

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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; Michael Thibodeau, PC; Mike Golas, PC & PR; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents. Assr Erhart & Comm Judd 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 December 2025 Treasurers report. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 183,159.76
Sewer Fund:	\$ 84,890.99
Water Fund:	\$ 285,755.11
Road Fund:	\$ 197,341.32

Invoice Approval

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Absent.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA Report – Brett stated there were 3 Fast Track Grant Winners (amts \$1000-\$1500). / Visitors guide goes to print 1/15/2026. / ICECA put out a survey to its members, please participate.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Absent.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger stated December was a slower month. / He continues to meet with property owners & answer questions. / He is working on at least 7 violations of structures without permits. / Working with a Noren Rd owner that wants to tear down and build a bigger structure. / Year-to-date permits issued: 23 for 2025. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Planning Commission – The PC met January 5th and are closer to a final draft of the master plan. / GIS mapping will soon have a zoning layer.

PLANNING COMM

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford stated that the ICRC bid requests will go out this month.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report.

Shop– Nothing new to report.

Water – A 2" line leak was repaired on Nelson Road.

Sewer – Repaired a hose on a lift station.

Cemetery – Closed for the season.

Park – Closed for the season.

School – Nothing new to report.

Paint River Boat Launch – Closed for the season.

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

Windsor Center– Stafford said the board there are discussions about other municipalities that do not have a millage paying donations. / New rent policies are now in place.

WINDSOR CTR

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated the January 14th balance is \$316247.00. / They applied for an Enbridge grant. / Ronald Stafford is a new director. / The rummage sale will be on July 2 and July 3rd at the Bates School. / They have 247 brick orders, and they are ongoing. / They provided the financials.

BHPS

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

WIDL – Trustee Adams said there are two new tutoring booths and a family workstation. / There are now dementia care kits available and can be checked out. / On January 23rd at 10:00 there will be a class on how to spot AI generated content and spot a scam.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Statement – Stafford stated that Highline is done laying conduit for the winter and they will just be doing some splicing. / He is considering getting a harvest value on the acreage at the park and between the wellhouse and tank. / He prepared a tax explanation sheet as a handout. / The mini excavator will be delivered February. (This is a partnership purchase between Bates, Iron River, and Stambaugh Twps.)

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

WUPPDR Recycling Survey – These are available to the public. Please participate.

**WUPPDR
SURVEY**

Sunset Lake Milfoil – Golas stated that the lake association is exploring possibilities such as fundraising, donations, whether they are going to need "property owner vote for a special assessment." / They will want to know financially what the township will contribute. / Supervisor Stafford will meet with the lake association board later in the month. / Dyan Blas requested the board's permission to hold a fundraising fishing tournament on 2/28/2026. No permit is necessary, the board approved.

**SUNSET
LAKE
MILFOIL**

NEW BUSINESS

Township Board Workshop – The boards workshop date was set for Thursday, January 29th at 3:00pm.

**TWP BOARD
WORKSHOP**

Snowblower and Ramps – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the purchase of a snowblower and ramps to be used to keep the hydrants plowed out. Marios Outdoor estimated cost of \$1549 to ramps at \$250. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SNOWBLOW
ER & RAMPS**

Sewer Laterals / GIS Mapping – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the work at an estimated cost of \$1800. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER
LATERALS –
GIS MAP**

GUEST COMMENTS

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CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report
- Iron County Road Commission Schedule of 2026 Meetings
- WIC Fire Dept Annual Event

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, February 11, 2026.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____