

BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board was held on Wednesday – March 9, 2022, 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 Larry Nelson, PC; Corey Shankleton, PC; Jim Dennis, ZBA; Krist Atanasoff, PC/ZBA, Mike Golas P&R/Sunset Lk Assn President; Fay Whitehead, BOR; Benson & Powell, PW; County Comm Stafford. Residents. Absent: Assessor Erhart.

ATTENDEES

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

MINUTES

Treasurer’s report for the month of February 2022 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund:	\$ 220,543.33
Sewer Fund:	\$ 120,628.14
Water Fund:	\$ 356,676.84
Road Fund:	\$ 215,561.85

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT – Comm Stafford stated that the County presented a plaque to Nick Baumgartner for his Olympic success and Connor Sports Flooring for 150 years in business. / Stafford spoke with Jerry Anderson, Iron County Construction Code office and there are building permit violations on Permit #20 also. Stafford recommended the Township talk to the County about joining in the lawsuit. / Stafford also was told that the Judge chose not to hear the case because of the potential for mounting Attorney fees.

COUNTY COMM REPORT

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Road Projects- Supervisor Oberlin stated that the road bid for East Lake Emily Rd came in at \$232,465. The project would include grind, gravel, and resurface approximately one mile in length. Oberlin stated that he will get an estimate for dust control also. Tabled until next meeting. / Golas questioned about the current culvert cave in on Noren Rd. Oberlin stated that is a county matter.

ROAD PROJECTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Zoning Update – Supervisor Oberlin gave his February with 1 new permit issued. / He has answered various zoning questions. / Violations: Permit # 20 violation – The Board held a special meeting on March 2, 2022. There has been no response from the Violators legal counsel regarding a recent agreement proposal. / Permits to date: 1. / A copy of the report will be kept on file with the Clerk.

ZONING UPDATE

Zoning Administrator Resignation – Oberlin turned in a formal notice of resignation effective March 31, 2022. “Based on time constraints from other responsibilities he believes the Township may be better served by someone who can dedicate more time to the position.” He will remain until a suitable replacement can be found. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept the resignation. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, abstain. Motion carried. / Adams added that the Board would like to thank Oberlin for his years of service as ZA and there is alot that goes into that position.

ZA RESIGNATION

Zoning Administrator Appointment - A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to appoint Corey Shankleton, PC Chairperson to the position of Zoning Administrator based upon his knowledge, experience, and current experience on the PC. Supported by Adams. Oberlin stated that he thought the position should be published. Benson-Stafford stated that it does not have to be published and he is a candidate ready to become certified as soon as possible. Krist Atanasoff, PC member stated that he could see that Oberlin has been overloaded and Krist’s experience with Corey is that he is knowledgeable, and he highly recommends him. Shankleton stood and said the appointment was unexpected, then gave a verbal resume. Jim Anderson stated that he had expressed interest last fall and Oberlin had not brought it before the Board.

ZA APPOINTMENT

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd)

Zoning Administrator Appointment (cont'd)

Adams stated that it would be hard to appoint someone who has threatened to sue the township over the current permit violation. How could someone serve in that position and focus on what is best for the township. / Golas stated that his experience with Shankleton is that he demonstrates an element of fairness. / Roll call vote was taken to make the appointment: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Oberlin, no.
Motion carried.

**ZA APPT
(CONT'D)**

Bates Hall Preservation Society – Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the BHPS is working on a raffle license, and a "Buy A Brick" fund raising program. They are seeking an estimate on putting an insert into the July tax bills that would not be on the back of the tax bills. They also will be putting up a curtain/rod over the table/chair opening as a temporary solution until final renovation plans have been made for the building. They have also agreed to serve the continental breakfast after the Memorial Day Ceremony.

BHPS

Backhoe Roof – Benson-Stafford stated that she is waiting to hear from the Insurance Rep who has had recent health problems. The questions are what the deductible is and will the claim affect rates.

**BACKHOE
ROOF**

Bates Park/Sunset Lake Vandalism – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he has become the FOIA request to get a copy of the police report.

**PARK
VANDALS**

Park Reservations – Treasurer Nelson stated that she has looked at an online reservation service. She would like a little time to play with the 30-day trial program. Tabled until next meeting.

**PARK
RESER-
VATIONS**

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Report – Nothing new to report.

**ATTORNEY
REPORT**

Assessor Report – Oberlin stated that there was no report and Board of Review is the 16th 9:00-3:00 and the 18th 3:00-9:00.

**ASSESSOR
REPORT**

PC Ordinance Amendment Recommendation – Shankleton presented the board with three amendments for the boards review and approval. **1) Accessory Buildings & Setbacks.** A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to adopt the new language for the ordinance, and it will become effective 30 days from publication. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. **2) Permits dates.** A motion was made by Franzene to adopt the new language for the ordinance, and it will become effective 30 days from publication. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. 3) 24-month Moratorium-Commercial Solar/Wind Farm applications. A motion was made by Nelson to adopt the 24-month moratorium language to be effective 30 days from publication date. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Oberlin, no. Motion carried. / A copy of all amendments are attached with these minutes.

**PC
ORDINANCE
AMEND-
MENTS**

2022-2023 BOT Public Meetings Notice – A motion was made by Adams to approve the notice of the 2022-2023 meeting dates, to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. (Copy of meeting schedule attached to these minutes.)

**2022-2023
PUBLIC
MEETING
NOTICE**

Township Property Sale Resolution – A motion was made by Oberlin to adopt a resolution giving the Township Board the authority to sell township property. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**TOWNSHIP
PROPERTY
SALE
RESOLU-
TION**

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NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Financial Institution Deposit Resolution – A motion was made by Franzene to adopt a resolution to continue to keep/use the accounts that the township currently has through the Miners State Bank; and reserve the right to use a second depository. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL
DEPOSIT
RESOLU-
TION**

Sewer Motor Repair – A motion was made by Franzene to approve the repair of two sewer motors at a cost of up to \$3000. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SEWER
REPAIR**

New Truck Estimates– At the February meeting Krist Atanasoff suggested that the township get a third bid from Eagle River Ford. That bid came in \$2000 higher. A motion was made by Oberlin to go forward with the purchase and trade in with Town & Country Sales of Quinnesec purchase price of \$27000 for a 2022 Ford F-250 Ext Cab 8’ box 4x4, with 7.3L V-8 Engine, plow snow deflector, and light bar. The Townships 2016 Che Silverado 2500HD ext cab has a trade in value of approximately \$24000. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW TRUCK

County GIS Contract – A motion was made by Oberlin to accept the County’s proposal for GIS information for a payment to the township of \$1100/year for two years. Supported by Nelson. Roll call vote: Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**COUNTY GIS
AGREEMENT**

Township Hall Rental Agreement –Clerk Benson-Stafford stated that the insurance company’s risk assessment division has recommended that the hall rental agreement include more specific liability language. Also, there was a complaint due to a recent craft sale which had a vendor selling pot pipes, roach clips, etc. The Board agreed to give the agreements to the Planning Commission for further input on language. Tabled until next meeting.

**HALL
RENTAL
AGREEMENT**

Audit Bid – A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to accept a bid from Makela, Pollack & Ahonen for three years of audits at \$8750-\$9750 for 2021-2022; \$8850 for 2022-2023; and \$8950 for 2023-2025. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. The Haukkala firm is no longer doing yellow book audits.

**AUIDT BID
2021-2022**

Pentoga Park Grant – Letter of Support -A motion was made by Oberlin to offer a letter of support for Iron County Pentoga Park Boat Launch Site Improvements. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried. / Golas questioned if the grant would include a boat wash. Commissioner Stafford indicated that would come through a separate grant.

**PENTOGA
PARK
GRANT-
SUPPORT
LETTER**

Perch Lake / Waste Disposal – Supervisor Oberlin stated that he received letter from Perch Lake property owners about a resolution to garbage disposal. Since Waste Mgmt. increased their rates, it has been suspected that there will be more littering. Oberlin is providing information to the property owners from various disposal companies.

**PERCH LAKE
WASTE
DISPOSAL**

Bates Twp Sign/Nick Baumgartner Update – Clerk Benson-Stafford has been in touch with the MDOT about the current signs and impending changes. Krist Oil has offered to pay for the signs and landscaping. Franzene suggested that it would be nice to put a sign in the Bates School field. Oberlin is going to talk to Krist Oil about that possibility. No action taken. Tabled until next meeting.

BATES SIGNS

Reporter Ad – A motion was made by Oberlin to do the Salute Ad to military personnel. Supported by Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**REPORTER
AD**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Hall-Nothing new to report. / **Shop**- Nothing new to report. / **Water** – Repaired watermain break. / **Sewer** – Nothing new to report. / **Constable** – Nothing new to report. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – Nothing new to report. / **School** – The township is waiting for a response from Otis Elevator. / There have been complaints at the hall and school regarding the ice hazards. A motion was made by Benson-Stafford to approve the purchase of a Boss TGS600 spreader. Supported by Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / The purchase will be split between three funds unless it is an ARPA approved item.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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GUEST COMMENTS

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CORRESPONDENCE

- ICECA monthly newsletter.
- Basso Email - Nick Baumgartner Fund Raising Information

INVOICE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Nelson. 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 7:45pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk
Date Approved: _____