

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – May 10, 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; County Comm Brennan; E. Schmidt, ICRC; J. Stolberg, WIFD; and Residents. Assr Erhart were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of April 2017 was submitted. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Bobnock. 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:	\$ 174,428.07
Sewer Fund:	\$ 93,088.61
Water Fund:	\$ 287,576.66
Road Fund:	\$ 185,470.66
Liquor Law:	\$

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Brennan stated that the County Board had met on 5/9/17. The new County Administrator has had much experience in previous counties with a free discount prescription car. This will soon be available to Iron County residents. / Brennan stated that there are 33 properties in the County that are 3 years behind in tax payments. Of the 33 probably ½ of the properties should be torn down. These properties will be coming up on auction. The State will get the first opportunity to bid followed by the municipalities and the County will be 3<sup>rd</sup>. The auction is slated for 8/26/17 at LVD casino. / Reminder that the senior citizen center millage will be on the August ballots. / A resident stated that many tax payers were not happy that a millage went to a private ambulance firm.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects – Supervisor Oberlin stated the chip seal bids are not out yet, maybe the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. He was looking to have Rogers Location chip sealed and blacktop on Thunander Rd to Section 14 Rd; and Section 14 Road down the hill maybe. Also the road restrictions will be lifted at 6:00am Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the township is planning to do dust control as it is normally done. Wayne Koski requested dust control on Parks Farm Rd. He stated that the Bates portion of the road held up better than the Hematite Twp portion and that the road needs another good year of dust control to really make a difference Greg Lund stated that the last couple of years it seemed that dust control went down first on Erickson Rd and then the county graded it which made the dust control useless. Brian Rippey stated that he doesn’t want the township to do chip seal in the Rogers Location. It has sharp edges, the texture is terrible and right now the roads surface is smooth from the blacktop. He said that he has heard complaints about the Bates Gaastra Rd. People are not happy with the chip seal that was done. / Oberlin also stated that the County match for roads increased by \$5000 from \$10000 to \$15000.

ROAD PROJECTS

Anderson Rd Waterline – The Board made a decision to hold a special meeting at 5:30 on June 14 to meet with the Residents so that options can be discussed and a decision can be made regarding the leaking 2” line.

ANDERSON RD WATERLINE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin gave his report. There were 2 new permits issued. 1 new inquiries. There was a zoning fine for a building without permits. The Assessor alerted that there were 3-4 new violations. He was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar was closed until further notice. Permits issued to date in 2017 = 11. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk. / Oberlin stated that on recent property visits (mandated by the State) the Assessor has found properties where home owners have put up buildings without going through the permit process. He stated that it is much cheaper to get the permit because the fines can be large, especially from the County. PC Nelson questioned what happens when the property is sold if the structures are discovered after the property was sold, you can fine the new owner. Oberlin said that was correct.

ZONING  
UPDATE

Bates Park Signage – Supervisor Oberlin stated the signs will be delivered around 5/11/17.

BATES PARK  
SIGNAGE

Master Plan – Supervisor Oberlin stated that Jerry at WUPPDR has the final revisions made by the PC. He will get the final draft to us shortly. Then the 63 day review period will begin.

MASTER  
PLAN

Hall/Shop LED Lighting – Supervisor Oberlin stated the estimate comes to \$1145 but there is a rebate incentive of \$473 available leaving a cost of \$672. Plus there should be a dramatic savings in the power bills. A motion was made by Nelson to purchase the bulbs and fixtures. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

LED  
LIGHTING

Cemetery Outbuilding – A motion was made by Bobnock to purchase an 8x12 maintenance free metal outbuilding W/roll up door from Lato for \$2300. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / A building was available from Forslund for \$1800 but it still needed to be painted and it had swinging doors and not a rollup door. / Benson stated that he will get some 3" blocks and some gravel to level the area for the building.

CEMETERY  
OUTBLDG

Bates School Acquisition – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he presented the W IC School Board with a letter of the Township's possible intentions if they were to acquire the school building. He also told them that the Township would like the forest back also. This was a result of the Superintendent reaching out to the Township stating that this could be a possibility. Resident Jim Stolberg voiced some concerns wondering what the advantage would be for the Township to get the building back as well as how much money would be needed to maintain or repair the building. He stated that he is not happy that the resident's continue to support the Windsor Center with a millage. Resident Ernie Schmidt stated that he isn't happy about the Windsor Center millage either. The idea was for the Windsor Center to sustain itself after the initial investment from the municipalities, however Schmidt would like to see the Township get the school back. Oberlin stated that at this time the school income is a little more than the expenses. When the hospital classes move out the ISD/Headstart income will break even. They want to stay long term. They are currently investing \$20000 in bathroom upgrades. Greg Lund stated that the Township should get the forest back, package deal. The grant money that was supposed to be for the roof was used on a different project and moved with the Early Childhood Education program up to the school campus. Stolberg stated that he would rather put the millage on the Bates School and not the Windsor Center. Oberlin stated that most residents have indicated that they would like to see the Township reacquire the building. Employee Benson said that it would be wise for the Township to get the building so that they would have control over what happens to the building.

BATES  
SCHOOL  
ACQUISIT.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Bates School Acquisition (cont'd) - Supervisor Oberlin stated that the research indicates that in 1957 Bates took out a bond millage and paid for the school. Even when the consolidation occurred Bates residents continued to pay off that loan and each municipality did the same for their loans. The loans did not consolidate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY  
REPORT

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

ASSESSOR  
REPORT

Assessor Contract – The Assessor’s contract expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Franzene to put a call for bids in the paper. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried. Clerk Benson-Stafford will make sure to let Assessor Erhart know so that she can submit a proposal.

ASSESSOR  
CONTRACT

Park Changing House – There was one bid received. A motion was made by Oberlin to accept the bid from Stik Bilt Construction for \$6350. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. The insurance would cover up to \$7000.

PARK  
CHANGE  
HOUSE

4<sup>th</sup> Street Corner/Rogers Location – Resident Brian Rippey presented the Board with a petition signed by 12 families from the Rogers Location that requested that the Township not spend any more money on the cleared area between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. They are against a park, picnic tables or any devices placed on the land, as it will be a draw to the area for more trash being dumped along the road. As Rogers Location residents we are aware of the traffic patterns of the area and the additional types of traffic a park area would result in. The location could also use additional street lighting instead of a park. It was suggested in the future the residents could be polled through utility billing. Employee Benson stated that there were root issues and with the sewer lift station located there this was the best way to prevent sewer lift station issues. The Board told Rippey that it was not intended to be a park and this Board had no intentions of making it such. The Clerk will keep a copy of the petition on file.

4<sup>th</sup> ST  
CORNER-  
ROGERS

Cemetery Information Center – 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  
INFORMATI  
ON CENTER.

**HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...**

**Hall/Shop– Shop** – A motion was made by Oberlin to purchase a Husqarvana chain saw for \$750. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to authorize Benson to purchase \$400 of lawnmower parts inventory and 4 picnic tables @ \$169/each. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. – The park is being prepped for opening. The park Hosts should be in town next week. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Street Lights** – Oberlin asked Board Members to review the street light for the next meeting to see if the \$8000/yr costs could be reduced. \$8000/year.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Aspirus Ground Breaking on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

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**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 @ 6:00 PM.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_