

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2020, 5:30 PM by electronic remote access  
<https://b;uejeans.com/8267610266/4805>  
Meeting ID: 826 761 026 6  
Password: 4805

Supervisor Lake 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: Mandy Lake, Supervisor; Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk. Jerry Niemi, Trustee was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the regular board meeting minutes as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to accept the bills (to include both check details) and payroll, as presented for payment. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Ms. Lake attended the last meeting in place of Mr. Niemi.
  - The City of Bessemer asked for approval to connect 36 customers to the 16" water main on Iron Street. This will save money and be less stress on the streets.
  - The City of Bessemer also asked for funds for additional pumping hardware that has been damaged. They are anticipating some insurance monies as the damage was caused by a lightning strike. There should be more information on this at the next meeting.
  - Doug Olson was appointed for two more years, he is a member at large and not associated with any Township Board. Walt Rickard will be retiring and will be truly missed.
  - At the December meeting the elections will be held. Jerry Niemi currently holds the Secretary role.
  - Darren Pionk gave an update on the Blackjack Road bridge construction which should be completed soon.
2. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-
  - Snowplowing schedule has been set. If anyone needs plowing at the Township Building outside of the regular schedule, please contact Chris Lake at Silver Creek Excavating.
  - Ms. Lake has sent a letter to EGLE regarding the three residents on Zorich Road that the City of Wakefield provides water to.

- Emergency management/COVID meetings are held every other week. There are a lot of community agencies that participate in the meetings. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Ms. Lake and she will pass on the information. The next meeting is 12/2/20 at 8:30 a.m.
  - Discussion was held regarding the appointment of a Designated Assessor. This is a new requirement from the State of Michigan. There is an annual cost associated with the contract, and additional fees if the Township ever needs the Designated Assessor's services. The State is requiring that the Designated Assessor be assigned before 12/31/20, or they will assign one and the cost will be greater.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 30, 2020, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$16,616.27; with receipts totaling \$15,596.78; expenditures of \$10,277.05; payroll of \$5,491.53, leaving an ending balance of \$16,444.47. Motion was made by Lake, supported by Ahonen, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and placed on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
  4. SECTION 32 REPORT: No report.
  5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: No report. The last meeting was canceled.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS: Ms. Lake will email the most recent minutes to all for update.
2. GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION: Ms. Lake will email the most recent minutes to all for update.
3. MTA LEGISLATIVE: Revenue collection has been up, which is good because it was anticipated to be down. There are new standards coming regarding ground water. Ms. Lake will email Ms. Ahonen the link where she will need to let MTA know who the new officers are.
4. MARENISCO TOWNSHIP: A letter was received thanking Wakefield Township for the financial and personal support in the court proceedings regarding the closure of Ojibway Correctional Facility.
5. WUPHD- Upper Peninsula Environmental Health Code 2020 Summary of Changes: A public hearing will be scheduled regarding all changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. APPOINT GRWA MEMBERS: Ms. Lake discussed the need for Township representation on the GRWA Board. Mr. Niemi, Trustee and Mr. Spencer, former Trustee are the current members. Ms. Lake made the recommendation that Ms. Ahonen and Ms. Laessig become the new members with Mr. Drier and Ms. Lake serving as alternates. Motion was made by Lake, supported by Ahonen, to fill the GRWA positions with Ms. Ahonen and Ms. Laessig, with Mr. Drier and Ms. Lake as alternates. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
2. APPROVE DESIGNATED ASSESSOR CONTRACT WITH GOGEBIC COUNTY: Following the detailed discussion earlier in the meeting, it was decided that the contract will be tabled until further information and discussion can be held with other entities. A special meeting will be held to meet the 12/31/20 deadline.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5:30 PM.
2. MTA MEETING: Canceled due to rising COVID-19 number.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each quarter, (March, June, September and December) – December 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
4. BOARD OF REVIEW: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. – Errors and omissions, principal resident exemption, consider poverty exemptions and Veteran’s exemptions. (This meeting may be held virtual.)
5. ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:26 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Minutes by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK