

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 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. Supervisor Cox then asked for a moment of silence for Don Bennetts who was a member of the County Road Commission and served the county and township in many other capacities throughout his lifetime.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: John Cox, Supervisor; Mandy Lake, Clerk; Joan Dalman, Treasurer; Trustees Delmar Smith and James Spencer; Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk; our Auditor, Karl "Gus" Ahonen; Shelley Nordine, Deputy Supervisor; Librarian, Denise Engel and two (2) library board members; and four 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 Dalman, supported by Smith, to approve the minutes of the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting of September 6, 2016 as presented and also the minutes of the Special Township Board Website Rebuild meeting of September 12, 2016 as presented. Motion Carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A MOTION was made by Spencer, 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. AUDIT PRESENTATION: Karl "Gus" Ahonen was present and gave a brief summary of our complete audit report for the year ending March 31, 2016, giving an "Unqualified" clean opinion – financial statements are fairly presented. General Fund total fund balance is \$529,801 with \$300,000 of fund balance committed for roads and \$100,000 committed for Economic Development projects so only \$128,665 fund balance left over after considering these commitments. Special revenue fund (Ren Zone fund) balance of \$12,378 on 3/31/16 is to be closed and the debt paid-off with State of Michigan EDC. Supervisor Cox and Auditor Ahonen commended both Clerk Mandy Lake and Treasurer Joan Dalman for keeping really good records, with Shelley Nordine helping with some of the financial statements also. A question was asked about electronic payments for property taxes - - not a good idea at this time as sometimes transaction fees could cost us more monies in the end as we have so few residents wanting to use this system.
2. LIBRARY PRESENTATION: Denise Engel, Wakefield Public Library Director, was present to update the board on the many services provided: access to over 200 digital magazines; "Firepit" programs at Sunday Lake Park – wildlife & birds and music "sing-alongs"; evening family programs on science, technology (take apart a computer by Superiorland Library), and math; Michigan Activity Pass for Michigan park explorations. More information is available on

their Facebook page. A Planning Committee has been set up to meet with UP Engineering to get architectural proposals for a 2,700 square foot building to house a new library.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Randy Scott, C2AE Engineering reported that six (6) bids were received for the GRWA and City of Bessemer Water and Wastewater Improvements project with Ruotsala Construction being the “as read” low bidder. The bids came in quite low – about half the cost of the whole project. All bids will be tabulated and checked for accuracy before recommending a bid award. Mr. Scott also requested that the GRWA Board consider a Resolution recognizing Mr. Tom Steiger, recently deceased, for his years of service as Chairman of the GRWA Board and his many contributions to numerous GRWA projects.
4. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Indianhead – possible construction may begin on the Casino in 2017 – need to get the gaming compact approved first – Federal approval should be coming in 2018.
5. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT: WEBSITE UPDATE – new items have been added or updated: Library link and information; elections; ordinances; Economic Development links; Business listings; taxes, budget, audit. A whole new layout has been set up to make it more user friendly. Check us out at www.wakefieldtownship.com. APPOINTED BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – will be done at the December monthly meeting. TRAIL & ROAD-BEAVER DAMS: new ORV trail on Old US2 –beaver dam has buried the old railroad grade with 6” of water threatening overflow on to Old US2. The dam is on private property and traps will be set for the beavers and then the dam will be run down slowly, with no cost to the township. LVD CLINIC OPENING – Supervisor Cox attended the opening ceremony and was impressed by what a wonderful, modern clinic has been built to serve the whole community of Watersmeet. He also visited the new Watersmeet Township Hall being built. GARBAGE BID REQUESTS: have been sent out to three (3) companies (Waste Management, Eagle Waste, Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority) with the bid opening to be held at the Wakefield Township Hall on November 1, 2016 at 5 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting. PROPOSAL TO RAISE FOREST SERVICE PARK FEES: example – Black River Harbor annual motor vehicle fee to enter park for one (1) year would be: \$30 season pass or \$10 per day. EAST M-28 BLACKTOP: not on schedule of the Five-year plan but is a nice surprise to have it pulverized and milled with two (2) layers of blacktop from Cty 519N to Tula tracks.
6. TREASURER’S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$71,235.82 on September 1, 2016 with Receipts of \$7,702.77 and Expenses of \$10,459.15 and Payroll of \$4,089.53 leaving an ending balance of \$64,389.91 on September 30, 2016. RZ Fund #244 loan has been paid off to the State of Michigan EDC. Balance Sheet for the General Fund for September 2016 was also included. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Spencer, to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
7. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: A blighted property has been sold and a new blight letter will be sent to the new owner.
8. SECTION 32 REPORT: next meeting 10-19-16
9. SOLID WASTE REPORT: the drainage repairs done seem to be working properly; recycling building is full; Administrator’s contract had 2 hours of negotiations. Gogebic Range Solid Waste garbage pickup service does not do recycling nor are wheeled garbage cans allowed.
10. TRAILS MEETING: The issue of crossing Jackson Creek recently had an approval of a right of way which bypasses the creek by using US 2 from Sampson Rd. to Korpela Road, completing the ATV

trail to Marenisco. Signs have been posted as such and all trails will be marked by the end of October. Two more beaver dams in the Dunham area need to be drained. The walking trail from Ironwood to Bessemer will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24, 2016. The Bessemer to Ramsay trail will be worked on next year.

CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & ROAD COMMISSION –minutes. MTA LEGISLATIVE – monies available for reimbursement for elections; Dark Store issues; overhaul Tax Tribunal system; personal property taxes on businesses. COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY – their meeting schedule. DEQ Permit - Hancock Forest Land on South Boundary Rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SNOW REMOVAL BID AWARD: Only one (1) bidder – Mike Heikkila – for 3 years at \$45 Per time for the Wakefield Township Hall parking lot for the 2016-2017 season, 2017-2018 season and 2018-2019 season. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Dalman, to award the Snow Removal bid for the Wakefield Township Hall parking lot for the above stated next three (3) seasons at \$45 per time. A ROLL CALL vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.
2. TOWNSHIP HALL SIGN: the township hall sign is in need of repair or replacement. After some discussion and looking at various ideas, it was decided to purchase a new one and if possible, mount it on the front of the building. Supervisor will check in to the sizes and costs.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA meeting – Tuesday, October 26, 2016 at Watersmeet Township at 6 p.m.
3. Planning Commission Meeting 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 Dalman, to adjourn at 7 p.m. Motion Carried.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk