

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – January 13, 2016 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 Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson and Trustees Bobnock & Wodzinski present. Also in attendance were Wtr/Swr Superintendent Benson; Zoning Admin-Constable Oberlin; PC Franzene & Nelson; Atty Atanasoff; Assr Erhart; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC and Residents. Comm Brennan was absent.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the minutes. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of December 2015 was submitted. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 98,520.65
Sewer Fund:	\$ 149,606.49
Water Fund:	\$ 301,037.69
Road Fund:	\$ 235,722.34
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Brennan was absent.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Helgemo stated that he spoke with Mike Mottes and we might get some prices by the next meeting. Also, there will be a meeting at the ICRC of the Task Force on Thursday 1/14/16 @ 1:00pm. This is a meeting with the Twps/Cities and they assign where the money will go for the next 5 years. This was how Sunset Lake Rd got on the list. At this time Sunset Lake Road’s engineering has been done and the project will be started this fall.

ROAD PROJECTS

Windsor Report - Supervisor Helgemo (Twp Rep on Windsor Board) gave an update. There is a tentative closing date of 1/21/16 of the lot across from the Windsor Center. They are selling it for \$82000. He credited the “Friends of Windsor” with a lot of hard work and fund raising. To date about \$65000 has been raised through the following: Open Mic has raised \$34000, Movies \$5800, Sound System/Entryway Donations \$12000, \$1700 Donated for New Marque, \$1500 donated for movie projector. He stated that there is now a very nice Video Conferencing room on the 2nd Floor. Much of the furniture was donated by Lake Shore/IMT when they closed. There is Wi-Fi service and there are new dusk to dawn lights. Schmidt questioned as to when it will be self sufficient? Helgemo said that he doesn’t know if it will ever be without the millage. He said the Board is very conservative with its spending. He said that they are constantly looking for a “base business’s” for the building.

WINDSOR CENTER FLOOR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin stated that there was 4 permits issued, 0 new inquiries, 0 new violations, working on resolving old open violations. He inspected the bar. Permits issued to date = 31. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

IronLine Sponsorship – A motion was made by Helgemo to support the Ironline Event with a \$200 sponsorship. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Helgemo, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. (Brindle noted that the new address is: POB 524, Iron River, MI 49935)

IRONLINE SPONSORSHIP

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Sale of 2004 Chevrolet Truck Bids – The bids were opened as follows: Mike Bittner \$2016; M.A. LaCoy \$1758; Lindwall Motors \$1200; Albert Shindorf \$6101. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the bid for \$6101. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

2004 CHEVY TRUCK SALE

Veteran's Memorial – Supervisor Helgemo stated that we can longer even get a call back from the people that were supposed to do the job. He is going to talk to the people in charge of the Iron River City Memorial and see who will be doing the name engraving. We want this done before Memorial Day.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ENGRAVING

Restricted Roads-Rescind Vote – Supervisor Helgemo started by saying that at the December board meeting there was a unanimous vote restricting some additional portions of roads. The next day a Board Member wanted to rescind their vote. Helgemo made a motion to rescind the vote of the December 9, 2015 meeting. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Helgemo, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. /

ROAD RESTRICT. RESCIND VOTE

Restricted Roads Additions - Helgemo proceeded to make a new motion to add the following roads to the restricted list: Shoquist Rd (US2 to top of hill); Section 22 Rd (Thunander Rd to Shoquist Rd); Philips & Noren (From Forsberg to Demboski). Supported by Bobnock. Discussion opened: Nelson stated that she was not comfortable that the permits are issued at the discretion of the Supervisor. What if the next Supervisor is not so liberal with the permits? Helgemo countered that it is the decision of the Board to issue to the permits, Nelson countered that maybe the next Board will not issue permits. Ernie Schmidt stated that the Timber Industry is not out to beat up the roads. Philips and Noren Rd are primary roads and cannot be restricted. Helgemo countered that he did not think they were. Schmidt reaffirmed that yes they were made primary roads a long time ago. He stated there would probably not be this type of traffic on the portion of Shoquist or Sec 22 Rd either. Nelson said if that's the case then why bother restricting them. Helgemo stated that he thought chip seal would keep Shoquist Rd from washing out. Nelson stated that if a Resident wanted to put up a garage or home on Shoquist Rd they would have to get permits for trucks to get in/out. She stated that it's not just the loggers, its farmers pulling bales of hay, cattle, recreational people, horse people that are affected. Atty Atanasoff stated that there are other areas that have restricted roads. Bobnock stated that it would be nice if the Timber Industry would chip in some money towards some of the costs to maintain these roads. Schmidt said that isn't going to happen, let it go and besides some residents are in the industry and they are taxpayers. Helgemo said that it was never the intention to limit anybody. It was to protect the residential areas in part from gravel trucks pounding the pavement. Nelson stated that she just doesn't like to see homeowner limited from having free access to their property for whatever the need. She said that gas, oil, garbage trucks are all over 10000 pounds, school buses too, other construction vehicles, and horse trailers. After much discussion Helgemo said maybe we should just put this to rest. The Board agreed. There are no further additions to the list.

ROAD RESTRICT.

Schmidt thanked the Board and said that he appreciates all of the hard work that the Board is doing on behalf of the Township.

Cemetery Parking/Driveway – Supervisor Helgemo stated he spoke with Mike Mottes and they have looked at the cemetery. The roads must be 10' and the cemetery roads are 9' but it could still be worked out. Ernie Schmidt said that this project is a great idea. It will enhance the cemetery and we should be very proud of it. Helgemo said that we are waiting on a price.

CEMETERY PARKING/ DRIVEWAYS

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report - Atanasoff stated that on a recent visit to the courthouse he was told by the Treasurer that BSA has an auto-backup system. She didn't think the township was using it. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the Township currently backups offsite. Nelson and Erhart will look into the BSA backup. There was also some discussion about the ROD charging municipality for copies of deeds. This topic had been discussed at an earlier meeting and the matter is resolved for Township purposes.

ATTORNEY
REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart gave her report as follows: Personal Property statements were mailed 1/7/16; She drafted a letter to the State in response to the Township's AMAR report for Supervisor Helgemo to sign; She submitted the 2016 database to the State through TMA as part of the State's annual requirement; She discussed the State's procedure on denied PREs; She presented a March Board of Review Informational document on How to Appeal your Assessment which Clerk Benson-Stafford will have uploaded to the website; the March BOR dates are Organizational Meeting-March 11 from 9am-11am / Meetings to hear protests are March 16 from 1pm-5pm & 6pm-9pm / March 18 from 9am-2pm / All meetings are at the Township Hall. (Copy of the report is kept on file by Clerk Benson-Stafford.)

ASSESSOR
REPORT

Assr Erhart also noted that the County's website has obsolete information on it and it is causing delays when people mail documents or try to contact local municipality officials. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she knows this is a concern but it is out of our hands. There is nothing we can do, that is a County responsibility.

General Ops/Road Millage Renewal /March 8 Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that with SB571 signed into effect on 1/6 the new law bans public bodies including township officials from discussing any information even if it is purely factual about local proposals 60 days prior to an election. She also stated that SB13 was signed and that will eliminate straight party voting. / She reminded that there is an election on Tuesday, March 8th, polls open from 7am-8pm. If a registered voter in the Township needs an absent voter ballot they will need to fill out an application first. All voters will need to choose between a Democratic ballot with local proposals, a Republican ballot with local proposals or a no Presidential candidate with only local proposals ballot.

GEN
OPS/ROAD
MILLAGE –
MARCH 8
ELECTION

Windsor Center Board/Twp Representative – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to re-appoint Supervisor Helgemo as the Township's representative on this Board. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

WINDSOR
BOARD
APPOINT.

UP LOGON – Supervisor Helgemo stated that for many years they paid \$1100/yr rent space for their equipment on the Chicagon Mine Rd tower. After some research it was determined that the electric bills were very high. The Township increased the rent for 2015 to \$3000 – in two \$1500 installments. Mr. Corollo stated that his equipment uses minimal electricity. After some research between Benson, Helgemo and UPPCO it was determined that there was heat tape that was causing the majority of the "cost of electricity." A motion was made by Helgemo to charge UP LOGON \$1500 for 2016 to rent the space on the tower. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Helgemo, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. It was also noted by Employee Benson that UP LOGON needs to be reminded that their equipment will have to be moved in the near future because it is blocking access on a ladder that will be needed for an upcoming project.

UP LOGON

GUEST COMMENTS

Ernie Schmidt reminded the Board of their invitation to the WIC Fire Dept Christmas party on Jan 30th @ 6pm at the Fire Hall.

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall – Nothing new to report. / Water – Nothing new to report. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Benson stated that he got the map to GEI to make the additions/corrections that he and the Clerk found. The lot binders are being worked on. There is still many hours of data entry that still has to be done by the Clerk. All of these tasks are above and beyond the Clerks duties and he would really like to see the Clerk be compensated for it. He said he knows that when it comes time for a pay increase that it's hard for the Board Members to ask even though it is well deserved. The Clerk thanked him for recognizing her work. / Nothing new to report. / Park – Helgemo stated that last year's Park Hosts will be back again this summer. He said that the Board might want to consider keeping the park open later into September. Maybe just try it for one year. There was also discussion on new signage at Sunset Lake Rd/US2 and Reiman Rd/US2. / Backhoe – Nothing new to report. / New Truck – The new truck should be ready next week and then the old truck will be put out for bids. No minimum bid.

CORRESPONDENCE

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INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 @ 6:00 PM.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date approved: _____