

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – March 9, 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, and Trustees Bobnock & Wodzinski present. Also in attendance were Wtr/Swr Superintendent Benson; Zoning Admin-Constable Oberlin; PC Franzene; Atty Atanasoff; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Mike Golas, Sunset Lk Assn and Residents. Treasurer Nelson, Assr Erhart & Comm Brennan were absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of February 2016 was submitted. A motion was made by Bobnock to accept the report. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: 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:	\$ 154,936.86
Sewer Fund:	\$ 141,001.40
Water Fund:	\$ 271,301.11
Road Fund:	\$ 275,543.61
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Brennan was absent.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects – Supervisor Helgemo stated that there is nothing new to report, he is waiting on the prices. Trustee Bobnock asked if the Board should get a bid for the back parking lot. The Board agreed that might be a good idea. Helgemo stated that Kellstrom Rd might be a blacktop project instead of a chip seal project. ICRC Schmidt asked if Willis Rd was going to be blacktopped. Helgemo stated that Mike Willis didn't want it blacktopped because of his heavy equipment.

ROAD PROJECTS

Various Projects – Supervisor Helgemo stated that he just wanted the Board to give some thought to some of the projects that the Township should do including the Chicagon Mine Rd tank, mandated DEQ mapping, installation of meter pits and removing old booster stations. He reviewed the potential prices of the projects. The projects will be discussed at the upcoming budget workshop.

VARIOUS PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – ZA Oberlin stated that there were 2 permits issued, 2 inquiries, and he continues to work on the same violations, followed up on a variance request. He inspected the bar. Permits issued to date in 2016 = 2. A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Veteran's Memorial – Supervisor Helgemo said he spoke with a new Engraver and he sounds legitimate, cheaper and he can have the job done by Memorial Day.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ENGRAVING

Cemetery Parking/Driveway – Supervisor Helgemo stated the Board is waiting for bids and waiting for the snow to melt. ICRC Schmidt said the first bid was a good bid. It's probably not going to be cheaper next year. He really wants to see it done. It would be a good decision by the Board. It will last forever. Action is tabled until the prices come in. Schmidt thanked the Board.

CEMETERY ROAD BLACKTOP

Board of Review Dates - BOR Member George Holm will not be able to be at the BOR this year due to health problems. Mike Franzene was appointed to the position to cover the opening. BOR dates are March 16 from 1pm-5pm & 6pm-9pm / March 18 from 9am-2pm / All meetings are at the Township Hall.

BOR DATES

Budget Workshop Date – A Board budget workshop has been set for Thursday, March 17th @ 5:00pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

General Ops/Road Millage Renewal /March 8 Election Results – Clerk Benson-Stafford thanked the Residents for passing the millage on behalf of the Board. She also extended a thank you to the election workers who work hard to get the job done. Schmidt added that Clerk Benson-Stafford does a great job also.

ELECTION RESULTS

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report - Atanasoff stated there is nothing new to report except that he was briefed on an issue regarding a water turn off. He stated that he knows Benson takes good notes and that's important. Helgemo stated that the issue was dealt with. The bill will be paid this month.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent but submitted a report stating that the Notices of Assessments were mailed on the 24th. She fielded calls regarding changes to assessments/taxable values. She stated that if people have a concern they should call her at 906-358-0504. Her report contained a reminder of the BOR dates. A copy of the report will be kept on file by the Clerk.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Board Salary Resolutions - Supervisor Helgemo started off by saying that it's hard to compare Municipalities because they are all different. Bates has a Cemetery, Park, Water system and Sewer systems. There is a lot going on and a lot of responsibility. The work loads are heavier than most townships because of this. /

BOARD SALARY RESOLUTION

Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that she loves her position and wanted to state that her work experience has always been in customer service, office management, she was a bookkeeper at a CPA firm and then did billing. She is also a Michigan licensed real estate Broker and the Secretary for the Iron County MTA. All of this experience helps her with her daily duties as Clerk. She stated that she believes that she has demonstrated a dedication to the job and that in 15 years as Clerk she has only missed two meetings that were due to family illness and death. Some of her duties include general correspondence, record keeping files, ordinances, resolutions, proceedings, payroll, monthly-quarterly-annual payroll reporting, W-2's, 1099's, Workman's comp audits, Accounts Payable, FOIA Coordinator ,Cemetery records, Oversee elections, Inspectors, AV applications, Ballots, reporting, and many extra duties that no one sees. She asked that her salary match that of the Treasurer. Schmidt stated that through the years sometimes raises were very small and many years not at all. Helgemo said that the Clerk does a great job, followed up by Bobnock and Wodzinski. Atty Atanasoff stated that whenever he has a request it is handled promptly. A motion was made by Helgemo to increase the Clerks salary to \$24327.23/yr to match the Treasurer's salary. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, Abstain; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Helgemo, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Supervisor Helgemo stated that he would like to see the Supervisor position increased by \$1000/yr to \$17500. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to increase the Supervisor salary to \$17500/yr. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Helgemo, Abstain. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Supervisor stated that although Treasurer Nelson was not present she did not indicate that she would want a raise. He stated that he felt the Planning Commission Members, BOR Members were fine. The Assessor was under contract for at a specific salary for another year. ZA-Constable Oberlin stated that he was fine with his wage. The Trustees said that they were happy with what they had. Clerk Benson-Stafford said that the Election Workers had competitive wages and that it was not necessary to increase the Hall Coordinator wage. / Supervisor Helgemo made a motion to increase the hourly wage of both part time employees and the full time employee by \$.50/hour. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Bobnock, yes; Helgemo, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Mike Golas commented that he thought the Township was a really well run Township. He felt the Board Members were all approachable and always receptive to ideas. He commended the Board.

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Safe – A motion was made by Bobnock to allow Clerk Benson-Stafford to purchase a fireproof safe for the office with a budget of up to \$300. Supported by Wodzinski. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Bobnock, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

SAFE

Pentoga Park DNR Grant – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to send a letter of support on behalf of Bates Township to Iron County in support of their MI DNR Trust Fund Application for Pentoga Park Accessible Paddle Craft Landing. Supported by Bobnock. All Ayes. Motion carried.

PENTOGA
PARK DNR
GRANT

Township Property – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to give the Township Board the authority to sell township property. Supported by Wodzinski. All ayes. Motion carried.

TWP
PROPERTY
SALE

Deposit Resolution – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to continue to keep/use the accounts that the township currently has through the Miners State Bank and First Merit Bank. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Helgemo, yes; Wodzinski, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DEPOSIT
RESOLUTION

Budget Hearing/Special Meeting – Supervisor Helgemo stated that there will be a public hearing of the Budget on Thursday, March 24th at 5:00pm at the Township Hall followed at 5:30pm by a Special Meeting to approve the budget. Copies of the budget will be available for public review.

BUDGET
HEARING

HALL, WATER, SEWER REPORTS...

Hall/Shop– Benson requested that repairs be made to the shop roof to prevent water from coming into the building through the windows. He recommended a roof extension. / Water – Benson advised that the Chicagon Mine Rd tank be done this year. It will be good for another 20 years. / Sewer – Nothing new to report. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – Nothing new to report. / Park – Benson stated that some picnic tables are needed. / Backhoe – Nothing new to report. / Lawnmowers – Benson requested that he be able to replace parts that he used to prepare the machines for the coming season.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IC Chamber – Business Expo Information & Upcoming Events
- Iron Baraga Conservation Tree Sale Fundraiser

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas mentioned the 4/14 meeting at the Beechwood hall put on by the ICC/ regarding Invasive Species.
- Ernie Schmidt mentioned that the Twp will be receiving information on the Fund Raiser for WIC Fire Dept. who is sponsoring the Tournament this year.

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to adjourn. Supported by Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 @ 6:00 PM.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date approved: _____