BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, August 12, at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

ATTENDEES

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; Sue Passamani, BHPS; IC Comm Judd; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Trustee Adams made a motion to accept the July 2026 Treasurers report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

General Fund:	$ 192,702.59
Sewer Fund:	$ 94,097.87
Water Fund:	$ 307,373.58
Road Fund:	$ 253,980.30

INVOICE APPROVAL

Invoice Approval

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd said the City of Iron River and the ICECA are doing a feasibility study on Iron County Lodging. / The County is reviewing a forest management plan for Cooks Run.

ICECA

ICECA Report – Brett said that the Crystal Falls housing project did not get enough bids for 2026 so they will rebid and break ground in 2027. / There were 3 Fast Track Grants issued.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ASSESSOR REPORT

Assessor Report – No report.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger stated there was a variance request for a Lake on Three property. / There has been a violation on a previously issued ZBA variance. / He would like to pursue Zoning Administrator Certification. / He visited the Perch Lake Homeowners Assn. / He continues to work with violations and blight issues. / YTD 15 permits have been issued. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

PLANNING COMM

Planning Commission – Supervisor Stafford stated the master plan is out on public review. The public hearing is 3:30, September 9th. / The PC continues to work on the zoning ordinance. / The next meeting is August 24th, 6:00pm, at the Windsor Center and September 1st at the township hall.

ROAD PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said dust control was completed July 12th. / The next ICRC meeting is Thursday, August 13th.

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

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop–** Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Karnack they eliminated an old water line & leak on Chicagon Mine Rd as well as ran a new service to a residence on Lambert Rd. /Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve up to $1000 to work with a water leak detecting company. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call was taken. Motion carried. / Karnack stated that well #4 is under producing. He is working with Kleiman to determine the problem which may require a telematics vendor and electrician for the repair. **Sewer** – L/S#1 flowmeter is shot. Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the repair of up to $3800 from Sabel Mechanical. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park –** The campground host said that there is an outlet on the pole by the pavilion kitchen that is not working. / **School** – The public works department had to replace a drainpipe which required a section of new sidewalk. / Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the boiler inspectors' rate from $25 to $30 per visit. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont'd)

WINDSOR CTR

Windsor Center– Stafford stated that the new boiler was approved at $140,000 includes installation. The building authority and the rec authority will share the cost.

BHPS

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated they made over $6000 on the rummage sale. / Dina Mia fundraiser starts August 23. / They are doing a "Buy A Window" campaign. / They received a $2500 building grant from CoVantage. / There have been private pledges. / The fund-raising total as of August 14th is $344,000.

WIDL

WIDL - Trustee Adams stated the UPS dropoff has been successful with 437 packages in July. / There is a new collaboration with the Crystal Falls library. / August 22 is Sip & Strum. August 28th is Armchair Airline. / Events Calendars are available at the township office.

NEWMAN SIGN

Newman Sign – Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the bid of $573 for the signage. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUPERVISOR STATEMENT

Supervisor Statement – Supervisor Stafford stated he has been working with the Planning Commission; installed the air conditioner in the office; contacted the county about the work van to paint the Larson Park drive through logs; worked with Nicolet Sign on the cemetery sign and Paint River sign; met with the Decker Agency which is replacing Hannula Insurance.

FORESTRY PLAN

Forestry Plan – Brock VanOss gave an overview of the forestry plan that he prepared. He answered public and board questions. / He stated the current log market is not good. / Supervisor Stafford made a motion to approve the plan. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

ERICKSON DR DUST CONTROL

Erickson Drive Dust Control Refund – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to return $388.67 to the Erickson Drive people (Initial Deposit was $1000). Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Veterans Memorial – Treasurer Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase of two additional slabs for the Veterans Memorial from Jacobs Funeral Home at a cost of $7500. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

OFFICE & SHOP

Office & Shop A/C Units – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the purchase of two units ($350 & $318). Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

ZA CERTIFICA-TION

Zoning Administrator Certification – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to approve the cost of the prerequisite training and the training, lodging and travel expenses for the in-person training in the spring. It stipulated that if the Zoning Administrator quits within 18 months, he must reimburse the township for these expenses. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

LAGOON MOWING

Lagoon Mowing – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to have the lagoon mowed at an estimated cost of $5600. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. Roll call was taken. Motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS

- A discussion was held about residents getting permission to harvest dead/fallen trees to help with winter heat for wheelchair bound resident.
- ZA Bofinger has been addressing a blight issue on Kofmehl Rd with a home that is in limbo but headed towards foreclosure. He has been handling neighbor complaints.

GUEST COMMENTS (cont'd)

- A discussion was held about residents getting permission to harvest dead/fallen trees to help with winter heat for wheelchair bound resident.
- ZA Bofinger has been addressing a blight issue on Kofmehl Rd with a home that is in limbo but headed towards foreclosure, handling neighbor complaints.
- Bates Amasa Rd resident complaining about speeders. This is an issue of ICRC.
- Resident asked about the website PC dates/minutes.
- Mike Golas stated that the milfoil treatment for Sunset Lake would happen on Monday, August 17th. 5-6 sites will be treated.
- Larson Park signage was repainted. History sign is being worked on.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA Report

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved:_____