

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, May 13, 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 & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson & Karnack; ZA Bofinger; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, PC & PR; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Sue Passamani, BHPS; IC Comm Judd; 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 April 2026 Treasurers report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund: \$ 282,135.24
Sewer Fund: \$ 73,221.27
Water Fund: \$ 297,839.92
Road Fund: \$ 225,064.39

Invoice Approval

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

INVOICE APPROVAL

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd said the state will provide funds to set up a waste management facility. At this time there is a prefeasibility study being done on the purchase of the former Waste Management facility located on US2 between Iron River and Crystal Falls. / The IC Sheriff's Dept has reported an uptick in illegal dumping.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

ICECA Report – Zach stated that the 1st round of Fast Track grants (\$2500 microgrant program) is accepting applications until June 9th. They have provided over \$50,000 to businesses over the past several years. / SCS will break ground on the new housing facility in Crystal Falls in early August. / Michigan Works is working with representative UP Michigan Works! Business Services Specialist, Darci Lindstrom. Several Iron County businesses are in the process of taking advantage of one of UPMW's programs or opportunities.

ICECA

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor Report – Assr Erhart was absent.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger stated there were 2 new zoning permits issued in April. / He has been addressing some blight violations. / He has been answering numerous questions/inquiries. / YTD 7 permits have been issued. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Planning Commission – Supervisor Stafford stated there was a meeting on May 12th and they reviewed the zoning tables. / There will be an executive summary added to the Master Plan. / They are hoping to have the Master Plan approved at the June meeting after which it will go out for 63 days of public review.

PLANNING COMM

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said that the Rogers Avenue blacktop (1 block) project will be done May 19-May 22. / Dust Control will be done in July. / Gravel projects on Little Finland and Forsberg will begin in June.

ROAD PROJECTS

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Karnack stated that Kleiman will begin the well project once road restrictions are off. / There was a water main break northside of US2 across from Anderson Road. / Highline is calling in numerous Miss Digs along Bates Amasa Rd, Sunset Shores, south side of US2. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Closed for the season. / **Park** – Boat launch and fishing pier will be installed by the weekend. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Canoe launch will be installed by the weekend.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

Windsor Center– Supervisor Stafford said that there will be a slight adjustment to the amounts in the ballot language for the Windsor Rec Authority millage: the change in Bates is now \$39636 instead of \$37753. / Johnson Controls will be installing a new boiler at an estimated cost of \$165,000. The estimate does not include the old boiler removal.

**WINDSOR
CTR**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated that to date they have \$322,000 funds. / The annual bake sale at Bigari’s is May 22nd, Rummage sale is July 2nd & 3rd. They will be at Rodeo Market Days on July 10th and doing a Dina Mia fund raiser in late August. / They are working on the bid package for USDAs’ approval.

BHPS

WIDL – Trustee Adams stated that the library is now a UPS package drop off./ Pickups are Monday-Friday at 10:00 and 4:00.

WIDL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Statement – Supervisor Stafford stated that the EWASTE day was a success. We collected a truck and trailer full. / Nicolet Sign is working on an upgrade to the deteriorating cemetery sign. / He stated that everyone is working well with the BHPS Project Mgrs. and Engineering firms. / Brock Van Oss will be presenting the forestry plan at the June meeting.

**SUPERVISOR
STATEMENT**

Old Lawnmowers – 2012 60” Zero Turn w/Bag bids: \$400, \$830 & \$2000. Accepted bid for \$2000 from Johathan Priewe. 2015 60” Zero Turn bids: \$400, \$1111, \$915. Accepted bid for \$1111 from Ernie Schmidt. Trustee Franzene made a motion to accept the high bid on each lawnmower. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

**LAWN-
MOWER
BIDS**

Van Oss Forestry Plan – Presentation tabled until the next meeting.

**FORESTRY
PLAN**

NEW BUSINESS

Project Graduation - Trustee Adams made a motion to approve \$100. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PROJECT
GRADUA-
TION**

Memorial Day Ceremony – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve a budget of \$400. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MEMORIAL
DAY
CEREMONY**

Westside Veterans Council – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve \$35. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WESTSIDE
VETERANS’
COUNCIL**

AED Grant – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she completed a grant application for AEDs through the Iron Area Health Foundation and Bates Twp was awarded the grant. It is a reimbursement grant. The AEDs should arrive within the month. We are grateful to the Iron Area Health Foundation.

AED GRANT

Cemetery Rates – Supervisor Stafford made a motion to allow Clerk Benson-Stafford to clarify in the cemetery rates that any burial after 2:00 Monday through Friday is considered overtime rates. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY
RATES**

E. Lake Emily GIS Corrections – Table until next meeting due to further information needed from Assessor Erhart.

**E LAKE
EMILY GIS**

Seventh Day Adventist Church – Correspondence was received giving notice that they would be door to door in the area. No action was taken.

**SEVENTH
DAY ADV
CHURCH**

BATES TOWNSHIP

May 13, 2026

Page Three

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Clerk Temporary Compensation Resolution – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the Attorney drafted resolution approving temporary township clerk compensation for August and November elections in the amount of \$2000 as a result of Prop 2. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson yes; Benson-Stafford, abstain, Adams, yes; Stafford, abstain, Franzene, yes. Motion carried.

**CLERK
RESOLUTION**

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen asked about enforcement of the siding ordinance.
- Trustee Adams stated that Becca MacPhearson is available as a Tech Teacher.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report
- WUPPDR – AM Essentials Flyer; Training for Officials
- Mike Golas Email – Eurasian Milfoil Discussion June 24th.
- MI Par Plan – Risk Assessment Letter

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____