

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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: John Cox, Supervisor; Mandy Lake, Clerk; Joan Dalman, Treasurer; Trustees Delmar Smith and James Spencer; Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk; and ten visitors.

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 Dalman, supported by Smith, to approve the minutes of the Snow Removal Bid Opening on October 4, 2016 and the minutes of the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting of October 4, 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. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: A Resolution of Appreciation for Tom Steiger from the GRWA was adopted recognizing his contributions to the GRWA and the surrounding communities. The 2016 Financial Audit was presented with a clean report with no issues in connection with internal controls or compliance. A letter was received from the Michigan Treasury approving the Qualifying Statement which enables the GRWA to sell the bond necessary for the GRWA/City of Bessemer Water Improvement Project. C2AE Engineering recommended that GRWA award the Bessemer Water System Improvement Project bid to Snow County Contracting as did the Bessemer City Council. Approved with a 7 ayes and 3 nays vote. The Wakefield Township Board representative to the GRWA expires on December 1, 2016.
2. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: See under Supervisor's report.
3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: NEWSLETTER – will focus on Economic Development, since 1995, and what the Renaissance Zones have meant to our township. GARBAGE BID RESULTS: 3 bids requested and only 2 bids received for 118 customers for the years 2017-2020. Gogebic Range Solid Waste bid had irregularities and was not in compliance with the bid specs. Waste Management bid included 4 dumpsters for Spring Clean-Up and also included an Alternate bid if garbage is hauled away to Ashland, WI. Per month 2017-18 \$21.73 2018-19 \$22.38 2019-20 \$ 23.05. No decision will be made tonight. We haven't raised our rates in all these years, but maybe will have to do something this year. OATH OF OFFICE – do after election. New terms begin November 20, 2016.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$64,389.91 on October 1, 2016, with Receipts of \$1,152.12 and Expenses of \$6,610.14 and Payroll of \$4,402.73 leaving an ending balance of \$54,529.16 on October 31, 2016. Balance Sheet for October 2016 was also included. November bills are being paid and no CD withdrawal will be necessary after December. A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Lake, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: As per the Planning/Zoning Commission meeting, the mobile home on Upper Mattson Rd. has not been removed yet. Owner has said he will remove it and will be given a notice he has until July 14, 2017 to get the job done. An ongoing blight problem has the resident moving next month and the new owner will clean up the property. Another property has a house destroyed by fire and the new owners of the property will be given 15 days to clean the mess up.
6. GOGEBIC RANGE SOLID WASTE: Approved the employee's Union contract and also the Administrators contract with a 3% increase, and Health Insurance benefits.
7. TRAILS MEETING: A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open the non-motorized Gateway Trail from Ironwood city limits to Bessemer's Moore Street. This marked the second local phase of the Iron Belle Trail. The 4-wheeler club needs bids for the Korpela Rd to Marenisco trail for brushing, gravel, etc. #519 South to Sampson Rd will have bridge work next summer. The revitalized snowmobile club is seeking more new members and has returned to its old name, the Gogebic Range Trail Authority. Groomer operators are needed and will be trained how to operate the machines properly. A new board of directors was elected and has paid off two-thirds of the organizations debt. Funding has been received from the DNR for equipment repairs, constructing a bridge damaged by the 7-11-16 storm and beaver abatement (which has been done and the swamp drained).
8. SECTION 32 REPORT: System operator contract was renewed with a raise since he has been at the same rate for the last five years. All board members were given a per diem increase also. Audit report was fine. Two board members will be retiring – LeRoy Kangas and Delmar Smith and this will be their last meeting. Operator reported one (1) failed aerator needs to be replaced and was authorized to do so. Quotes will be requested from several new places for the spraying of weeds in the lagoon area for next year.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & ROAD COMMISSION – minutes. MTA Legislative – this will be the 'lame duck' session and 45% of bills are passed during this time so keep up-to-date on issues. MPSC – rate hearing – Excel Energy – increase base natural gas rates by 6.5% for 2017. SANTA'S HEADQUARTERS – want unwrapped gifts for kids – can be dropped off at St. Vincent DePaul.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. END OF YEAR CUSTODIAN BONUS: A MOTION was made by Smith, supported by Dalman, to give the custodian an 'End of Year' Bonus (the same amount as last year). Roll Call vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, December 5, 2016 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA meeting – December 13, 2016 @ Caribou Lodge, Ironwood, MI 5:30 p.m.
3. BOARD OF REVIEW – Tuesday, December 13, 2016 5 p.m. for errors and omissions
4. PLANNING COMMISSION will meet third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5 p.m.
5. RECEPTION FOR DELMAR SMITH TO FOLLOW THIS MEETING

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

Supervisor Cox gave a brief presentation of Delmar's service to Wakefield Township since 1985 – 2016 such as: grass cutting since 1985; Thomaston water system operator; Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeals and Construction Board of Appeals; elected Trustee in 1992 to present; offered garbage collection services; Zoning Administrator; Section 32 Sewer Authority Board at its inception; appointed to the Gogebic Range Water Authority Board and served as its Vice Chairman since the Authority was formed. Read water meter for water usage at Indianhead Mountain for the township which was in control of doing the billing at that time. Worked under four different Supervisors – Jack Luoma, Robert Orlich, Ken Drier and presently under John Cox. Active in the Michigan Township Associations monthly meetings and attended several annual MTA Conventions downstate and other regional meetings

Supervisor Cox presented Delmar with a plaque and thanked him for his dedicated years of service to Wakefield Township and a round of applause was given by those present. Refreshments were served by the township board members and good conversation was had by all.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by Elaine Smith, Deputy Clerk