

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

5:30 P.M.

Supervisor Cox called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: John Cox, Supervisor; Mandy Lake, Clerk; Joan Dalman, Treasurer; Trustees Delmar Smith and James Spencer; Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk; Mike Yon, City of Wakefield Fire Chief; and a Daily Globe reporter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer; to approve the Agenda as presented with one addition under Correspondence. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer to approve the minutes of the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting of April 5, 2016 as presented. Motion Carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Spencer, to approve the bills and payroll as presented for payment. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES

1. MIKE YON – WAKEFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT: Wakefield Fire Chief Mike Yon was present to update the board on various items – township fire insurance ratings have improved due to a new analysis of the departments capabilities – ½ mile of hoses on both trucks, educational programs for kids in the school district, multi-agency dispatch services, members training. DNR grant has been applied for to be used for new multi-purpose wild fire suits, special ladder to be used for fires where metal roofs are involved.
2. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: PAR Plan insurance report indicated there are no problems at this time. Margaret Street flooding repair problem in Ironwood Township was discussed with an estimate of \$17,352 from Snow Country Contracting pending approval by the City of Ironwood where the repairs will take place (this is a border road). Wording on the GRWA/City of Bessemer Water Project Agreements (Water Purchase and Management) were discussed but no action was taken. City of Bessemer will now review them.
3. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The Indianhead casino project land closing is set for May 25, 2016. The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will get 21 acres for the proposed casino-motel development. The next step is for Federal government approval in placing the land in trust status.
4. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: BINGOVILLE WATER problem – two residents have a water leak under M-28 and a lot of water is being lost. A meeting will be held with the GRWA to seek a solution (short-term or long-term) to this problem with their engineers from C2AE Consulting and Supervisor Cox, Trustee Delmar Smith and Barry Bolich of Indianhead/GRWA member, GRWA Administrator Jean Verbos and the two residents on 5-12-16.

CITY OF WAKEFIELD has requested a meeting to discuss contracted services the township receives from them. Supervisor Cox & Treasurer Joan Dalman will meet with them to discuss this issue. SPRING ROAD INSPECTIONS - The Black River Bridge on S 519 will be repaired starting June 1, 2016. The Total Patching contract of \$10,000 with the Gogebic County Road Commission will be starting soon. The road commission will supply the labor and equipment and our contract is for the patching materials. TOWN HALL ELECTRIC PROBLEM - well pump was running continuously (never shutting off) causing the electric costs to be so high. Binz Brothers has repaired the problem (2 plastic fittings were broke). Town Hall internet problem will be checked out this week,

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$98,095.06 on April 1, 2016 with receipts of \$2,078.13 (a CD and County PILT monies) and payroll of \$4,639.35 and expenses of \$9,348.47 leaving an ending balance of \$86,185.37 on April 30, 2016. Renaissance Fund #244 had a beginning balance of \$2,088.39, with \$500 transferred from Savings to Checking, leaving an ending balance of \$2,588.38, Balance sheets for April were also provided. A discussion of this item in the budget was to be checked out with our Auditor. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Smith, to accept the Treasurers report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
6. ZONING & PLANNING: BLIGHT Inspection Ride Around and Plan for Blight Action - Possible condemnation considered on Johnson Rd. – building inspector will check it out. Site of a burned residence on Pikka Rd – trying to locate the owner to get cleanup started. Another blight site will continue with regular weekly visits from the Sheriff's Department.
7. SECTIOBN 32 REPORT: lagoon will be pumped twice in May. If the casino plans go through, a possible grant will be looked into to replace the entire system. The present system would not be able to handle the extra flow as it's pipes are now think wall plastic and would need heavier lines. Next meeting will be on July 20, 2016.
8. TRAILS: Trustee Jim Spencer gave the board an update on the various trails meetings he has attended. The local club hopes to have ATV trails open from Ironwood to Marenisco this summer. Snow Shakers club needs more volunteer members and groomer drivers. The ORV safety class for kids 9-15 yrs. Old was successful with 19 kids participating.
9. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: approved hiring a part time driver to replace an injured employee.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – minutes. GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION – getting two (2) new members. MTA LEGISLATIVE – Federal Courts have overturned permanently the 'gag order' for municipalities (fire department, schools, etc) being able to discuss and provide factual, informational materials to their constituents about an upcoming millage, etc. A Senate bill (SB853) is in the works to prohibit cities and townships from writing ordinances to ban plastic bag usage in their communities. CITY OF WAKEFIELD WATER REPORT – consumer confidence – 5 parts of lead – 15 is top limit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION FOR HIGHLAND COPPER: At the recent MTA meeting a discussion was held about writing a letter of support for Highland Copper from all the townships being in agreement to do

so after hearing a presentation about the progress being made at the White Pine North site in Ontonagon County and that processing the ore will take place at the Copperwood site. This resolution will be sent to representatives in Lansing and Washington D.C. which cites the potential jobs that it would bring to the Gogebic Range area. A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Smith, to approve this Resolution of Support for Highland Copper for Wakefield Township. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Yon complemented the Wakefield Township Board as a very positive group meeting.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA meeting – None this month.
3. Spring Cleanup dates – Friday, May 13, 2016 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon at Western U.P. Recycling Center located on Chippewa Drive at North 519 and Planter Rd.
4. Planning Commission will meet third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5 p.m.

With no further business to come before the board, A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Motion Carried.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk