

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – August 14, 2019 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 Water/Sewer Superintendent Benson; Larry Nelson, PC; County Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, Sunset Lk Assn-P&R; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Bobnock to approve the minutes with a correction on page 2, Pontoon Svcs, third sentence, change the word “me” to “him”. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of July 2019 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 123,880.60
Sewer Fund:	\$ 102,358.31
Water Fund:	\$ 364,618.64
Road Fund:	\$ 194,750.98
Liquor Law:	\$

FINANCIAL REPORT

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Commissioner Stafford was present. He stated that the County is currently working on the new budget; MERS continues to be a problem; Crystal Falls Twp Supervisor Tom Lesandrini resigned effective the end of August. Supervisor Oberlin said that since there is no County Administrator, how is that going? Stafford stated that so far the BOC approves payables every two weeks. Resident Larry Nelson asked if the County has any active timber sales. He mentioned an area by Smokey Lake that should be select cut. Stafford stated that Brock Van Oss did a plan for the county and there will probably be some in the next year.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin that East & West Park Drive have both been chip sealed. Forsberg/Demboski have been chip sealed. There was a complaint on Forsberg from a Resident. No further comment was made.

ROAD PROJECTS

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There was 2 new permits issued. Some new zoning questions. No new violations. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2019=14. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Park Water Raft – PW Benson stated that the raft is back from American Dock and seems to be holding up so far.

PARK WATER RAFT

ACH – Treasurer Nelson said that she received an email from one Vendor that would waive the \$149 set up fee and give an \$89 annual fee for three years. After further discussion it was decided that the number of Residents asking for the service does not make it cost effective to do. The Board has tabled any action on this at the Treasurer’s recommendation.

ACH

Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the Election Inspectors again did a great job and thanked them for their service. She also thanked the Residents for passing the renewal of the 3 mills (2 general operations & 1 road).

ELECTIONS

Advanced Clean Care – A motion was made by Franzene to have the Township Hall floors waxed for \$826.80 (same quote when last done in 2016). Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

TWP HALL FLOORS

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Park Showers – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he will continue to check with Contractors. PW Benson says that the toilets need to be reset into the concrete. Oberlin said that he would like to see a divider shielding the toilets. No action taken.

PARK SHOWERS

Park Improvements – The committee will respond next month with the signage requests and the bid from Gasser to make some improvements to the area.

PARK IMPROVMNT

Township Hall Foundation – No information was available. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

TWP HALL FOUND.

Park Host – The second Park Hosts have left for the season (prior to the end of the season). It is determined that the search for great reliable Park Hosts for next year needs to begin "now."

PARK HOST

Park Boat Launch – Supervisor Oberlin stated that after completing an application for assistance, Wildlife Unlimited said that they will contribute \$9000 towards the project. The Township will have to put up a plaque. The Township is very grateful. The project will probably begin sometime in September when the Contractor is available.

PARK BOAT LAUNCH

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – Nothing new to report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Street Lighting – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he and Trustee Franzene would like to do another assessment for the street lighting to see if there are anymore that could be permanently shut off.

STREET LIGHTING

UPPCO Smart Meters – Supervisor Oberlin provided information on the new smart meter program. To opt out of the smart meter you will be able to enroll in the Standard Meter "opt-out" program for a \$65 onetime fee and a \$15/monthly fee. UPPCO expects the smart meters to be installed by mid-November.

UPPCO SMART METERS

DTE Survey – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the residents around Sunset Lake, Bates Amasa Rd to Section 16 Rd will be getting a survey from DTE. They are looking to see the interest level in natural gas service. Resident Golas stated that in 2009-2010 there was a similar inquiry.

DTE SURVEY

MDNR Trust – Supervisor Oberlin stated that the DNR is requiring a signature from the County that they would keep the property as a park if it ever reverted back to them. The County Attorney stated that they have turned over numerous properties to the municipalities and have never had to sign anything before so they will not sign anything now.

MDNR TRUST GRANT APP

Cemetery Trees – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he received a bid from Limb Walker Tree Svc to take down two spruce trees in the cemetery, and grind the stump. A motion was made by Oberlin to accept the bid. Supported by Bobnock. / At that moment Trustee Franzene asked if the township should get another bid. Oberlin moved to rescind is motion, which was supported by Bobnock.

CEMETERY TREE CUTTING

Larson Rd Waterline Project – A motion was made by Franzene to use T&T at \$150/hours for a machine and 2 guys, with Mike Willis for fill, and Harris for backfill. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

LARSON WTLN PROJECT

**BATES TOWNSHIP**

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**Hall/Shop**—Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson stated that one of three residents are hooked up now on Anderson Rd. The fourth resident is going to get a well. **Sewer** – Benson stated that the lagoon was cut for the season. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Report on file with the Clerk / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Benson asked to purchase a set of 8’ forks to help with getting the swim raft in and out of the water (\$300). Franzene stated that he might be able to find a cheaper pair. Action tabled until next meeting.

Bates Township Center – PW Benson stated that Jim Nelson is done for the year. He will continue to read meters. Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that to assist in the daily duties it would be beneficial to have Dane Shovald due the daily boiler checks at the center. A motion was made by Franzene to hire Shovald to do the checks at the previous wage of \$25/hour for work up to an hour. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

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**INVOICE APPROVAL**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 @ 6:00 PM.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk  
Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_