

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 6, 2021, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order.

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: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from March 2, 2021. Motion carried.

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.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

REPORTS:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen and Treasurer Laessig attended the virtual meeting that was held on March 11, 2021. The next meeting will be held in person. Clerk Ahonen gave a brief summary of each agenda item. One notable change to the bylaws addresses a tie in a vote for the officers. Should a tie ever occur again, there will be a coin flip to determine the winner rather than waiting until the next meeting. The water at Indianhead continues to be a large discussion topic.
2. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:
 - Internet Info: Gogebic Range.net has proposed two potential sites for a new tower. It is suggested that the Township approach the owners to see if we can purchase the property. Supervisor Lake has also received two emails regarding funding throughout Michigan for rural areas that may be used for broadband expansion. Internet expansion in the Township will happen, it just isn't certain how it is going to look yet.
 - BOR: Supervisor Lake is very impressed with the members. The members are asking a lot of questions and handled the last meeting that was held virtually, very well. There were four changes that will take effect in the next tax term.
 - Blight: Supervisor Lake asked if anyone is interested in participating in the blight ride around the township. Treasurer Laessig and Trustees Drier and Heikkila all expressed interest. All four members will do the ride, split two and two, on Saturday, April 17th starting at 9:00 a.m. Once all properties are determined, Supervisor Lake will compose a letter to be sent to the owners.
 - Spring Clean-up: Trustee Drier is going to reach out to Joe Hilborn regarding the proposed date of May 22, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., to hold spring clean-up for Township residents. There will need to be at least four volunteers to help. Trustee Heikkila expressed concern for the elderly/single residents without access to appropriate transportation to participate in the spring clean-up. Members were open to helping such residents within certain

guidelines. Supervisor Lake is going to contact the transfer station and request a list of what items will not be accepted.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of March 31, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$144,729.03 with receipts totaling \$11,360.82; expenditures of \$10,770.84; payroll of \$5,422.54, leaving an ending balance of \$139,896.47. 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. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Supervisor Lake gave an update from the last meeting. Discussion was held regarding the of the maintenance of equipment and the changing of the lights in the building. The cost for changing out the lights is approximately \$15,000 but there is an application for an energy rebate.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: No meeting.
6. PIPELINE MEETING REPORT: A virtual meeting was held on April 1, 2021. Treasurer Laessig stated she felt the meeting was very interesting. Supervisor Lake touched on the evacuation plan that was adopted a few years ago and would like to revisit the plan.
7. VA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Quarterly Jack Lillar shares the VA Council minutes with the township. Supervisor Lake has the minutes for member review.
8. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Treasurer Laessig discussed the March 17th meeting. Members Dave Wanink and Paula Koruga were present.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SET SPRING CLEAN-UP DATE: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the spring clean-up date as May 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to hire Austin Ahonen for lawn mowing at the rate of \$35.00 per hour. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6 p.m. Erwin Township Hall

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:41 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK