

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 7, 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 Drier, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from November 9, 2021 as well as the Snow Plow Bid Opening Minutes from the same day. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, 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: Both Clerk Ahonen and Treasurer Laessig attended the last meeting. Clerk Ahonen summarized the meeting highlighting the following:
 - Indianhead water was on the agenda but there was minimal discussion.
 - Approved payment of an invoice for the City of Bessemer for pump repair.
 - Reviewed the financial reports.
 - Approved the claims.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Spoke with Assessor Prisbe regarding the combination of Board of Reviews with bordering townships. She suggested that we combine with Bessemer Township and Erwin Township. The combined board would consist of one member from each township. We will discuss further in January.
 - Supervisor Lake is going to check with our local MTA regarding the advertising of the Board of Review date.
 - Supervisor Lake attended the Highland Copper meeting. Highland Copper has a new board, only four shareholders, a decreased workforce, no debt and are hoping to break ground in the second quarter of 2022. They are updating the feasibility study again and the results of that will determine the start date. The mine life is determined to be about 11-12 years.
 - Supervisor Lake is going to call the Road Commission regarding the paving of 519.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 30, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$84,874.48 with receipts totaling \$737.57; expenditures of \$10,190.26 payroll of \$4,953.69, leaving an ending balance of \$70,468.10. Treasurer Laessig stated that we are receiving some tax dollars now, so deposits will increase. 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. SECTION 32 REPORT: No meeting, next meeting is scheduled for January.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting, however there was not a quorum. There is a bid request out for a new smaller truck, and two bids have been received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates:
 - USDA loans for high speed internet are available. Supervisor Lake is waiting to hear from Brandon regarding the tower before applying.
 - Continuing education is being offered for Clerks.
 - Minimum wage is set to increase.
 - There is a grant program for help with heating costs.
3. MPSC: Northern States power is holding requests for a recovery plan. Supervisor Lake has the information if you would like to attend on 12/22/21.
4. Charter Communication: Information regarding channel changes.
5. Gogebic County Leaders Meeting with Senator McBroom: Monthly meeting being held at the Bessemer City if anyone is interested in attending. The time is listed as 9:30 a.m., however there is no date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Supervisor Lake suggested that we table this discussion until next meeting so that letters can be sent to see who would be interested in Township appointment boards. Everyone in was in support of this.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Trust and Agency Account: Clerk Ahonen discussed the Trust and Agency Account. A separate account for paying Federal, FICA, and State taxes was previously required, but according to the accountant this is no longer a requirement. We are able to pay the payroll taxes out of the general fund cash account. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to close the Trust and Agency Account and to start paying the payroll taxes out of the general fund cash account. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 (tentative)
3. BOR – December 14, 2021 (as of current, there isn't anything for review.)
4. PLANNING COMMISSION: December 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK