BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, September 9, 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; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; IC Comm Judd; Residents. Assr Erhart & IC Comm Judd were absent.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

General Fund:	$ 140,555.45
Sewer Fund:	$ 100,145.66
Water Fund:	$ 252,120.72
Road Fund:	$ 213,901.65

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

COUNTY COMM REPORT

County Commissioner Report – Comm Judd was absent. No report.

ICECA

ICECA Report – No report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ASSESSOR REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent. No report.

ZONING ADMIN REPORT

Zoning Administrator Report – ZA Bofinger stated there was a variance request hearing on August 26, 2026. / He is working with the Township Attorney on zoning compliance issues. / He received a call regarding a sub-dividing into three lots on Sunset Shores. / He addressed a complaint on Kofmehl Rd complaint on a blighted property. / He continues to work with violations and blight issues. / YTD 17 permits have been issued. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

PLANNING COMM

Planning Commission – Chairperson Thibodeau was absent. Supervisor Stafford stated the PC is trying to get an extension on the MSHDA grant. / The next meeting is October 5th, 6:00pm, at the Township hall.

ROAD PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Stafford said the gravel projects will start in October. / The federal government has changed the load limits on the Paint River Bridge.

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

Hall- Nothing new to report. / **Shop–** Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Karnack they did a new 4" valve at Chgn Mine & Helgemo. - They worked with a homeowner that had a leak on Helgemo Rd. – They did a new tap in on Sunset Shores Rd. – They did a new 4" valve on Vinnedge & Little Finland. – The Twp will be using Mi Rural Waterworks for leak detection, which they do as a free service. **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – The Veterans Memorial expansion is ready for the new slabs. – MRS Tree service took down a couple of trees. **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Paint River Boat Launch** – Nothing new to report.

WINDSOR CTR

Windsor Center– Nothing to report. Meeting next week.

BHPS

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani stated the bid advertising is out, and the bids will be opened on October 14th. / The bid will go before the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, October 28 at 4:00 for approval. / They are currently working on the Legacy Park plan. / They received a $1000 from William O'Boyle. / They had a successful Dina Mia fundraiser. / The August balance was $342266. Today it is $347,573.

WIDL

WIDL – Nothing to report. Meeting on the 14th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUPERVISOR STATEMENT

Supervisor Statement – Supervisor Stafford stated he was working on a neighbor dispute. / He has been working with Nicolet Sign on the primitive shelter sign. / He continues to be a part of WUPPDR working on a materials management program. / A motion was made by Supervisor Stafford to approve the proposed design of the Primitive Shelter sign from Nicolet Sign. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

MASTER PLAN RESOLUTION

Master Plan Resolution – At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Trustee Adams made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the Bates Township Master Plan. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PC/ZBA MEMBERS WANTED

Planning Commission – ZBA Members – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish an ad looking for letters of interest as members and alternates.

CEMETERY DÉCOR. REMOVAL

Cemetery Decoration Removal – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the annual ad requesting decoration removals on or before October 1st.

OCTOBER MEETING

October Meeting - Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to change the October meeting from October 14th to October 7th. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

VACANT LOTS

Vacant Lots Sale – A resident requested to purchase vacant lots on 1st Street behind the white garage. Treasurer Nelson made a motion to table until next meeting in order to get more information and put the subject before the planning commission. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

SCHOOL PRICE REDUCT.

Bates School – Clerk Benson-Stafford made a motion to reduce the listing price of the school to $274,500. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

MP COVER PHOTOS

Master Plan Seasonal Cover Photos – Audience members were invited to vote on the selection of seasonal cover photos for the Master Plan Cover. Trustee Jane Adams took all photos.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jim Andersen asked if a pole barn can be a residence if there is a septic. It was determined that the county would be involved if there is a septic. The Assessor would have to review the circumstances. Plumbing does not make it a residence.
- Monica Franzmeier asked if there are fishing restrictions after milfoil chemical treatment. Golas stated the lake is posted with a recommendation to wait 24 hours.

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:_____