

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – September 11, 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; Yvonne Andersen, VP Sunset Lk Assn; Jim Stolberg, Ken Zanon & Tony Bongji, WICFD; Residents. Assr Erhart was absent.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of August 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:	\$ 123,128.41
Sewer Fund:	\$ 105,267.03
Water Fund:	\$ 272,001.07
Road Fund:	\$ 194,784.06
Liquor Law:	\$

FINANCIAL REPORT

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Commissioner Stafford was present. He stated that the County is still working on the new budget. Also, Scott Kenney is the new Crystal Falls Township Supervisor.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that all road projects are completed for the year. The ICRC is requesting the 3 year road plan which will be due in October. Oberlin stated that he would like to add 10000 tons of gravel for Ponozzo Rd. The plan will be discussed at a future meeting.

ROAD PROJECTS

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There was 1 new permit 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=15. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Park Improvements/Signage – Clerk Benson-Stafford had just received the estimate for the signs. Trustee Franzene (P&R) said that the committee will review the price list and bring a proposal to the next meeting. Also an estimate was received from G&G Svc for cleanup/restoration proposal at the park. Proposal will be reviewed.

PARK IMPROVMNT

Township Hall Foundation – Trustee Franzene stated that he had the foundation assessed by a local Contractor. The west wall of the foundation is collapsing. It is a stone masonry wall and it is not an easy fix. The basement leaks, there is insulation falling down and there is plenty of mold which is why the hall smells musty. Franzene pointed out that the back office roof needs replacing. He understands there is sentimental value in the hall but suggested that maybe the time has come to consider moving the township offices to the school building. No action taken.

TWP HALL FOUND.

Street Lighting – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he and Trustee Franzene did not get an opportunity to further assess possible shut offs, so no action taken. Tabled until the next meeting.

STREET LIGHTING

DTE Survey – Supervisor Oberlin again 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.

DTE SURVEY

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Cemetery Trees – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he received a second bid to take down two spruce trees in the cemetery, and grind the stump. The bid was for \$3750. The board had previously moved and supported a bid for \$1200 from Limb Walkers at the August meeting. Because the second bid was substantially more, the board moved forward with the previously accepted bid of \$1200. The work was completed.

CEMETERY  
TREES

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY  
REPORT

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin read the report. Assessor Erhart stated that the printer no longer works. She will be returning the printer and the remaining toner to the hall. She has her own printer that she will use. / She appreciated that the Board approved the BOR to do some field work with her. It proved to be very educational. / In June there were 3 MTT. The disputes were as follows: 1) assessed valuation – Petitioner did not show up. There will be a new hearing in November. 2) Uncapping – the uncapping was reset accordingly. 3) Assessed valuation – The judge made minor changes to the valuations. / Erhart stated that TMA is a company hired by the State Tax Commission to audit PREs. For the 2019 roll the Erhart there were several that were removed. Anyone who should have a PRE and lost it can have the process reversed through a request to the BOR. A copy of the report and the Adams letter will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ASSESSOR  
REPORT

BOR Field Day – The Board received a letter from BOR Secretary Jane Adams who stated that the BOR greatly appreciated the opportunity to do fieldwork with the Assessor and found the experience invaluable.

BOR  
FIELDWORK

Township Computer Upgrade – A motion was made by Franzene to accept a proposal of \$3429 from PC Tech for computer upgrades for the township office/shop computers with the upcoming Windows 10 deadline. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP  
COMPUTERS

Rogers Location Alley – A proposal was received from G&G Svc to add gravel to the alleys and upgrade them. The proposal will be reviewed.

ROGERS LOC  
ALLEYS

Hall/Shop–Nothing new to report. / Water – Benson stated that the Larson Rd waterline has been installed and is currently going through the testing phase. He will be replenishing \$400 of stock inventory. Sewer – Benson stated that he is waiting on a quote for generators. He has been monitoring the wells. / Constable – Nothing new to report. / Cemetery – He would like the Boards permission to remind people that no live plantings are allowed at the cemetery. A resident planted a tree which will cause chaos in the future as it grows. Nothing new to report. / School – Report on file with the Clerk / Backhoe – He will reach out again to the Vendor that previously worked on the backhoe. It has a leaking valve again. / Park – The raft was taken out today. There was a question as to when the Vendor will begin the boat launch repair. The Vendor asked to do it in the spring and Benson said no. It needs to be done this fall.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Ken Zanon and Tony Bongi were present and talked about hydrants and the 4" lines that were drafting. Benson stated that we have 6" & 8" lines. There was also some discussion about 911 not having clear information about fire hydrants. Benson stated that the information was given to them long ago. Benson will review/update the hydrant information and make sure to get a copy to the WICFD and 911.

**GUEST COMMENTS (cont'd)**

- Yvonne Andersen, VP Sunset Lk Assn addressed the concerns of the Assn regarding the lack of a full time park host this summer, no boat wash monitoring which could potentially bring in invasive species. She wanted to know what the Board is doing to bring in a park host for 2020. / On behalf of the Assn she requested a meeting with the township officials to discuss the handling of the boat launch. It was stated that 70% of the users are from Wisconsin & Illinois. There was discussion about how Stambaugh Twp unsuccessfully tried to charge for their boat wash. No one would pay and no one could enforce it. She stated the residents around the lake would prefer that there was not an open boat launch. There was discussion about the two park host attempts this summer that didn't work out for the full season. Information was given regarding what the park host position entails in case the Assn knows someone that would be interested. Oberlin asked if the Assn would be interested in setting up a volunteer group to help with the boat launch.
- Jim Andersen wanted to know if there was any further information regarding how many propane tanks a person can have on a residential lot. Currently a resident has 5 – 500 gallon tanks and there was recently a leak to one of the tanks that brought the fire department/ambulance Svcs and was a very scary situation for the surrounding neighbors. / Also, is there was any further information on zoning restrictions on how long a home can be in Tyvek. Oberlin stated that so far he did not have any additional information on either matter. He didn't think there were any zoning ordinances that required siding on a home.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Iron County Reporter – Fire Prevention week Special Section. A motion was made by Oberlin to donate \$100 directly to the WICFD to use in the community program of their choice, in lieu of placing an ad in the paper. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, 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 7:18pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @ 6:00 PM.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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