

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – July 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Helgemo called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with Supervisor Helgemo; Clerk Moncivais, Treasurer Nelson; Trustees Wodzinski & Bobnock present. Also in attendance were Assr Nelson; Water/Sewer Benson; ZA-Constable Stowell; Atty Atanasoff; County Commissioner Brennan; Residents.

ATTENDEES

There were no requests for changes to the minutes; Supervisor Helgemo noted them as “stand as read.”

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of June 2014 was submitted. A motion was made by Moncivais to accept the report. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Moncivais, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 97,965.89
Sewer Fund:	\$ 101,809.36
Water Fund:	\$ 314,084.40
Road Fund:	\$ 151,773.48
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – County Commissioner Brennan was present and discussed one of the big issues facing the county is the Employee Health Insurance. Over the years all benefits were paid for by the county. A few years ago the government stated that the employee’s must pay 20% of their insurance. The Board hated to put this on the families all at once so they have implemented a cheaper program and a progressive increase. They felt this would be fair to the taxpayers and to the employees. / Also, Julie Melchiori has been rehired to the EDC position. She has a lot of knowledge, energy and enthusiasm. Brennan is confident that this was a good board decision.

EDC / Julie Melchiori – Julie stated that she was in the EDC from 2005-2011. She is a native of the area. She originally started as contractor 10-12 hours/week. In 2011 she was split between MSU Ext & EDC. She stated that the call center will commit another 25 jobs if the county will add on to the building. She stated that there are jobs in this county but not the workforce. There is a lack of skills, and work ethic. Her current contract is for 20 hours/week. She wants to meet with businesses. It’s easier to keep a business going than to start a new business. Municipalities are asked to fund about 1/3 of the EDC budget. Supervisor Helgemo thanked Melchiori for the overview.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Helgemo stated that 3 roads are done. Willis Rd has been graveled but still needs culverts.

ROAD PROJECTS

DEQ Sewer Discharge Permit – Supervisor Helgemo stated that the permitting process is still pending. Benson is working with Lansing. He noted that our system works beautifully.

DEQ SEWER DISCHARGE PERMIT

Dust Control – Supervisor Helgemo stated that we are holding off because of the graveling projects. The company that we have used in the past may not come to the UP this year. There is another company in the UP but we would have to look into the rates. When we dust control Helgemo assured Property Owner Koski that the township would dust control Parks Farm Road.

DUST CONTROL

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Zoning Administrator Stowell gave his June report which included 6 permits and 5 property violations. He did his monthly bar inspection, attended the board meeting and stated that he took some calls with general questions. He followed up on previous violations. (A copy of the report will be kept on file with Clerk Moncivais).

ZONING
UPDATE

Road Restriction Ordinance – The ordinance will go into effect this month. Signage is being obtained.

ROAD
RESTRICT
ORDINANCE

Water Ordinance Workshop – Tabled for discussion until a later date.

WATER
ORDINANCE
WATER
PROJECT

Water Project – The warranty expired 7/1. The project is complete.

EDC – In the past the township donated \$2/capita. The County has donated \$17000 to the EDC. Commissioner Brennan will let us know at the next meeting what is in the budget. How many hours and what the salary will be for Melchiori.

EDC

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Attorney Atanasoff stated that he has been working on the Notice of Violation and the Citation Form.

ATTORNEY
REPORT

Election / Road Millage – Clerk Moncivais stated that the polls will be open Tuesday, August 5th from 7am – 8pm. She stated that the road millage is a renewal and that the township has been able to accomplish a lot of good with the road millage. There was also a reminder that this is a renewal and not an increase.

ELECTION /
ROAD
MILLAGE

DNR Park Project – Supervisor Helgemo reminded the Board that the DNR requires that the township hold an open house at the park and that there is a sign requirement. Action tabled until the next meeting.

DNR PARK
PROJECT

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall – Nothing new to report. /Water – Benson is working on isolation valves. Nothing new to report. / Sewer – One line jetted/camera and tree root problems. Also Benson would like to try a new product. It could cost about \$1000 but it could save a lot on maintenance and cleaning. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report. / Park – Heavy rain washed out a part of the boat launch. / Backhoe – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Rich Frighetto represented a group of property owners on Chicagon Lake who were requesting blacktop on Andreski Plat over a 1.2 mile stretch in Bates Twp. The Board noted that this has come up for discussion before the Board during the planning of the 3 year road plan but there are two other townships (Stambaugh & Crystal Falls) that have residents that use that road. The Board stated that they would be interested in participating in a project if the other townships would help also. Resident Rossi questioned if there was any history of township's cooperating like this? He also wanted to know if the township could implement some type of restriction on logging so close to the road that there is no tree buffer thereby allowing more dust. Helgemo stated that the Board had no authority to restrict logging. This would have to be brought before the road commission. Helgemo reminded Attendees that the township does not own any roads. The County is responsible for maintaining them. Bates is fortunate that its Residents have voted for the millage in the past allowing blacktopping and dust control projects to be completed.

ANDRESKI
PLAT

GUEST COMMENTS (cont'd)

Jim Stolberg stated that he has an issue with blacktopping. He thinks that Willis Rd is a waste of money with only 1 full time resident. He also said that he didn't think the south end of Sec 14 Rd should be done. He stated that blacktopping dead end roads shouldn't be done. / Property Owner Koski stated that it's cheaper to do dust control than to blacktop. The summary of the discussion was that the Chicagon Lake Property owners should contact the other municipalities to see if they would participate. Assessor Nelson said that a special assessment district could always be done but there are a lot of legalities and it's complicated. The property owners can talk to the road commission about logging restrictions and right of way.

CORRESPONDENCE

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INVOICE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Nelson to pay the township invoices. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Moncivais, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 6:48. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 @ 6:00 PM.

Grant Helgemo, Supervisor

Barbara Moncivais, Clerk

Date approved: _____