

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 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; and three township residents.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer, to approve the Agenda as presented with two (2) additions under Correspondence. Motion Carried.

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

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Smith, 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. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: MI PAR Plan – distribution of dividend based on claims in the amount of \$592.99. GRWA/City of Bessemer water system improvement project closing instructions were discussed – final item needed before bids are requested are the Water Purchase Agreement and the Management Agreement to be signed by the Bessemer City Council. Ironwood Township representative brought up an issue with recessed valve covers on Lake Road and was informed that this is a normal maintenance item that their DPW needs to address. Randy Scott, C2ae Engineering, updated the board on the importance of the Water Purchase and Management Agreements being signed and sent to Rural Development as soon as possible, so bids can be requested by late August.
2. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: INDIANHEAD progress: a Press Release will be forthcoming soon on the Federal Land Trust approval of 21 acres for the development of the casino/hotel/convention project. People have the notion that the tribe doesn't pay taxes but they do payments in lieu of taxes with the 2% monies. Indianhead will be taxed normally. We are hoping to use this 2% monies for help with high speed internet service, better cell phone services and road repairs within a five mile circle by Indian Affairs monies.
3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: RECENT STORMS – Road Commission projects have been postponed for a year at least due to the recent bad storms in Gogebic County in July 2016. Eight (8) big washouts of culverts/roads and 20 smaller culverts/washouts of roads took place. The County is waiting to hear from the State to see how much monies we will get to complete this road work. Each resident should get in touch with our State Representatives and the Governor's office to remind them we are in desperate need of their help to repair these roads before the onset of winter. Our townships share of our road projects would have been \$10,000. SIGNAGE & projects completed – 333 signs were installed and brushing around the town hall

and grounds was done. CLUSTER FLY treatment will be done at the town hall sometime this month. On the November 2016 General Election ballot will be the COUNTY RENEWAL MILLAGE of 1.63 mills. We had a 30% turnout of voters for the State and Local PRIMARY ELECTION held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 with the name of Jerry Niemi winning the open Trustee position and advancing to the November ballot. All other board positions ran unopposed. Not too many people attended the City of Wakefield's "Volunteer Appreciation Day" picnic held at Sunday Lake Park for all volunteers who helped clean up after the bad storm of July 11, 2016.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$67,521.84 on July 1, 2016 with Receipts of \$18,198.42 (includes National Forest Revenue Sharing) and Payroll of \$4,891.81 and Expenses of \$12,136.56 leaving an ending balance of \$68,691.89 on July 31, 2016. Renaissance Fund #244 had a beginning balance of \$3,444.47, with \$250 transferred from Savings to Checking, and the rest of the Savings Account monies, \$7,928.74, also transferred to the Checking Account, for a total amount of \$11,623.21 for an ending balance. The amount of \$10 was left in the Savings Account to keep it active. This money will be used to help pay off the RZ loan. Also included were Balance Sheets for July and also a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report of the General Fund from April 1 through August 3, 2016. A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Spencer, to approve the Treasurers report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: A mobile home has been requested to be moved from Upper Mattson Rd. Blight Officer Jason Alonen will check out another property in question.
6. SECTION 32 REPORT: A flow meter in manhole should be replaced before the pond is full of water. A better option would be a radio flow measurement receiver which would send information directly to his cell phone. Authorization was given to Jeff Wasley, system operator, to do whatever is necessary to keep water from coming into the manhole.
7. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Only one bid was received to fix a drainage issue at the transfer station. The original bid was for \$27,000 which the board thought was too expensive and asked for some cheaper ideas to solve the problem and got the cost down to \$20,000. The purchase of roll-offs for \$17,000 has been postponed until February 2017.
8. TRAILS MEETINGS: \$9,000 is to be received from the DNR to complete the Korpela Rd to Marenisco ORV trail. Next year \$27,000 will be received for the Wakefield to Korpela Rd ORV Trail. Jackson Creek bridge is not up yet. Ideas are being discussed for a LOGO for this network of trails which will become part of the larger Iron Belle Trail across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on down to Belle Isle in Detroit. One landowner, Pat Steiger, has withdrawn his property for the trail but talks with other land owners continue to progress.

CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & ROAD COMMISSION – minutes. MTA LEGISLATIVE – will become active again in September. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – resumes video franchise operations as of July 1, 2016 handling customer complaints. EXCEL ENERGY will be having a public hearing in Lansing on 9-8-16 for over recovery of \$369,427 into its 2016-2017 gas cost recovery reconciliation beginning balance. VA – minutes honoring local resident Donald Luoma. WAKEFIELD CHAMBER of Commerce – holding an open house "Meet &

Greet” on 8-18-16 at the Wakefield Municipal Building from 5-7 p.m. for the public to share ideas that will promote our community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. WEBSITE REMAKE: several items are out of date and we need to add new government and business help sites, a larger, more readable Zoning map (cost approximately \$500 from Coleman Engineering). A special workshop with Tom Ruppe will be held with the full board to discuss more ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

1. BUDGET MONITORING – BUDGET AMENDMENT: No contracts with the City of Wakefield have been paid yet. In order to pay off the RZ loan, some accounts will need to be switched around, as extra money is needed to pay off this loan. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Dalman, to approve the transfer of \$400 out of the General Fund and to create an account within the RZ Revenue Account (income part) to pay off the RZ loan to the State of Michigan, with the Clerk and Treasurer to determine the exact amount due and the process to get this loan paid off. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.
2. POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF DATA: Treasurer Dalman updated the board members on the way electronic data (anything with private, personal information on it) is transferred between the Clerk & Treasurer and is no longer allowed by E-mail. A MOTION was made by Spencer, supported by Smith, to allow the Clerk and Treasurer to make electronic transfers of such data in the securest way that is available. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.
3. DRAINAGE DITCH – end of Johnson Rd. Thomaston floods every year in the spring. Section line was cleaned out 20 years ago and is now plugged up again. FEMA paid for part of the work three (3) ago and being that this was a FEMA disaster we can go on to private property and clean this up again, from Johnson Rd up to the railroad tracks, according to our township Attorney. A bid has been received to do this job from Silver Creek Excavating in the amount of \$4,500. A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Smith, to approve this work to be done by Silver Creek Excavating. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA meeting – Tuesday, August 30, 2016 – Marenisco Township Hall at 6 p.m.
3. Planning Commission meetings on third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business to come before the board, A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Dalman, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion Carried.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk

