

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 7, 2021, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:35 p.m. following the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

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: Supervisor Lake made five additions to the Agenda. Agenda Item H:5. Cease and Assist Order; Agenda Item H:6. Letter from Superior Health Foundation; Agenda Item H:7. Charter Communications; Agenda Item H:8. Letter from Gogebic Conservation District and Agenda Item H:9. State of Michigan Public Service Commission. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Items H:5 through H:9. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from August 3, 2021. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to accept the bills 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: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on August 12, 2021. Treasurer Laessig summarized the meeting highlighting the following:
 - Approved the bills including a \$50,000 payment to Bessemer Township for the takeover of Blackjack water.
 - City of Wakefield unanimously voted to table the Indianhead water takeover. GRWA will now reach out to any other township or city that may be interested. Whatever the decision is, they will need a copy of the minutes either accepting or declining the responsibility.
 - Discussed Jean Verbos retirement and replacement.
 - Adopted and discussed resolutions regarding the cross connection control program.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Attended the quarterly 911 meeting and was provided the COVID-19 updates.
 - Phone meeting with the Road Commission to discuss the upcoming budget.
 - Discussed a Fall Newsletter to be sent to residents. This will be mailed separate than the taxes.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of August 31, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$103,538.52 with receipts totaling \$7,045.01; expenditures of \$6,402.74; payroll of \$4,782.80, leaving an ending balance of \$99,397.99. 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 attended the meeting. The meeting was long, as it is time to for union negotiations for 3 employees. Contract negotiations for the Administrator will be at the next meeting. All of the lights are changed to LED.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: No meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates:
 - ARPA Funds application is submitted and approved. The first payment is planned to be distributed at the end of September.
3. Charter Communications: An additional channel has been added. (This Agenda Item is the same as H:7, which was added during Agenda Approval above.)
4. Black River Harbor Dock Improvements: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
5. Cease and Assist Order: A letter was addressed to the board sent by a group regarding the stop of all COVID-19 vaccinations and masking. The order is not signed.
6. Letter from Superior Health Foundation: Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness month on September 25, 2021.
7. Charter Communications: (See Agenda Item H:3.)
8. Gogebic Conservation District: Annual meeting scheduled for September 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Bessemer.
9. State of Michigan Public Service Commission: Teleconference regarding the NSP renewable energy standards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Millage Rate: Discussion was held regarding Assessor Prisbe's explanation of Truth in Taxation. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to accept the 2021 Millage Rate as presented. Limitations 1.6238, Operational 2.9392, Total 4.5630 ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Budget Amendments: Waiting until this quarter is over.
3. Indianhead Water Decision: Discussion was held regarding the decision of acquiring the responsibility of Indianhead water customers. The Township does not have a water operator, is not set up for billing utilities, does not have the resources or knowledge to take this on at this time. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to refuse the Indianhead water responsibility at this time. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. Support for the White Pine MDOT ORV Right of Way: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported Heikkila to support the Carp Lake Township right of way along the highway. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Marenisco

3. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
4. SECTION 32: To be held in October.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:18 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK