated the Crystal Falls housing project construction will begin in the spring in 2026. / There is a new roof on the old Alpha school and next they will be working on the gym floor. / Iron River City hopes to move to it’s new building by the year end, no plans for the old city hall yet. / Harvest & Haunt had about 2000-2500 attendees and 43 booths. / BAH will be at the Alpha Brewery on 10/29. / Apple Blossom Board work project is complete. / 2026 Visitor guide ads will be solicited in December.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assr Erhart stated she loves the new GIS (ESRI). / In 2015 there were problems with assessing units’ compliance. The state had the county’s get an assessor to help municipalities that failed compliance. The state is allowing municipalities to opt out. Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Iron County to Opt Out of a Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2026, until agreement is revoked by commissioners and majority of assessing units; PA12 of 2024. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger responded to several inquiries; received a request for a variance for a fence; received a permit application for construction that was done without a permit; waiting for an application on another fence that was built without a permit. / Year-to-date permits issued: 19. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk. / Supervisor Stafford made a motion to have Clerk Benson-Stafford publish an ad regarding zoning ordinance/permitting/blight. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ZONING
ADMIN
REPORT**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau was absent. Supervisor Stafford the PC continues to meet and work on the ordinance and master plan. / The next meeting will be November 3, at the township hall.

**PLANNING
COMM**

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said the speed signs will be placed. / He spoke with Midsummer Dr residents and encouraged them to talk to the CF Twp residents. They will have to talk to their township board to encourage participation in the Andreski plat road project.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Hall- Nothing new to report. / Shop- Nothing new to report. / Water – The water read first run was successful. / Sewer – Lagoon samples were taken. Xylem came and did the prevention maintenance on the lift stations; some issues were found. / Cemetery – Closed for the season. / Park – Closed for the season. / School – The county work van painted the curbing on the “u” drive. / Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

Windsor Agreement Amendment – Stafford said nothing new to report. Meeting is next week.

WINDSOR
CTR

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee stated that November is membership drive month. / Nov 1-7 is Bigari Hardware Round Up / Interest rate on CD’s has gone down. / They are still waiting to hear about the federal grant.

BHPS

WIDL – Trustee Adams said the meeting is next week.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated the additional information has been submitted on the DNR boat launch grant. Decision will come in November. / The GIS is being updated with zoning, water & sewer. / Discussion about large pile of garbage at the corner of US2 and Sunset Lk Rd.

SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT

Sunset Lake Milfoil Update / Golas – Golas stated that November 1st they hope to have a fact-based list of options. / About 50% of property owners are in the association. / More information to come.

SUNSET
LAKE
MILFOIL
UPDATE

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 trees are on the township property. Supervisor Stafford made a motion to accept the lesser bid from MRS Tree Service of \$3800. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / The other bid was Limbwalkers Tree Service at \$7950.

BOAT
LANDING
TREES

NEW BUSINESS

GIS Sewer Map – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the mapping of the sewer system and adding it to the GIS map; GEI will do this at a cost of \$5000. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

GIS SEWER
MAPPING

Sewer Lift Station Repair – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the Sabel Mechanical bids to repair the 7.5hp pump at \$4678.36 and the rebuild the 25 hp pump at \$16597.40. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

SEWER LIFT
STATION
REPAIRS

GUEST COMMENTS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____