

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL JOINT BOARD MEETING
With the CITY OF WAKEFIELD
February 22, 2021, 5:30pm by electronic remote access
<https://bluejeans.com/90622951311002/0859>
Meeting ID: 906 229 5131 1002
Password: 0859

Mayor White called the special joint Wakefield Township Board/City of Wakefield Council meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL: City Council members: Dale White, Mayor; Amy Tarro, Council member; James Anderson, Council member; Kay Wiita, Council member; Sue Ahonen, Clerk. Township Board members: Mandy Lake, Supervisor; Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; Michael Heikkila, Trustee and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk.

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

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: None

NEW BUSINESS: Joint meeting topics for discussion:

1. BOUNDARY ROADS: Supervisor Lake inquired if everyone present knew where the boundary roads were located. Supervisor Lake stated Niemela Road will be ditched and brushed this year, should the budget allow and hopeful to repave in the next fiscal year. Discussion was held regarding Commercial Lane and the few issues from last summer, but they will be addressed come spring. Mayor White asked if there was any feedback or concerns regarding the work done on Sordahl Road. Supervisor Lake stated there has been some concerns, but with the snow cover the issues cannot be addressed until the spring. Mayor White asked if the future water work that will be done near Bingo's and Johnson Road will affect any structure of the roads. Supervisor Lake did not believe so. The future work on County Road 519 is scheduled to happen in 2023 if there is money.
2. WATER AGREEMENTS: Mayor White discussed the Bingo-ville water project. The City is taking on the project of repairing and replacing water lines utilizing the grant funding. This work will happen in the summer. A Franchise Agreement will be necessary for the City to recoup their costs of doing the project. Mr. O'Dea discussed the difference between a Franchise Agreement and ACT 425. ACT 425 is typically used for large projects which includes transfer of property and tax revenue sharing, for the City to recoup costs quicker. Mr. O'Dea feels unless EGLE insists on ACT 425, a Franchise Agreement will be sufficient. Mayor White agreed that working together with an agreement would be best.
3. INTERNET SERVICE: Supervisor Lake discussed the issues of spotty internet throughout the City and Township. She has reached out to Gogebic Range.net to get some information regarding tower locations, improvement suggestions, or any information to get the ball rolling. Discussion was held regarding the tower that is currently on Tank Hill and Plymouth Mine water tower.
4. GIS-JOINT: GIS stands for Graphic Information System. It is a system the City uses to map the water system. Discussion was held regarding Section 32. It is unclear who is on the lagoon

system or has their own septic system. The mapping would be great for the Township. City Manager Brown will draft an estimate for the man hours that would be needed to map the Township's water lines. Manager Brown stated there would not be any equipment costs. Supervisor Lake will reach out to Paula Koruga for more information on the residents and their systems.

5. INDIANHEAD-JOINT: Jean Verbos of GRWA reached out to Mayor White to discuss the possible transfer of ownership of Indianhead's water system to the City of Wakefield. There are many questions and concerns that need to be discussed prior to making this decision.
6. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS: The City and Township currently share funding of five budget line items: Fire, Library, Cemetery, Parks & Rec, and Street Lights. Mayor White discussed some of the items from their last goal and objectives meeting. Supervisor Lake offered Township help in funding additional items, should the budget allow.
7. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES-JOINT: Mayor White expressed his pleasure with the benefits that can come of this joint meeting. He thanked Supervisor Lake and Manager Brown for scheduling the meeting and would like to see it continue annually. Supervisor Lake agreed and stated the Township would be open to meeting anytime should something special come up.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. (Public Hearing)
2. BOR (Organizational): Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
3. 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.).
4. 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 Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment of the Township portion of the Joint Board Meeting at 6:50 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