

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 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 Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from January 4, 2022 and the budget workshop minutes from January 18, 2022. 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. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake did not have any meetings this month.
- Supervisor Lake is working on an article for the Daily Globe Progress Edition to be published in February. She will be highlighting businesses within the township, the new ORV route, internet expansion and the BOR collaboration.
- Has been in contact with the Road Commission regarding the Niemela Road project. It is anticipated that the repairs are going to run upwards of \$100,00 setting our match between \$60,000 and \$70,000.
- Road Commission also asked Supervisor Lake about property for sale in the township that they would be able to potentially purchase and build a garage in anticipation that the Highland Mine would need the road open 24/7 during the winter months.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$90,680.53 with receipts totaling \$39,234.33; expenditures of \$5,282.49; payroll of \$4,807.65; leaving an ending balance of \$119,824.72. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen summarized the meeting that was held on January 13, 2022 highlighting the following:

- Previous minutes and all claims were approved.
- Received an asset detail book for review.
- Approved meeting schedule setting the meetings on the second Thursday of each month.
- Received the board member listing.
- The audit was presented as a clean audit.
- All financial reports were presented.

- Tori Davey gave an update on the job training.
  - One public member questioned the quality of the water on the Water Authority system.
4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on January 20, 2022. This was the organizational meeting. They had the election of officers. Meetings are set for the third Thursday of each month. Also reviewed the audit report, which was clean.
  5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended the last meeting. C2AE was there and presented the updated plan. The main issue is that the tanks are not being pumped enough. Could/would Wakefield adopt a resolution regarding the frequency of pumping? As of now it would be approximately \$1 million or more to fix. The next meeting is in April.
  6. PLANNING COMMISSION: No meeting this month.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates:
  - ARPA funds spending reporting due soon.
  - City of Wakefield has applied for the disposal of tires grant.
  - Be on the look out for phishing emails posed at MTA.
  - Board vacancies and elections article poses a question as to whether Trustee Heikkila has to be on the ballot or not. Clerk Ahonen will reach out to Ramona for verification.
3. MPSC: A \$0.48 rate increase.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Other Board Members appointments: Supervisor Lake is still working on sending the letters to current members of other boards regarding their interest. This will be tabled until correspondence is received.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Board of Review Resolution: Supervisor Lake read the proposed Resolution 1-2022. After discussion Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to adopt Resolution 1-2022. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Assessor Contract: Supervisor Lake discussed contract proposals for Assessor Prisbe. After discussion it was decided that Supervisor Lake will present the proposed changes to our attorney for update. Once returned, the Board will review again for approval.
3. Auditor Search: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to post for a financial auditor in the local papers. 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, March 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Scheduled for March
3. Board of Review: Organizational Meeting – Monday, March 7 at 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Wakefield Township

Tuesday, March 15, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Erwin Township

Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Bessemer Township

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, for adjournment at 6:42 p.m.  
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK