

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, December 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; ZA Bofinger; County Comm Judd; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Michael Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC & PR; 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 Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the November 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:	\$ 143,435.78
Sewer Fund:	\$ 89,207.25
Water Fund:	\$ 283,866.28
Road Fund:	\$ 164,402.05

**Invoice Approval**

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

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

County Commissioner Report – Iron Baraga has been dropped as partner for soil conservation. / Mandated by the state to recycle by 2032. WUPPDR is working on a plan.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

ICECA Report – Brett stated the Shop Local had 30 businesses participate and was a success. / Fast Track grant is wrapped up. / IC Visitor guide should be out in mid-January. / Christmas in Lights was well attended.

**ICECA**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Assessor Report – Erhart was absent. Supervisor Stafford read her report. BOR was held December 12<sup>th</sup>; there were 9 corrections made. / DVE as of 1/1/2025 once granted a Veteran no longer needs to reapply. / Federal Poverty Guidelines were out.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Federal Poverty Guidelines - A Treasurer Nelson made motion to adopt the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES**

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger rec'd a partial permit application and a completed application. / Working with permit violations on Section 3 Rd, Gendzwill Drive and East Lake Emily Rd. / Visited a home on Bates Amasa Rd regarding a towing company being operated out of the home. / Attempted visits to three other properties regarding zoning violations. / Year-to-date permits issued: 23 for 2025. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING ADMIN REPORT**

Planning Commission – Thibodeau stated there was a meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> with WUPPDR and Becket Raeder people at the hall. / The grant for these services expires in November 2026.

**PLANNING COMM**

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford stated that the ICRC bid requests will go out after January 1<sup>st</sup>. / The speed signs will be removed for the winter.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

Hall- Nothing new to report.

Shop– Nothing new to report.

Water – A main line break at Lake 15 Rd was repaired. / A break at 1<sup>st</sup> St & Bates Gaastra Rd was repaired.

Sewer – Nothing new to report.

Cemetery – Closed for the season.

Park – Closed for the season.

School – The Church has moved out.

Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)**

Windsor Center– Stafford said the board will be meeting Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>.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 – Sue Passamani stated they were excited to receive a \$250,000 federal grant. / YTD funds are \$312,666.30 / The job will be bid out; soil samples are required; BHPS must spend the first \$250,000. / January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 is the annual meeting.

**BHPS**

WIDL – Trustee Adams said there were significant donations to purchase new furniture and donations are earmarked; the library has a large laminator now; December 13<sup>th</sup> is adult coffee & crafts; Closed December 24, 25, 26, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WIDL**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated that Highline will take a break until the new year. / The person charged with B & E of the hall was sentenced to 9 months' probation and must pay restitution. / He continues to attend the meetings held by WUPPDR on materials management. / The Township will have to raise sewer rates in 2026.

**SUPERVISOR  
STATEMENT**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Employee Christmas Bonus – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve \$300 for the 2 full time workers and \$250 for 1 part time worker. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. NOTE: A previous motion by Stafford to approve \$275 and \$225 failed the motion.

**EMPLOYEE  
BONUS**

Mini Excavator & Trailer Purchase – Trustee Adams made a motion to purchase a mini excavator and trailer in partnership with Stambaugh & Iron River Townships. The unit and expenses will be shared, an agreement executed between the three, and reserved by calendar. Estimated cost of \$35000. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**3 – TWPS  
EXCAVATOR  
TRAILER**

Aspire Networks 1 LLC dba Highline – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to enter into a Right of Way Agreement only on the one specific parcel. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**HIGHLINE**

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Golas stated that there was a milfoil meeting at the hall and they are beginning the process of informing the property owners of their options. / Information from the meeting was provided to the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_