

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – July 8, 2020 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 & Bobnock were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Larry Nelson, PC; Mike Golas, P&R & Sunset Lk Assn; Jane Adams, BOR; Monica Franzmeier, Elections; Margee Brennan, ZBA; Assessor Erhart; Residents.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to approve the minutes with a corrected General Fund balance from the May minutes (\$156,412.32 to \$164,275.10). Supported by Trustee Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of June 2020 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; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 154,984.03
Sewer Fund:	\$ 82,285.51
Water Fund:	\$ 308,990.49
Road Fund:	\$ 210,404.78
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that it appears that there is not a COVID strain hotspot within the county, most cases have been the result of family visiting or occurred through travel. / He reminded that the 911 millage will be on the August ballot. The millage will replace the surcharge on telephones and in most cases should save residents money.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There were 5 new permits issued. He is waiting for several applications. The ZBA variance that was previously approved on Morrison Creek may not happen as one-part owner is refusing to sell. / He is planning to send out several letters for junk car violations, however the recycling center is closed due to COVID, so he has put the letter writing on hold for now. Permits to date in 2020=15. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Public Works Job Description- Tabled at this time due to uncertainty in State revenue sharing.

PW JOB DESCRIPTN

Paint River Project – FAI was the low bidder. Parks & Rec will review the bids and the project again. Franzene expressed concern about other township needs and maybe we want to wait on the project. There was discussion on how long do we have before we lose the grant; is there a possibility that the property will revert back to the county; Resident Jim Brennan mentioned that maybe the Township could get an extension from the state. P&R will meet and gather information to bring to the board.

PAINT RIVER PROJECT

Sunset Lake Boat Launch – PW Benson stated that the concrete should be poured by Friday (10th) and then the slabs will be put in.

SUNSET LAKE BOAT LAUNCH

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

ATTORNEY REPORT

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart stated that we passed the State of Michigan AMAR, which is the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements, so we are all set for another 5 years. / She reminded that the July BOR will be held July 22 at 1:00pm at the hall. / She stated that the County will be foreclosing on one property in Bates Township on Gibbs City Rd. The Township will have first right of refusal. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**BACKHOE
REPAIR**

Backhoe Repair – There was discussion because the original repair was \$17000, and it was determined that the torque converter needed to be replaced for an additional \$3700 for a total of \$21000. It is a 1994 backhoe. It was cost \$65000-\$70000 for a used one with 1000 hours. One resident commented that there is no guarantee that a used one will be problem free. A motion was made by Franzene to approve the repair. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**–Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Nothing new to report. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Backhoe** – See previous minutes. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / School – Supervisor Oberlin had a list of Township building options. There was discussion about the use of properties and/or sale of hall or school. A group of volunteers will form a committee: Krist Atanasoff, Ernie Schmidt, Margee Brennan, Mike Stafford, Mike Franzene. They will tour the school next week.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Mike Golas stated that Mike Henschel organized a Flotilla on Sunset Lake that happened July 4th. He said that it was great and really something to see.
- A Resident made a complaint about loud music on boats and was wondering if anything could be done about that.
- A Resident stated that the school and park have never looked so well maintained. Thank you to the Ed, John & Jim.
- There were comments about calls regarding the lake level being too high. Oberlin stated that Bates Twp has no authority over that. This is regulated by the County Drain Commissioner.
- A Resident made a complaint about some people using the fishing pier as their private party spot over the July 4th weekend.

CORRESPONDENCE

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____