

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 4, 2022, 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 with the removal of agenda items H. 4 and 5, as well as agenda item J. 4 being changed to include the appointment of the Board of Review member. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from December 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. Assessor Melissa Prisbe discussed with the Board the option of consolidating three township boards for the Board of Review. She discussed the regulations for doing such, spoke of the benefits, discussed the proposed times, and reviewed the proposed resolution. Supervisor Lake thanked Assessor Prisbe for her time and stated she will be in contact with her regarding the decision to be made later in the meeting.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
  - The City of Wakefield is working on a possible Tire Grant that would be for the collection of passenger tires only. This would be a joint grant with the Township as well.
  - The Township didn't have any properties in the tax foreclosure notice issued in the local paper.
  - Supervisor Lake attended the District Library meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. All the county's cities and a couple townships were represented. It was very interesting to see how all libraries do things differently. No decisions were made, just discussion. Another meeting is scheduled.
  - Supervisor Lake spoke with Brandon regarding the contract with Merit and Gogebic Range.net as this is expired. The contract proposal is going up an additional \$100 which is covered by Gogebic Range.net. The contract is for five years. There is no additional cost to us. Brandon also agreed that the Township should not be responsible for the snow removal around the tower.
  - Supervisor Lake attended the rural task force meeting. There it was stated that the 519 project has been pushed back and is slated for chip sealing in 2023. Supervisor Lake plans to send a letter to the Road Commission expressing the disappointment in this decision as 519 is in dire need of repair.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of December 31, 2021, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$70,265.72 with receipts totaling \$30,033.09; expenditures of \$4,287.56 payroll of \$5,333.81, leaving an ending balance of \$90,677.44 Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Both Clerk Ahonen and Treasurer Laessig attended the last meeting on December 9, 2021. Treasurer Laessig summarized the meeting highlighting the following:
  - Held election of officers, current officers were renewed.
  - Approved minutes, claims with the addition of the audit bill, and board reappointments.
  - Since Indianhead water has been declined by the City of Wakefield and Bessemer Township is still considering, the thought is Tori Davey is doing a great job and will be capable of taking over the billing process.
  - Discussed the intent of Bessemer Township in regard to the Blackjack water and not cashing the check for taking it over.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They approved the union contract. Also approved the bid for a new dump truck from Fox Negaunee for \$79,611. They will be discussing a request for more dumpsters at the next meeting.
6. SECTION 32 REPORT: No meeting, next meeting is scheduled for next month.
7. PLANNING COMMISSION: Treasurer Laessig chaired the last meeting but there was not agenda, so no discussion.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates:
  - Personal property tax bill.
  - Candidate filing fees.
  - Federal debt limit increased.
  - BOR training options.
  - Federal mileage rate.
3. VA Council Letter: We received a letter every year requesting support of the VA Council. This year the amount requested has increased by \$47 to \$1,332. This amount is based on the 2020 Census. This will come from next year's budget.
4. 2022 BOR Course: BOR training is being offered in Bessemer on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are other opportunities for training being offered in Houghton and online throughout February.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Planning Commission Members: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to appoint Treasurer Laessig, and Craig Talsma for a three-year term and Dale Marten for a two-year term to the Planning Commission. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Supervisor Lake is sending letters to current members of other boards regarding their interest. This will be tabled until correspondence is received.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Budget/Future Goals Workshop Date: After discussion the workshop is set for January 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.
2. 2022 IRS Mileage Rate: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen to confirm with federal mileage rate of 58.5 cents per mile for travel. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Summer Tax Collection Agreement: Supervisor Lake discussed the agreement between the Township and Wakefield-Marenisco School district regarding the collection of summer taxes. There is no change, staying at \$3.80 per tax description. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Summer Tax Collection Agreement. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
4. Board of Review Combination and Appointment: As discussed at the beginning of the meeting with Assessor Prisbe. Decision was made for Supervisor Lake to contact Assessor Prisbe to make changes to the proposed Resolution for approval at the next meeting. Discussion was also held as to the appointment of Tom Wagner as Township representative, if he declines then Dave Wanink. The approval of this is tabled until the Resolution can be reviewed and approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Wakefield Township Hall
3. Budget Workshop Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:17 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK