

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday –January 13, 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 & Trustees Franzene & Adams were present. Also, in attendance were County Comm Stafford; Mike Golas, P&R & Sunset Lk Assn; Margee Brennan & Yvonne Anderson, ZBA; Gasser Gasperini, P&R; Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer's report for the month of December 2020 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 110,858.10
Sewer Fund:	\$ 88,451.72
Water Fund:	\$ 305,790.06
Road Fund:	\$ 188,808.51
Liquor Law:	\$

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated the new County Board had their first meeting on January 12th. They passed a resolution stating that they stand in unison with small businesses. They believe the recent COVID restrictions have been unconstitutional and an attack on civil liberties. He understands that the Sheriff's Dept and the Prosecutor's office have no desire to enforce these rules. However, the Health Dept does have the power to fine and close businesses. / Golas asked if the County Commissioners have authority to get vaccines to the area quicker? / Stafford indicated "no."

**COUNTY
COMM
REPORT**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Oberlin stated that he is working on the 3 Year Road Plan. The Township is still waiting on the final bill for Larson Rd, which the County has not received yet.

**ROAD
PROJECTS**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his report with 0 new permits issued. He talked with 2 property owners and answered questions on future projects. / Violations: Court papers have been filed on the Mark Gasperini permit violation; waiting on a court date. / Oberlin is compiling a list of junk car ordinance violators and letters will be sent soon. / Permits to date: 28. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk. / Golas had a question about working being done in the "green belt" on a property and was a zoning permit needed? Oberlin stated that the resident is putting in a storm wall to prevent erosion. He stated that shoreline protection measures are under the EGLE jurisdiction. Golas stated that the shoreline has been cleared. He would like to see the Zoning Administrator do more to educate about the shorelines. The Iron County Conservation District is a good source for "good practices." / Margee Brennan commented that what good are zoning rules if the enforcement is not followed? The board should insist that the

**ZONING
UPDATE**

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

MDNR Paint River Project – Per GEI documentation was submitted for a second draw request. The dock is being stored in Florence. A motion was made by Franzene to approve the draw request of \$13067.82, with a holdback of \$4774.58. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MDNR PR
PROJECT**

Public Works New Hire – Benson requested that we hold off another month before advertising again.

NEW HIRE

Lift Station Easements – Oberlin stated that he signed the documents for the easement changes; he will find out when the Township will receive their copies. / The Township did NOT pay for these easement changes. The Township retains access, the easement access driveways have been changed.

**LIFT
STATION
EASEMENTS**

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Oberlin reviewed the report. Personal property statements have been mailed. Notices of Assessments will be mailed in mid-February. A prepay request for the mailing was included for KCI. / Board of Review Dates are: March 2nd – Organizational Meeting, March 10th 9:00-3:00, March 12th 3:00-9:00.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

Budget Workshop – The Board set its workshop date on February 3rd at 4:00pm.

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP**

Utility Rates – The Board discussed a potential Water/Sewer rate increase. USDA in the past has recommend rate increases. Water rates were last increased in 2007 and the current sewer rate dates back into the 1990s. The Residents that were present suggested that the rates should be increased to support infrastructure improvements.

**UTILITY
RATES**

EGLE Seminar – Oberlin stated that there was a meeting at the Bates Hall of 6 municipalities sponsored by EGLE. There is a grant available for a feasibility study. The grants available are up to \$500,000. The study is to determine if combining water systems is feasible. The City of Iron River will be the grant applicant and GEI will write the grant. A motion was made by Oberlin to contribute \$500 as the Township's match. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. PW Benson stated that there are pros/cons to combining systems, but the study should provide good information.

**EGLE
SEMINAR**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Superintendent Benson stated that he had nothing new to report on the Departments however he feels that the current state of political affairs is a battle of good and evil and he wanted to make a statement that would become part of the official minutes so that someday when his Grandchildren look back at these "times" they would know how their Grandfather felt about the situation.

**PW SUPER-
INTENDENT
COMMENTS**

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GUEST COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Margee Brennan stated that the Bates Hall Preservation Society 501 c3 papers have been filed. One of the ideas is a meet/greet with the Seven Embers business. The Board thanked the committee for their efforts.

CORRESPONDENCE

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INVOICE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Franzene, 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 7:12pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: _____

This Statement is for the Benefit of my Grandpa

I am part of Seven Generations in IRON County
Starting in the late 1800's with my Great Great
grandfather Olaf Benson.

I wanted to go on the record in the minutes
So that my Grandkids might read this and
know that their Grandpa was on the Side
of Freedom for our Country.

We are in a battle for our freedom in our
Country a freedom that was defended by
our young Soldier that fought throughout
the years to keep our Country Free.

The Battle is Between Good and Evil
or God and the Devil.

This Battle has been going on for years
and is well thought out with multi layers
of Corruption in our Government all
working together to obtain power and
transform our Country into a Communist
Country.

That is why I am saying this today and
still have the chance to speak without being
executed.

In this Battle between GOD & Evil
God will prevail and there will NOT
even be enough rocks in IRON County.
For the Evil Does to hid under.

I have prayed for those who have been
hied to and dont understand what we face
in the coming days.

I myself am a sinner and imperfect as
are all of us. And that is why
The Lord is my sheppard.

God Bless and help ~~us~~ The U.S.A.



ED BENSON

11/13/2021