

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – August 11, 2021, 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 & Trustee Adams were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Ernie Schmidt, ICRC/WICFD; Krist Atanasoff, ZBA/PC; Larry Nelson, PC; Residents. Absent: Trustee Franzene & Assessor Erhart.

**ATTENDEES**

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Supported by Treasurer Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Treasurer's report for the month of July 2021 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Supervisor Oberlin. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

General Fund:	\$ 153,796.75
Sewer Fund:	\$ 100,062.77
Water Fund:	\$ 375,732.28
Road Fund:	\$ 143,591.15

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**New Iron County Prosecutor, Chad DeRouin** – Was present and introduced himself. The Board welcomed him to the community.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated that the county had two GIS meetings, one with the municipalities that had GIS and a meeting with those that did not. He stated that Colemans feels that they can get their system to be more user friendly. After these meetings they will come up with a proposal to present.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report with 4 new permits issued. / He has answered various zoning questions. / Violations: Permit # 20 violation – The Judge ordered more paperwork to be submitted. The trial will be in September. / Permits to date: 17. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk. / There were some additional questions from Jim Andersen; wondering why it took 15 years to realize that Gasperini's setback had been violated. Oberlin stated that Gasperini put false statements on his applications. Oberlin stated that the Judge will have to decide the remedy.

**ZONING UPDATE**

Bates Hall Preservation Society - Margee Brennan/BHPS was absent but provided a report. They were working on putting new covers on the feet of all tables, chairs, etc., to protect the floors. She was also going to have the painting and installation done of the new baseboards. She is looking for volunteers and they can call 906-284-0988.

**BHPS**

EGLE Sewer Lagoon – Nothing new to report.

**EGLE/SEWER LAGOON**

MDNR Trust Project /Dock Issue – Oberlin gave an update stating the dock extension would be installed in the coming week.

**MDNR TRUST PROJECT /DOCK EXTENSION**

ZBA Vacancy – Jim Dennis and Richard Spencer both submitted letters of interest to fill one vacancy. Richard Spencer's letter of interest was received prior to the Jim Dennis letter. Oberlin noted that 4 members lived on Sunset Lake, it might be nice to have a board member that lives off the lake for a different perspective. There was some discussion. Krist Atanasoff recommended Jim Dennis be appointed because he is longtime resident. Richard Spencer said he is a newcomer but wants to get involved in the community. He was happy to take the "alternate board member spot." Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that if they both attend a meeting, they should both be paid, which Oberlin agreed. A motion was made by Oberlin to appoint Jim Dennis to the vacant ZBA member position with Richard Spencer as the Alternate. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ZBA VACANCY**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY  
REPORT**

Assessor Report – No report.

**ASSESSOR  
REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall**-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**– Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson will get some bids on valves for the Chicagon Mine pumphouse & tank. He was also given permission to purchase a cordless drill, because the one the township had no longer works. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report; no inspection. / **School** – Clerk Benson-Stafford asked if the toilet could be repaired in the business office. The Girl Scouts will be renting that space.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Jim Andersen wanted to know if there was going to be zoning of propane tanks; and zoning for homes that are unsided. Oberlin stated that the planning commission meets in October. Since the stat already has a 3000-gallon allowance on propane tanks the township might not be able to do anything about it.
- Richard Spencer wanted to know the speed limit on Section 16 Rd and Sunset Lake Rd. He wondered why there aren't speed limit signs. Attendees said it's 55 mph if not marked. Ernie Schmidt stated that the ICRC cannot put up speed limit signs.
- Larry Nelson questioned if the township needs cameras at the cemetery since a full-size pickup truck went into the cemetery and tore up the vacant lots.
- Krist Atanasoff questioned why the state can make rules/mandates and make the township pay. Why aren't they paying for their mandates. Regarding the lagoon, Oberlin said that there are USDA loans

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA monthly newsletter.
- IC Reporter – Ad to acknowledge fire departments. A motion was made by Oberlin to send the WICFD a \$50 contribution, in lieu of the ad. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Treasurer Nelson to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

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