

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on TUESDAY – December 10, 2019 at 5:00 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; County Comm Stafford (arrived late); Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of November 2019 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 77,498.25
Sewer Fund:	\$ 94,604.80
Water Fund:	\$ 296,743.47
Road Fund:	\$ 97,169.22
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Commissioner Stafford was present and gave a brief explanation of the two lawsuits before the Michigan Supreme Court regarding foreclosed properties. Municipalities may be responsible for demolition funds and if the county sells the property for fair market value, they must turn a portion of the funds over to the original owner. / Also, he gave a brief explanation of the \$400,000 that the state puts into an indigent fund but does not provide any extra funding to the county to have to try the cases.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that we’re on track for the Larson Rd project in 2020. All projects will be bid in February. / He also stated that he felt that the ICRC has been very responsive in plowing the roads.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There was 1 new permit issued. He is currently working to finalize 2 permits. He has received a modified plan which will go before the ZBA again soon. No new zoning questions. Ongoing violation of garbage in yard on Section 22 Rd. Some garbage was cleared away but now the snow is covering the remainder. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2019=22. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Sewer System Sump Pump Audit – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he is working with the Township Attorney to draft a letter to residents. No sump pumps can be directed into the sewer system. The large rains have also created too much infiltration.

SEWER SYSTEM AUDIT

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Assessor Report – Nothing new to report.

ASSESSOR REPORT

Planning Commission Meetings – Clerk Benson-Stafford recommended using a quarterly meeting schedule such as the first Monday of each quarter so that the PC board members could plan. A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt the 1st Monday of each quarter as the meeting date, unless otherwise needed. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. The 2020 schedule would be January 6th, April 6th, July 6th and October 5th. Oberlin also stated that there are vacancies that need to be filled.

PLANNING COMM MEETINGS

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

2016 Chevy Truck Bumper – There was damage done to the bumper during snowplowing. An estimate was received from Stateline for \$900 and from Johns for \$800 for a bumper only. For insurance reason a motion was made by Franzene to have Stateline do the repair. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**2016 CHEV
REPAIR**

ICECA – Supervisor Oberlin had received some information for the Board from Paul Schytema of the ICECA. They lost full funding from the Iron County Board on a 3-2 vote. The ICECA is receiving recent private funding and are committed to doing their work. They also received a \$5000 donation from a local financial institution that did a bank challenge. Oberlin assured Schytema that we think they're doing a great job and they have the continued support of Bates Township.

ICECA

Dale Safford / Cemetery Tour – Benson-Stafford stated that the Bates Cemetery Tour will be held June 10, 2020 (weather permitting.) Later she will be asking the board for a small budget to provide refreshments at the township hall after the tour.

**CEMETERY
TOUR JUNE**

Employee Christmas Bonus – A motion was made by Oberlin to give the same bonus as last year; Full time employee \$150 and two part time employees at \$100 each. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes, Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes, Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
BONUS**

Hall- Trustee Franzene said that there is nothing new to report at this time regarding the township hall foundation. / **Shop**–Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson stated that there is a water leak on Wagner Lake Rd that they will be repairing. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Nothing new to report. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

- A resident asked the Board to change the zoning ordinance and make stipulations on the number of propane tanks allowed on a residential lot. Currently per the State 3000 gallons is the limit. Oberlin will bring the matter before the Planning Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

- GEI Annual Christmas Luncheon Invitation for Board Members.
- The Reporter IC Emergency Svcs ad solicitation. No action taken.

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 5:26pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.