

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 4, 2021, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mandy Lake, Supervisor; Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; Michael Heikkila, Trustee; and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Clerk Ahonen requested to add the Quarterly Budget Report. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item G-6, Quarterly Budget Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from April 6, 2021. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, 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:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig gave a summary of the last meeting that was held on April 8, 2021. The potential transfer of Indianhead water to the City of Wakefield continues to be a major topic. The City of Wakefield is expected to make a decision in May. Blackjack water has been transferred to Bessemer Township. Treasurer Laessig discussed the other meeting agenda items.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Spring Road/Blight Inspections: The ride-around for blight and road inspections has taken place. There were several properties noted. Supervisor Lake with work on a letter to be sent to the owners.
 - Spring Clean-up: Date is set for May 22. Supervisor Lake will post an ad in the paper to run for one week as well as compose a letter for all residents. The letter and ad will outline the items that will/will not be allowed.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of April 30, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$139,896.47 with receipts totaling \$6,317.61; expenditures of \$13,130.19; payroll of \$4,898.27, leaving an ending balance of \$128,191.65. 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.
4. SECTION 32 REPORT: At the last meeting, discussion was regarding residents who want to hook to the system, but there is no system. A possible special meeting will be held to look at hiring engineers to look into the different options. There continue to be a lot of questions. On a positive note, there are only two delinquent accounts and they are under \$1,000.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: The last meeting was a quick one. It sounds like the lighting project is going through. An energy grant has been applied for.

6. Quarterly Budget Report: Clerk Ahonen discussed the Quarterly Budget Report. This report will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to be sure we are within budget for section totals. If there seems to be something not within budget, we will be able to make a budget amendment. The next quarterly report will cover the first quarter of this fiscal year (April, May, June) and will be shared in July.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners/Ambulance Committee Letter: The County Commissioners are dissolving the current Ambulance Committee and are asking local government agencies to participate. After discussion it was moved by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to appointment Supervisor Lake as primary member, and Treasurer Laessig as secondary to the Ambulance Committee. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted items discussed at the last MTA meeting. COVID-19 update, possible change of election dates, broadband survey, domain change, and road condition report.
3. MPSC-Gas and Electric Rates: Supervisor Lake received two letters regarding video and teleconference dates to discuss the reduction of costs/revenues. If anyone is interested in participating let her know.
4. Marenisco Township Master Plan Review Letter: Supervisor Lake received a letter informing Wakefield Township that Marenisco Township is updating their Master Plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AT&T- Landline or cell phone contract: Clerk Ahonen discussed the rise of telephone costs. For the past three months, the cost has been over \$400. After discussion it was moved by Drier, seconded by Laessig to enter into a one-year contract with AT&T for landline service at the cost of \$85 (plus taxes and fees) per month. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. GCRC Road Contract: Supervisor Lake read the contract, outlining the costs for services and the projects agreed upon by the Township and GCRC. After discussion it was moved by Ahonen, seconded by Heikkila to sign the contract with GCRC. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried
3. Indianhead Rd. Resolution: Supervisor Lake discussed the resolution. We are being asked to support Lac Vieux Desert as the local match for the potential grant funding to pave Indianhead Road rather than the Township. After discussion it was moved by Laessig, supported by Drier to sign the resolution. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried
4. Kronberg Rd. Property: Treasurer Laessig had a resident reach out to her regarding the potential sale of Township-owned property. Supervisor Lake reached out to the former supervisor to see if this has ever been done. After discussion it was decided that the Treasurer Laessig will run a report to see what properties we have, reach out to the County Treasurer to see what options we have, and bring back the information for further discussion.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
2. SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES: Saturday, May 22, 2021 8:00 a.m. – Noon at Western UP Recycling Center located in Wakefield Township Industrial Park. Check-in with attendant.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Ahonen, for adjournment at 7:06 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK