

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, November 12, 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; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund: \$ 176,634.54
Sewer Fund: \$ 114,520.56
Water Fund: \$ 275,281.13
Road Fund: \$ 164,234.67

Invoice Approval

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Absent.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA Report – Brett stated the Shop Local is Saturday, November 29. /BAH is December 2nd at the Iron County Museum. / Fast Track Grants are open and will close November 30th. / Iron County Visitor guide will be out in mid-January with the ad deadline in December.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – No report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger issued three new zoning permits in October. / The ZBA heard a fence variance request on East Park Drive on October 28th that was granted. / Working with a Lake on Three resident regarding a demo & rebuild. / Met with property owners on Trybom Rd regarding a demo & rebuild. / Responding to blight inquiries. / Year-to-date permits issued: 23. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Planning Commission – Thibodeau was absent. Supervisor Stafford said the November 3rd meeting was cancelled due to one of the Consultants having a family emergency; meeting is rescheduled for December 1st. There will be a meeting on November 19th at the township hall to work on the master plan language.

PLANNING COMM

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said Crystal Falls Township will not participate in 2026 on the Andreski Plat project. They are going to focus on gravel projects. / Stafford will adjust the 2026 road plan to focus on Little Finland & Forsberg Rds gravel projects and the 1st block of Rogers Avenue blacktop project. / The speed signs are in place and are receiving positive comments.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report.

Shop– Nothing new to report.

Water – The Larson Park water meter pit has been installed. / A water leak was repaired by the corner of US2 & Reiman Rd. / Vinnedge Rd waterline abandonment – There was a discussion about the one Owner hasn't been able to get in a well. Abandonment deadline is February 2026.

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

Sewer – GIS mapping is in progress.

Cemetery – Closed for the season.

Park – Closed for the season & bathrooms are off.

School – Nothing new to report.

Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Windsor Agreement Amendment – Stafford said the board is working on written rent policies and a memorandum of understanding to go with the rent agreements.

**WINDSOR
CTR**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Margee stated that November is membership drive month. / Bigari Hardware Round up was \$1000 thanks to the store rounding up. / December 6th is a raffle at Windsor Craft Day. / Dale Holm is now a new Director. / Avie Powell has stepped down. / Jane Adams has volunteered to pick up and turn in the cans for deposit. / BHPS is looking for a place to store rummage sale items. / January 12th is their annual meeting. / YTD is \$295661.00/ They are still waiting to hear about the federal grant.

BHPS

WIDL – Trustee Adams said the November calendar is available. / Tech Tuesdays you can schedule a 30-minute appointment for help with computers, etc. / Reading Tree is up. / ICECA is sponsoring a Family Fun Photobooth. / Chili feed is coming up.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated the projector purchased from RAIC was defective, so we received a \$200 refund. Stafford will purchase a substitute not to exceed \$200. / The person that broke into the hall pleaded no contest and will be sentenced 11/24/2025. His restitution to the township is \$1100.49. / Nothing new to report on the MIDNR grant status for the boat launch / Highline has been soliciting customers; contractors expect it to be done around Thanksgiving.

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

NEW BUSINESS

Metal Detector – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the purchase of a metal detector from Batco at a price of \$892. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. (Water & Sewer Fund split.)

**METAL
DETECTOR**

BW MicroClip XL Gas Detector – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase of this detector at a price of \$812. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. (Sewer Fund)

**GAS
DETECTOR**

Turf Defender – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of the turf saver at a price of \$298.70. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TURF
DEFENDER**

Security Camera – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of security camera for the election Dropbox as required by the State of Michigan. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SECURITY
CAMERA**

PTO-Benson – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve 1 week buyout of PTO for Employee Benson. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

PTO

ICECA Ad – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the IC Visitor Guide Ad same as last year at a cost of \$508.25. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ICECA AD

School / Energy Control – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the estimate to clean and inspect of the boilers at the school from Energy Control at a cost of \$1351. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SCHOOL
BOILERS**

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Letter of Support / Wagner Creek Culvert – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to do a letter of support for this project as they seek a MIDNR Fisheries Habitat Grant. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report
- Jasmine Heights RC Park

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:07pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____