

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 5, 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: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the regular board meeting minutes and the Truth in Taxation meeting minutes from September 7, 2021. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to accept the bills and payroll as presented for payment. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen and Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on September 9, 2021. Clerk Ahonen summarized the meeting highlighting the following:
 - Shared Wakefield Township's refusal to takeover Indianhead water at this time. There was very little questions or conversation after.
 - The executive committee hired Tori Davey as the administrator for a training period with Jean Verbos.
Approved finance reports.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Received phone calls this week regarding different blight areas.
 - Received a question regarding the ordinance of square footage for a home.
 - Discussed two homes that are inhabitable.
 - Attended the MTA meeting. The guest speaker was Lt. Horn from the Michigan State Police. It was very interesting.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of September 30, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$104,743.85 with receipts totaling \$6,509.46; expenditures of \$4,710.72; payroll of \$5,248.56, leaving an ending balance of \$101,294.03. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, 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. A grant was approved for \$15,000 through EGLE for the disposal of electronics. The details are still being worked out. Approved the administrators contract for 3 years, with a 2% raise every year.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Meeting is scheduled for 10/20/21.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates:
 - Budget is approved and is going to the Governor for signature.
 - 906 area code will need to be dialed with all numbers effective 10/24/21.
 - The deadline to file reports for ARPA funds has been extended to April, 2022.
 - MTA retreats are being held virtual.
3. Fire Suppression Rating: Our rating is 06/6X, which means we do not have hydrants in front of every home. This rating affects homeowners' insurance rates.
4. Michigan Broadband Services: Offering a benefit of up to \$50 a month to Township residents. This opportunity will be posted at the township hall and on our website.
5. MPSC letter: Information regarding a meeting to discuss rate increases by NSP.
6. ARPA award: We received \$15,491 on 10/01/21. Discussion of how to spend these dollars will be held at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election Update: Clerk Ahonen has sent out absentee voters applications and is currently receiving applications and sending out ballots . She has made contact with three potential workers. Ramona has been a great help with coordinating everything. A training will be held within a couple weeks as well as accuracy testing of the tabulator.
2. Budget Amendment: Clerk Ahonen presented the Budget Amendment through September 30, 2021. The following items were presented for changes:
 - a. 101-000-626 Charges For Revenue \$24,070 to \$30,649
 - b. 101-215-752 Office Supplies \$500 to \$700
 - c. 101-215-956 Misc \$200 to \$250
 - d. 101-253-704 Deputy Salary \$100 to \$200
 - e. 101-262-702 Election Salary \$0 to \$672
 - f. 101-262-752 Election Office Supplies \$400 to \$650
 - g. 101-262-851 Election Postage \$50 to \$120
 - h. 101-265-853 Merit \$24,070 to \$30,649
 - i. 101-265-930 Repairs & Maintenance \$2,500 to \$1,400
 - j. 101-448-920 Street Lighting \$11,500 to \$12,300

Clerk Ahonen highlighted the reasons for the above changes. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to approve Budget Amendments as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. Advertise for snowplowing bids: Supervisor Lake presented an RFP for snowplowing. She is going to make it more descriptive than last year. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to post the RFP for snowplowing bids.
4. F-65: The F-65 was filed by Makela, Pollack & Ahonen, PLLC. Everything looks normal. Treasurer Laessig is to keep a copy. After discussion, motion was made by Drier, supported Laessig to approve the F-65. Motion carried.

5. Change November meeting date: Election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 so we would be unable to meet. After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to change the November meeting to Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Trustee Drier discussed the broken light on the flagpole. After discussion it was decided that Trustee Drier will purchase the light and ask for reimbursement if there is not a Township charge account at Steiger's. He will replace the light.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Ironwood Township Hall
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK