

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A MOTION was made by Spencer, supported by Dalman, to approve the minutes of the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting of August 3, 2016 as presented. Motion Carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Dalman, 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: Authorization to Bid the GRWA City of Bessemer Water Project was received from USDA Rural Development. Bids are to be received by September 8th, 2016. The Snow Country Contracting invoice in the amount of \$10,965 was for work done at the Indianhead Water System in 2014 when a section of newly installed water main froze and split during a period of extreme cold. The water main was sent to the manufacturer for testing to see if the pipe was faulty and would be covered under warranty, but it passed the stress test and was determined not to be faulty. This invoice was overlooked until now and payment was approved. The GRWA water system testing to be conducted with the City of Ironwood and Ironwood Township on August 11 & 12, 2016 was cancelled by the City of Ironwood at the last minute. Valves were to be marked and tested to determine the procedure to flow water from the City of Ironwood's system to the GRWA system and visa-versa with the GRWA Emergency Response Plan to be updated with this information.
2. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: An article by Andy Hill and Supervisor Cox will be put together for the December Newsletter about the history of the Forward Wakefield Committee – how and why it was formed, etc. More good economic news came at the last MTA meeting in Marenisco Township – a new building is being built there to house a water bottling plant with approximately 20 jobs to start. The water to be bottled will be coming from the Lake Superior watershed and is full of good, natural, healthful minerals.
3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: ROADS – the Road Commission needs to find a lot of funding to bring the roads back to normal out in Ironwood Township after the terrible storm damage in July 2016. All work in other townships has come to a halt. One road, with a creek with no culvert/bridge able to be completed yet this year, will be closed for the winter. But work goes on and 4

new plow truck have been ordered and they have added more employees (drivers, grader operator and night watchmen). WEBSITE meeting – a special meeting has been set up for Monday, September 12, 2016 at 1 p.m. with Tom Ruppe to help rebuild links for our township website. REGIONAL CONFERENCE in Houghton on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. EST - three board members interested in attending. MTA officials are interested in attending one of our Gogebic County Chapter meetings in the near future. LIBRARY – City of Wakefield is considering building a new Library. Supervisor Cox has requested the Librarian, Denise Engel, to come to our next board meeting to explain the details. The children's programming is very actively used and enjoyed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$68,691.89 on August 1, 2016 with Receipts of \$14,859.96 (includes \$10,000 in CFR monies for 2015 taxes) and Expenses of \$7,196.41 and Payroll of \$5,125.76 leaving an ending balance of \$71,229.68 on August 31, 2016. Renaissance Zone Fund #244 had a beginning balance of \$11,623.21 with all funds (Savings and Checking Accounts) withdrawn to pay off the State of Michigan for the RZ Loan. The RZ Savings Account shows a \$10 balance which needs to be closed out in person at the bank. Also included were Balance Sheets for August 2016. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer, to approve the Treasurers report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: N519 – one mobile home gone before any citations were issued.
6. SECTION 32 REPORT: None.
7. SOLID WASTE REPORT: Administrator's contract expires October 1, 2016. Next month's meeting has been changed to Wednesday, October 12, 2016.
8. TRAILS MEETINGS: The non-motorized trail from Ironwood to Bessemer is getting closer to being finished and ready for blacktop – they are having difficulty getting culverts for the project which is running close to budget. Korpela Rd. to Marenisco trail (4 wheelers, snowmobiles, motorcycles) is marked every ½ mile with MDOT signs and ready to use. Next spring Sampson Rd to Korpela Rd will need three bids for graveling, brushing, and beaver dam removal work, culverts and grading. All these trails are State Trails. Supervisor Cox talked about the Forest Service holding a meeting for public comment on use of ORV's on their land. Right now they allow cars on their back country gravel roads but do not allow ORV's. The Pioneer Trail from Bergland to Rockland is 23 miles long but is a beautiful ride. Need to have a State trail sticker and an ORV general sticker to use this trail.

CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD of Commissioners & Road Commission – minutes. MTA Legislative – will be back in session this month. CHARTER Communications – new channel added. EXCEL ENERGY – are in the process of upgrading street lights to LED's which should save 2-7% on average monthly bill to our township. GRAND OPENING invite to LVD HEALTH CENTER, Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at noon – Supervisor Cox will go. MDEQ PERMIT – M-28 crossing – new culverts installed and paved from Tula Tracks to the dam. WUPDR ANNUAL meeting 9-1-16 at the Konteka in White Pine, MI – no one interested in attending. MPSC – Northern States Power: hearing for 2015 Renewable Resource Plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ADVERTISE FOR APPOINTMENT TO: Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeals, Constructions Board of Appeals, Planning Commission. There will be one vacancy on the Board of Review to fill the position of Jerry Niemi when he becomes a Township Board member. Since no meetings are scheduled for any of these boards, it was decided to advertise after the new Township Board is sworn in.
2. CALL FOR SNOWPLOWING BIDS: Since the weather is unpredictable, it was decided to call for snowplowing bids for the township hall. Bids will be requested for a three (3) year contract and the Supervisor was given permission to do so as soon as possible. Other bids will be requested at a later date for lawn mowing and garbage services, also under three (3) year contracts.
3. NO TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING Date needed: because of the Headlee Amendment, we will automatically see a decrease in our millage amount which means that you should see a slight reduction in your next year's taxes.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA meeting – None in September
3. Planning Commission Meeting will meet 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 6:05 p.m. Motion Carried.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk