

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 5:30 PM by electronic remote access
<https://bluejeans.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 (Wakefield Township, Gogebic County, State of Michigan); Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk (Wakefield Township, Gogebic County, State of Michigan); Denice Laessig, Treasurer (Wakefield Township, Gogebic County, State of Michigan); Robert Drier, Trustee (City of Wakefield, Gogebic County, State of Michigan); Michael Heikkila, Trustee (Wakefield Township, Gogebic County, State of Michigan) and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk (City of Wakefield, Gogebic County, State of Michigan).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, 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 from January 5, 2021, special board meeting minutes from January 19, 2021, and budget and goals meeting minutes from January 26, 2021, to include the change on the regular meeting minutes reflecting the correct date of today's meeting as February 2 rather than February 4. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

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.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: None

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-

- Road Commission Meeting: Supervisor Lake attended the last meeting. We have approximately \$30,000 to spend on our roads if we stick to the budget. We have 13 miles of paved roads with a 4.5 rating, which isn't too bad, but not too good. If we continue with our same contribution, it will take approximately 28 years to complete all of our roads. Two miles of County Road 519 will be worked on in 2023, which is dependent on money at that time.
- COVID 19 Meeting: Numbers are going down in our area. The vaccine is available and is being administered.
- Cemetery Meeting: Trustee Niemi was on this committee, however due to his passing Supervisor Lake attended. The committee was discussing pre-payment costing, over-decorating and require not using glass due to breaking during lawncare services.
- Supervisor Lake discussed the expansion of internet services and has reached out to get information from GogebicRange.net, with how to proceed and costs.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$31,111.79 with receipts totaling \$67,992.61; expenditures of \$18,247.02; payroll of \$4,727.70, leaving an ending balance of \$76,129.68. Ms. Laessig also discussed the six CDs. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and placed on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Ms. Laessig attended her first meeting, virtually, since being appointed. Jean Verbos ran the meeting as there were not any officers in place yet. The committee appointed new officers, the board will break the tie for Chairperson at the next meeting. The auditor was also present and stated all financials look good. Ms. Laessig found the meeting interesting and is looking forward to the next meeting in two weeks.
4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: At the last meeting, the officers were elected. Supervisor Lake was appointed Vice-Chairperson. The audit report was received, showing no issues. Discussion was held regarding new garbage trucks that use less manpower, but the discussion of can-use versus bag-use continues.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee, Robert Drier, attended this meeting. Discussion was held regarding the updates that would be needed to the lagoon should the casino come into our area.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS: Supervisor Lake has emailed these minutes to board members prior to this meeting for review.
2. GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION: As discussed above during the Supervisor's Report.
3. MTA LEGISLATIVE: All should be receiving the newsletters. Virtual meetings are to be held until February 21, 2021. Revenue sharing amounts are available. Discussion was held regarding the voter registration countdown.
4. SORDAHL RD Letter: A letter was received from a resident expressing dissatisfaction with the work that was done on Sordahl Road during the summer. Supervisor Lake has been in contact with the resident and is working to obtain pictures. With snow cover, it is difficult to make a decision on how to proceed. The board may need to wait till spring to make any decisions.
5. THANK YOU Letter: Supervisor Lake read a thank you note received from Trustee Niemi's wife, Kathy.
6. CHARTER: Channel changes are in effect as of February 2, 2021.
7. ENBRIDGE: Supervisor Lake discussed correspondence from Mr. Lund giving an update on the Great Lakes tunnel project. Supervisor Lake will invite him for a presentation when face-to-face meetings are allowed again.
8. GOGEBIC COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Letter: Supervisor Lake discussed the appropriation history and the purpose of the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. APPOINT BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBER: Tabled until next meeting.
2. APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER: Supervisor Lake made recommendation to appoint Mr. Dave Wanink to the Planning Commission. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to appoint Mr. Dave Wanink to the Planning Commission. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 20-21 BUDGET: Supervisor Lake discussed the process for the public hearing for 20-21 budget hearing which will start at 5:30 p.m. on March 2, 2021 prior to the start of the regular board meeting. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to set the public hearing for 20-21 budget hearing on March 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Agreement for collection of 2021 SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES: Ms. Laessig discussed the agreement between the school district and the Township regarding the payment of summer taxes. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Lake, to have the agreement signed for the collection of 2021 summer property taxes. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. 2021 VA COUNCIL APPROPRIATION: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to pay the appropriation to the VA Council as previously discussed. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. IPADS FOR TRUSTEES: Supervisor Lake discussed the need for updated technology for the Trustees since virtual meetings are becoming more and more normal. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to purchase two ipads for the Trustees as well as provide reimbursement for internet use. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
5. BUDGET AMENDMENTS (If necessary): Supervisor Lake added this to the agenda so that budget amendments can be looked at on a regular basis. In March, amendments will most likely need to be made, as it is the end of the fiscal year. Supervisor Lake would like for budget amendments to be addressed quarterly starting in April.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. SPECIAL MEETING: Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with the Wakefield City Council
2. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. (Public Hearing)
3. BOR (Organizational): Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
4. BOR (Tax Appeals): Monday, March 8, 2021 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.); Tuesday, March 9, 2021 (3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.).
5. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each quarter, (March, June, September and December) at 5:00 p.m. or as necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:29 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK