

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – March 11, 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 and Bobnock were present. Also, in attendance were Public Works Superintendent Benson; County Comm Stafford; Larry Nelson, PC; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC; Mike Golas, P&R/Sunset Lk Assn; Gasser, P&R; 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 February 2020 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 167,793.00
Sewer Fund:	\$ 81,890.41
Water Fund:	\$ 250,570.29
Road Fund:	\$ 157,110.93
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Commissioner Stafford was present and stated that the county board meeting was postponed from March 10th to March 17th due to the election.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to approve the following projects: Dust Control \$12,000; Larson Rd \$60,000; Boat Launch \$30875. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. Ponozzo Rd gravel crushing for \$58000 had already been approved at a previous meeting. Demboski Rd may be on hold, we will wait and see how the budget holds. Up. / Mike Golas questioned if there was a decision from ICRC for next year regarding the snow fence on Sunset Lake Rd by the Soderquist Farm. Schmidt encouraged Supervisor Oberlin to continue to ask the ICRC for that for next year.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report. There were 0 new permits issued. No new violations. A few new inquiries. Waiting on one application. ZA was unable to complete the bar inspection because the bar is closed. Permits issued to date in 2020=1. A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Township Hall Foundation - Nothing new to report.

TWP HALL FOUND.

Sewer System Sump Pump Audit – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he would be mailing the sewer audit letter out to approximately 290 sewer customers within the week. Attendees made some comments about what information to include in the letter.

SEWER SYSTEM AUDIT

Park Host Position – Mike Golas questioned if this needed to be a 7 day a week job. Oberlin stated yes, for cleaning/restocking supplies reasons. No new applicants so far. Treasurer Nelson stated that she thought the Township might have to do a paid ad. / It was also suggested by Mike Stafford that the boat wash have a gate. Once you wash your boat, you receive a token to lift the gate. No action taken.

PARK HOST POSITION

NEW BUSINESS

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin stated that BOR was today from 9-3 and will be held Friday from 3-9. Assessor Erhart would like to start holding office hours at the township one day a month for a couple of hours to coincide with the Treasurer’s “collection schedule.” A start date has yet to be determined.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Presidential Primary Election Results – Clerk Benson-Stafford gave an overview of the results and thanked the Election Inspectors for doing such a great job.

**ELECTION
RESULTS**

Zoning Permit One Time Amnesty Program – Supervisor Oberlin was exploring the possibility of this program. He stated people are building without permits. The program would have a start and end date. It would save people building without a permit from receiving fines. Treasurer Nelson thought it was a good idea. The Board can think about it. Tabled until the next meeting.

**ZONING
PERMIT
AMNESTY
PROGRAM**

Employee-Appointed Wage Reviews – Clerk Benson-Stafford reminded that no Board Members asked for a salary increase this year or last year. Supervisor Oberlin stated that he would like to see a cost of living increase to the employees because they did not get an increase last year either. Benson-Stafford stated that she would like to see an increase in the Election Inspector Chairperson wage because the “reporting” responsibility is important as well as overseeing the flow of the election. A motion was made by Franzene for the following increases: PW Benson from \$25/Hr to \$25.75/Hr; Part time \$15.75 to \$16.25; Meter Reader from \$15 to \$15.50/Hr; Election Chairperson from \$13 to \$15/Hr. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE
WAGE
REVIEW**

Public Meetings – Clerk Benson-Stafford presented the notice of the 2020-2021 fiscal year meeting dates. A motion was made by Franzene to approve the Public Meeting Schedule for the 2020-2021 year. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. (Copy of meeting schedule attached to these minutes.)

**PUBLIC
MEETINGS**

Township Property Sale Resolution – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin Nelson to adopt a resolution giving the Township Board the authority to sell township property. Supported by Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

**TOWNSHIP
PROPERTY
SALES
RESOLUTION**

Financial Institution Deposit Resolution – A motion was made by Supervisor Oberlin to adopt a resolution to continue to keep/use the accounts that the township currently has through the Miners State Bank. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**DEPOSIT
RESOLUTION**

Treasurer/Credit Card Information – Treasurer Nelson has been exploring this again. The current offer would have a \$75 monthly charge to the township. Oberlin stated that he doesn’t want to see any charge for the township. Mike Stafford said that maybe PayPal is the way to go. The Board mentioned raising utility rates to provide the service. No action taken. Tabled until the next meeting.

**CREDIT
CARD
PAYMENTS**

2007 Water Dept Retirement Fund – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to have Treasurer Nelson close this account and put the remaining funds of \$7696.05 into the water reserve. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CLOSE BANK
ACCOUNT**

Full time Employee – The Board discussed hiring a second full time Employee that could be mentored in public works department. The Employee would have to become certified in water/sewer. PW Benson has a few years before retirement but stated that now is the time to start training someone because there is so much knowledge that needs to be transferred. Benson will work on a job description. Tabled until next meeting.

**FULL TIME
EMPLOYEE
HIRE**

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Utility Rates – Supervisor Oberlin said that he liked what another municipality does which is their Accountant recommended an ordinance that allows for a cost of living rate increase every year. Clerk Benson-Stafford said that it would be too confusing if utility bills were dollars and cents instead of a flat fee. People will spend \$5.00/day on a cup of coffee but won't water a \$1 or \$2 monthly rate increase. Tabled until next meeting.

**UTILITY
RATES**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**-Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Benson stated that he has been working with Clinton Otto on the meter readings to see if the meter is defective. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – Supervisor Oberlin stated that there was a confidential inquiry into whether the township would be interested in selling the school. The Township did have appraisals done on the school and the shop/hall. No action taken. / **Backhoe** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report.

GUEST COMMENTS

CORRESPONDENCE

INVOICE APPROVAL

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____