

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 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 James Spencer and Jerry Niemi; and four visitors.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A MOTION was made by Spencer, supported by Niemi, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Niemi, to approve the minutes of the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting of March 7, 2017, 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: Funds are starting to come in for the Bessemer project. The City of Bessemer will be charged \$8.25/1,000 gallons of water. A meeting is scheduled for March 29th for the closing of finances and a pre-construction meeting with Snow Country Contractors.
2. RENAISSANCE ZONE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: HIGHLAND COPPER—met with Chairman of the Board, Dave Fennell; President and CEO, Denis Miville-Deschenes; Dave Anderson, and Tim Lynott. Discussion took place on the future of proposed mine. The company needs the price of copper to rise, and it is doing so presently. A feasibility study is projected to be completed by this summer. Plans are to start building infrastructure in 2018.
INDIANHEAD—Construction should begin in another year. They are currently re-doing their feasibility study because they need an updated version due to a new administration in the White House. Overall, they had a pretty good year this year, even with the late winter.
RENAISSANCE ZONE—Joe Hilborn asked the Supervisor to find more land for an expansion for his current business. A meeting will be set up with the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners to ask about 20 acres of land that the County owns, which is adjacent to Hilborn's current property, to be used for Economic Development.
INTERNET UPDATE—Northern Michigan University has received a grant for \$6 million to expand the Internet to rural areas in the Upper Peninsula. GogebicRange.Net has been asked to possibly put his equipment on the Michigan State Police tower to provide service to the south side of the Township. Currently waiting to hear back from Charter for internet service to the Industrial Park.

NORTHERN NATURAL GAS—looking to construct a new pipeline pumping station near the Jackson Creek/M-28 area.

3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: BOR—only one phone call. SIGN INSTALLATION—was shipped to Extreme Tool and was damaged, so a new sign is being made. ROAD COMMISSION MEETING—frost laws will be lifted at the end of the month. TIRE GRANT—the Township, along with the City of Wakefield, were successful in obtaining a tire grant from the State of Michigan. \$8,670 (\$3,000 for tires) will be available to use to dispose of tires collected during the spring cleanup. TOWNSHIP ROADS—Darren will be submitting a preliminary grant for N. County Rd. 519. \$75,000 available for graveling in all 6 townships. Looking at placing gravel on Old M-28. John Matonich will go on the township road inspection and marking roads to fix with Total Patcher. Wakefield Township is first on the list this year for the Total Patcher.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$106,712.87 on March 1, 2017, with Receipts of \$4,756.63 and Expenses of \$11,089.34 and Payroll of \$4,491.62 leaving an ending balance of \$95,888.54 on March 31, 2017. Balance Sheet for March 2017 was also included. A MOTION was made by Niemi, supported by Spencer, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and place it on file. Motion Carried.
5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: The owner of the property on Pikka Rd. agreed to clean it up by June 15, 2017.
6. SECTION 32: Coleman Engineering is re-doing maps on who is currently on the system.
7. TRAILS—Trail 11 will be re-opening, possibly taking the old route used many years ago and then hitting a re-constructed route all the way North.
8. GOGEBIC RANGE SOLID WASTE: A one-ton dually dump box truck will be purchased for garbage collection. The City of Wakefield Collection Agreement was approved. The DEQ Annual Inspection came back good and very clean. A mediation between the Authority and the City of Bessemer will be held sometime in April.

CORRESPONDENCE

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & ROAD COMMISSION – minutes. MTA Legislative –bill out to possibly vote remotely for meetings. Dark stores bill is back. "Sales Tax on the Difference" would hurt constitutional revenue sharing. Notice of DNR controlled burns. Supervisor's could perform marriage ceremonies. Retirement benefit forfeiture could be expanded. PLANNING COMMISSION—members are going to Master Plan training. PAR PLAN NEWS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS –nobody here is interested serving on the Par Plan Board. DEPT. OF THE ARMY MEETING—Corps of Engineers holding meeting about water and wetlands. CHARTER—changes channel lineup. GOGEBIC COUNTY FORESTRY AND PARKS ANNUAL REPORT—will be passed among board members to review. SOIL CONSERVATION—reminder that permits should be filled out for soil erosion control. They also need volunteers to help fight invasive plants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERVISOR TO SIGN TOTAL PATCHER CONTRACT WITH ROAD COMMISSION: A MOTION was made by Dalman, supported by Lake, to give the Supervisor authority to sign the Total Patcher Contract with the Gogebic County Road Commission, once it becomes available. Roll Call vote showed all members present voting: YES. Motion Carried.

2. DISCUSS MARIJUANA ORDINANCE-CAREGIVER REGULATIONS: The supervisor contacted many people, including the County Sheriff and State Police Lieutenant, regarding Caregiver Regulations. No action will be taken presently.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: One township resident had a question about the invoices for the garbage bills, and also how many tires could be hauled to the Township cleanup.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

1. Next regular meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 5:30 PM
2. MTA meeting – April 25, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Erwin Township.
3. Spring Cleanup Dates—Friday, May 19, 2017 (9 AM- 4 PM) and Saturday, May 20, 2017 (9 AM- 12 PM) at Western U.P. Recycling Center, located at North 519 and Planter Rd. Check-in with attendant.

With no further business to come before the board, A MOTION was made by Spencer, supported by Niemi, to adjourn at 6:25 PM. Motion Carried.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP