

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – April 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

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

Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene and Bobnock were present. Also in attendance were Wtr/Swr Superintendent Benson; ZA Oberlin; PC- Nelson; Atty Atanasoff; County Comm Brennan; M. Golas, Sunset Lk Assn and Residents. Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of March 2017 was submitted. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Oberlin. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. A full report will be kept on file for audit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 167,864.50
Sewer Fund:	\$ 88,844.57
Water Fund:	\$ 271,620.75
Road Fund:	\$ 178,303.62
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Brennan reviewed a couple of things before the recent County Board one of which was the County budgeted \$15000 to give to UPSET for more education and law enforcement. Brennan has deep concerns regarding the drug abuse and deaths. He believes that more education is the answer, not necessarily more law enforcement. He stated it is sad that a large percentage of the current inmate population are women that have children. / He stated that Indian Lake has had water level problems since 2011. The County has lent money on this matter. There will be a special assessment added to the taxpayer's bill to cover the cost to correct the matter. / Crystal Falls Twp has the leadership on the Heritage Trail expansion.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Oberlin stated that we are waiting on the start of the rock crushing season to have work done on Ponozzo Rd. Currently there is a washout north of the Block House Rd, use caution if you're heading in that direction. Also, he requested bids from the ICRC on the following roads for the Board to review: West Park Drive; Thunander Rd from Section 22 Road to past Erickson's; and seal coat on Section 16 Road.

ROAD PROJECTS

Anderson Rd Waterline – Supervisor Oberlin stated that there is nothing new to report at this time.

ANDERSON RD WATERLINE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin gave his report. There were 4 new permits issued. 1 new inquiries. 0 new violation. He was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar was closed until further notice. Permits issued to date in 2017 = 9. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Bates Park Signage – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he received a bid of \$1400 from a different company. The original bid from Newman Signs was \$1962. Since that bid was a year old and had expired he requested a new bid from them. Since last year they have new printing equipment which substantially reduced the original bid down to \$847.66. A motion was made by Franzene to accept this bid from Newman Sign Company and order the signs. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Mike Golas questioned if there would be a replacement sign at Section 16 & Bates Amasa Rd? Oberlin stated maybe in the future. It wasn't quoted in the bid.

BATES PARK SIGNAGE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Master Plan – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the most recent draft at their meeting on March 27th. They have given the changes to WUPPDR and will meet again on May 8th. Once the Master Plan is presented to the Board the 63 day period for public review and comment will begin.

MASTER
PLAN

Hall/Shop LED Lighting – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he is researching whether or not the Township would be eligible for a rebate. Action is tabled until the next meeting.

LED
LIGHTING

Bates School Acquisition – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he had a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools and there is some interest in turning over the Bates School to Bates Township. Currently the Head Start wants to stay on as Renters. In the near future the hospital will be pulling out to go into their \$13,000,000 addition at Ice Lake. Currently Head Start is doing a \$20,000 renovation to the bathrooms. There is a yearly boiler inspection that needs to be done but maybe the cost of that could be handled as part of the Head Start rental agreement. The school will probably need a roof soon. Oberlin stated that the taxpayers of Bates Twp built that building through their tax dollars. About 8 years ago it was on the table and the Residents at that time expressed their opinion that they would like the Township to get the building returned to Bates. Bates Township also purchased the school forest from the DNR back in the 1940's and the Township would like to get that back and perhaps use it for education and nature trails. A motion was made by Franzene for Oberlin to continue discussions with the West Iron County Public Schools and to try and get ownership of the Bates School. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes.

BATES
SCHOOL
ACQUISIT.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Attorney Atanasoff stated there was nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY
REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent and there was no report provided.

ASSESSOR
REPORT

May 2nd Special Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford reminded everyone that there will be an election on Tuesday, May 2. The polls will be open from 7:00am-8:00pm. There is one question on the Bates Twp ballot regarding the school millage sinking fund. If anyone needs an absent voter ballot they should get and complete an absent voter application as soon as possible.

MAY 2ND –
SPECIAL
ELECTION

Road Millage Renewal – Board Members reviewed the ballot language for a renewal of the Twps 2 mills for roads as follows "PROPOPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR BATES ROAD REPAIR MILLAGE RENEWAL REQUEST: In 2014 (2014 through 2017) the tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Bates Township imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution for Bates Township was increased by 2 mills (\$2 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for township road improvements, repair and maintenance. This millage increase, approved by the voters in 2014 will expire. Shall the present tax rate in Bates Township be renewed at 2 mills (\$2 per \$1000 of taxable value) for road improvements, repair and maintenance for the years 2018 through 2021, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$ 100,453.58? (This is a renewal of the Bates Township road repair millage of 2 mills).[] Yes[] No. A motion was made by Oberlin to approval the language for a ballot to go before the voters at a Special Election on August 8, 2017 for a renewal request of the 2 mills exclusively for roads. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

ROAD
MILLAGE / 2
MILL
RENEWAL

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Rostagno & Haukkala, CPAs, PC Audit Bid – A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to accept the Rostagno & Haukkala CPA's bid of \$6750 for the annual 2016-2017 audit. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Supervisor Oberlin stated that next year he might like to seek bids from other firms. We still may retain Rostagno & Haukkala even if they're a higher bidder, he just would like to see where the bid prices come in at.

AUDIT BID

Cemetery Bulletin Board – A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to budget up to \$1000 to purchase an enclosed bulletin board for the cemetery which will have the maps and names posted on it. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

CEMETERY BULLETIN BOARD

Cemetery Outbuilding – Tabled until the next meeting / waiting on more information.

CEMETERY OUTBUILDG

Memorial Day Ceremony/Budget – A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to budget \$300 (same as previous years) for the Memorial Day Ceremony refreshments. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that Gail Passamani has graciously volunteered to Host the event. The Township is very grateful for her services and for her helpers.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Swim Raft Ladder – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to purchase an aluminum retractable ladder for \$276 for the park swim raft. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

SWIMRAFT LADDER

Project Graduation – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to support the event with a \$50 contribution. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

PROJECT GRAD.

UP Rodeo – A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to support the event with a \$50 contribution. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

UP RODEO

Clean Kill – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that although the Board approved having Clean Kill spray last year, they were not able to schedule us. A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to approve Clean Kill to spray the hall & shop. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. All Ayes. Motion carried.

CLEAN KILL

Township Attorney – Supervisor Oberlin and Township Attorney Atanasoff discussed relieving Attorney Atanasoff from monthly meeting attendance. This would reduce the legal fees to the township. All agreed and Atanasoff stated that there was no need to pay a retainer fee. It is understood that he is still retained as the Township Attorney. A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to retain Atanasoff as the Township Attorney with no retainer fee required. Supported by Clerk Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall/Shop– Benson has continued to monitor the Hall basement and to date there hasn't been more than 2" of water. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Benson stated that in the next few days he will begin the lagoon transfers and White Water will be sampling. There have been a couple of new issues with the lift stations. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Work will begin to get the park opened for the season and the Park Hosts should arrive around the early part of May. The Township will provide a washing machine for them in lieu of a stipend increase. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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GUEST COMMENTS

- Glen Warrvik representing the Bearded Apple was present and made a presentation regarding their business plan. He stated that they are a nonprofit business and they have been part of the community for several years and that they incubate businesses and train them up. They are trying to do more retail outreach to try and help get the buildings in the community get filled with businesses. Their interest is to purchase the Bates School. They are especially interested in the kitchen and the additional space of the building would allow them to continue with their business plan for the future. Oberlin stated that as far as purchasing the building goes, again it was the Bates Twp residents that paid for the building and they would like the building turned back over to the authority of the Township and the Board is going to pursue that. Mike Golas interjected that maybe it would be good hear out the proposal that the Bearded Apple has. Oberlin stated that yes, in no way did he want to indicate that the Township wouldn't be willing to work with their organization because perhaps the Township could, but that to be clear the Bates Twp board is going to pursue ownership of the Bates School. Clerk Benson-Stafford asked what businesses have they incubated so far and Warrvik responded that they incubated Contrast Coffee, Mission Arabica, the Northern Grocery Coop and that they were currently working with another business but at this time it was still confidential. Oberlin asked if they would have interest in renting the kitchen from the Township. Warrvik indicated that they would pursue purchasing the building because they find it easier to conduct business if they don't have to be under the authority of any board.
- Basketball Court / Park – Larry Nelson asked if the Township could resurface the basketball court at the park.

INVOICE APPROVAL

Treasurer Nelson asked the Board if she could forgive a water bill of \$200. A Buyer purchased a home and upon his arrival the waterline had broken inside the upstairs of the home and had flooded the lower and upper level with water. It is a substantial loss and the home owner was asking the Township to forgive the bill. It was noted that sometimes in the winter months residents are allowed to let run.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 @ 6:00 PM.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____