

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – October 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Jon Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Jon Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson & Trustees Franzene & Bobnock were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, P&R & Sunset Lk Assn; Ron Ernie Schmidt & Ron Frailing, ICRC; Krist Atanasoff, PC & ZBA; Larry Nelson, PC; Margee Brennan, ZBA; Jane Adams, BOR; Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to approve the minutes from the previous month’s meeting. Supported by Trustee Bobnock. All ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of September 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.

General Fund:	\$ 92,243.85
Sewer Fund:	\$ 80,602.51
Water Fund:	\$ 279,435.03
Road Fund:	\$ 203,451.96
Liquor Law:	\$

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the 911 was going to be levied for the winter taxes but the state statues for changing surcharges can only be done once a year and that is July 1st. Therefore, 6 months of the surcharge will be subtracted from the millage and the remainder amounts to .732 mills for 2020 tax.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that the gravel has been crushed and is ready for the ICRC to spread next year on Ponozzo & Winslow Lk Rds. They will spread it north and west.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report with 1 new permit issued. No zoning questions pending currently. There is a current violation with permit No 20 for a 12’ concrete patio with frost walls. The frost walls were put in at 14’ 9” so that the patio will be 2’ 9” oversized, violating the permit. As Zoning Administrator, Oberlin recommended that at minimum a fine should be assessed. / There was much discussion and Attorney Atanasoff was present to inform he Board of the options. Many Residents were present to voice their concerns and wanted the board to take action; some thought that the Resident is a chronic violator of zoning and permits and that he should be forced to remove the concrete structure as a penalty for violating the permit. Attorney Atanasoff stated that the options would be to revoke the permit; issue an order to correct and comply with a fine and daily penalty; stop work order should be done immediately. Attorney Atanasoff stated that because it is a violation of the permit, certainly it is appropriate to take action. Some Residents stated that he has done things to the landscape. Oberlin said that Jim Carron of the DNR and the Iron Soil & Water Conservation have red flagged him twice, but he continues to pay the fines and get those permits. The Township has no say over the landscape items. A motion was made by Nelson to issue the permit violation via registered certified mail, signature required, along with a \$750 fine and a \$200 per day fine if the \$750 fine is not paid within 10 days. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Bobnock, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Permits issued to date are 26. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Paint River Project – PW Benson stated that people are complaining that they cannot drive down to the river. There was going to be a 6’ blacktop path but Benson & Mike Stafford spoke with the crew and the decision was made to pave the area 8’ wide. Benson stated that he spoke with Jim Carron/DEQ about doing a gravel drive to the river’s edge. We are waiting for approval.

**PAINT RIVER
PROJECT**

Public Works New Hire - Supervisor Oberlin stated that two good candidates had been interviewed. There was one more candidate to interview and he was hoping to have a recommendation for the board at the November meeting.

**PUBLIC
WORKS
NEW HIRE**

Park Restrooms – PW Benson-restrooms are closed/winterized for the season.

**PARK
RESTROOMS**

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Supervisor Oberlin reviewed the report. The Township had received a letter from the State indicating that the Township needed to take corrective action on our AMAR which we thought we had passed. After a further talk with the State, there was an error that the County needed to correct. Bates Township passed the AMAR with 100%. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

WIC Fire Board – Supervisor Oberlin stated that a letter was received, and the Fire Board was requesting an increase on the annual fee from \$19000 to \$22000. This would be the first increase since January 1993. The 1987 Ford pumper is failing certification tests and is 33 years old and needs to be replaced. There is a 1977 Chevy equipment van. The other three trucks are 2000, 2003 & 2007. They are well maintained but the hours of use add up. Ernie Schmidt from the WICFD stated that they are looking at a used truck, they cannot afford a half a million-dollar new truck. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to approve the increase as requested. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WICFD
ANNUAL FEE**

Election Reminder – Clerk Benson-Stafford reminded that the polls will be open on Tuesday, November 3 from 7:00am – 8:00pm. If anyone needs an absent voter ballot application, they should get one as soon as possible. The hall will be all set up with PPE for those that would like to vote in person.

**GENERAL
ELECTION**

Building Committee Update / Survey – Supervisor Oberlin stated that there was a volunteer committee. Chairperson Ernie Schmidt said that they prepared a survey for the residents to answer to get the residents’ input. He presented the Board with an article for publication in the newspaper. There was some discussion as to why the township took the building back. Schmidt stated that there was another municipality that let their school be purchased by a private enterprise which ended up not taking care of the building and it eventually costed the municipality 1.5 million dollars to tear it down. A motion was made by Franzene to approval the article and survey which will be acceptable on the home page of the township website as well as copies available in a brochure box outside the township hall. There will also be a public service add on the radio and there will be a reminder placed on the utility billing. Supported by Benson-Stafford. All ayes. Motion carried.

**BUILDING
COMM./
SURVEY**

John Deere Backhoe – Supervisor Oberlin stated that Iron River Township got a great deal on a new backhoe, so PW Benson & Oberlin investigated it for Bates. A motion was made by Nelson to do a three-year lease w/warranty at \$66980, trading in the current backhoe with a value of\$20000. The lease can be paid off in advance without penalty. The lease will include 500 hours of free service. Supported by Bobnock. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, yes; Bobnock, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

BACKHOE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PW Benson was absent and working on a bad lift station.

Hall-The new roof was replaced on the hall office. Ernie Schmidt asked about the gutters. Franzene stated that he hated to put them on the hall right now before winter. Mike Stafford said that he would be concerned about ice buildup. Margee Brennan said that she was worried about not doing anything. It was decided to wait until we have the survey results. /**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. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – There is a leaking roof drain. Markell will repair it at a cost of \$900-\$1000. They do a retrofit kit and they stated that the drains would be original to the roof. They should be cleared of leaves/debris about every 6 months.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jenn Berlinski introduced herself as the Bates Township representative on the WID Library Board. She said the library adopted COVID policies that mirror the school policies. She was happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.
- Jim Brennan that regarding the Sunset Lake dam and the Drain Commissioner, that maybe there should be a special assessment for the Sunset Lake owners. He stated that the legal fees for the Indian Lk project were over \$50,000. He said to stay on top of it, fix it because the additional water will continue to erode it. Supervisor Oberlin said that the Township had been in touch with Bill Casagrande, the interim Drain Commissioner and that the Township had earmarked \$1000 towards materials and was willing to donate some labor towards a repair. The County was going to turn the Drain Commissioner tasks over to the ICRC. Ernie Schmidt said that the road commission does not have the resources to handle that. Mike Stafford thought it was going to be a one-year trial.

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: 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 7:33pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____