

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 1, 2022, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the Wakefield Township Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget Meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

EXPLANATION OF GOALS, ROAD PROJECTS AND BUDGET: Supervisor Lake discussed the goals for the upcoming year. Supervisor Lake outlined the road projects and the \$50,000 budget for Niemela Road and graveling in conjunction with the Gogebic County Road Commission, continued contract with City of Wakefield, maintaining a fund balance and internet services. Supervisor Lake discussed the proposed budget in detail highlighting projected revenue, expenses and salaries in detail.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2022-2023 BUDGET: No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Lake adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:37 p.m.

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Mandy Lake, Supervisor; Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; and Michael Heikkila, Trustee.

ABSENT: Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda with no changes. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the special board meeting minutes of January 18, 2022 (error approved at previous meeting) regular board meeting minutes from February 1, 2022, ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. 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 AND APPEARANCES:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig discussed the meeting of February 10, 2022 of the GRWA. The board voted to move forward with hiring of Torey Davey as the Administrator and accepting the resignation/retirement of Jean Verbos. The members up of the executive committee was discussed. A suggestion was made to include a member from each board to be included on the executive committee. A finance committee was formed to seek a new auditor. Charly Loper, Jim Simmons and Jennifer Ahonen were nominated for this committee.
2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PROGRESS EDITION: Supervisor Lake has received compliments on this article. It was printed in the February 15th progress edition.
3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

- Pipeline Training: March 31, 2022: Supervisor Lake discussed the opportunity for board members to participate in a training regarding the pipeline. All board members can register themselves for this training.
 - Supervisor Lake gave an update regarding a noise complaint. City residents have complained about the noise coming from a township residence. This is a township issue and falls under the Township noise ordinance. The decibel level of the noise will be tested by the Gogebic County Sheriff. The township resident was present at the township board meeting to answer any questions from the board members.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of February 28, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$119,891.07 with receipts totaling \$117,315.25; expenditures of \$5,834.15; payroll of \$5,935.61, leaving an ending balance of \$225,436.56. 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.
 5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila gave an update of the monthly Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority meeting. The GRSWA hired James Brad Morrison. The current scale charge is \$110 per ton and \$11 per bag.
 6. Section 32 Authority: Trustee Drier reported no meeting this month.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS: Correspondence received by email.
2. MTA LEGISLATIVE: Supervisor Lake discussed MTA information to include the Senate Bill related to reimburse veterans, meeting attendance and ADA accommodations, ARPA reporting due April 30th, illegal dumping and the government shut down was averted.
3. Hazard Mitigation Grant: Our township was not affected by storms and flooding during the pandemic. The Emergency Management reached out to local governments.
4. Michigan ABR Grant Program: Specific businesses that were affected the pandemic can fill out an application Michigan Afflicted Business Relief.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The Wakefield Township Appointed Boards for 2022-2023 were reviewed. The appointments are attached. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the appointments as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 BUDGET and SUPPORTING MILLAGE: Prior discussion was held in detail regarding the new budget. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the 2022-2023 Budget and Supporting Millage as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried
2. SALARY RESOLUTIONS for BOARD MEMBERS: Each member of the Board read out loud the Salary Resolution pertaining to their position.
-Motion was made by Lake, supported by Ahonen to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Supervisor as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Lake to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Clerk as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Treasurer as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Drier, supported by Lake to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Trustees as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. FUND BALANCE COMMITMENT: Supervisor Lake discussed the commitment of the fund balance dollars. After discussion motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to commit \$200,000 to roads and \$100,000 to economic development. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 4. ADOPT COMPENSATION SCHEDULE for 2022-2023: Changes to the compensation schedule from the previous year were discussed. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to accept the compensation schedule for 2022-2023 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 5. BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL and EDUCATION for 2022-2023: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to approve board member travel and education for 2022-2023. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 6. MEETING DATES: Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month except August 9, 2022 due to election on August 2, 2022. BANKS OF RECORD: First National Bank of Wakefield; Incredible Bank; Gogebic Range Bank. NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: Wakefield-News Bessemer Pick & Axe. After discussion motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to accept the meeting dates, banks, and newspaper as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 7. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2022-2023: Supervisor Lake read the resolution incorporating all budget numbers. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to accept the General Appropriations Act 2022-2023 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 8. BUDGET AMENDMENTS for 2021-2022: Clerk Ahonen discussed the 2021-2022 budget. Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to accept budget amendments as follows: 101-000-626 \$1351.00, 101-101-752 (\$100.00), 101-101-756 \$100.00, 101-101-861 (\$400.00), 101-101-862 \$400.00, 101-101-900 \$100.00, 101-101-956 (\$100.00), 101-215-752 \$50.00, 101-215-851 (\$150.00), 101-215-956 \$100.00, 101-247-702 (\$700.00), 101-253-956 (\$10.00), 101-253-960 \$10.00, 101-262-851 (\$50.00), 101-262-956 \$50.00, 101-265-853 \$1351.00, 101-265-921 \$300.00, 101-265-930 \$200.00, 101-448-920 \$200.00, 101-722-752 (\$50.00), 101-722-801 (\$200.00), 101-722-861 (\$150.00), 101-722-910 \$400.00, 101-862 (\$7000.00), 101-862-715 \$7000.00. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 9. APPROVAL for ATTENDANCE at Pipeline Training: Based on the discussion above all five members have expressed interest in attending the virtual training on March 31, 2022. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to approve all five members attendance in the training. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 10. Adopt State Guidelines for Poverty Exemption: 1-\$12,880, 2-\$17,420, 3-\$21,960, 4-\$26,500, 5-\$31,040, 6-\$35,580, 7-\$40,120, 8-\$44,660, Additional \$4,540. Motion was made by Ahonen,

supported by Laessig to adopt the state guidelines for poverty exemption. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

11. New Application and Affidavit form for Poverty Exemption: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the state form new application and affidavit for poverty exemption and checklist. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
12. 2022-2027 Assessor Contract for Supplemental Assessing Services: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to approve the 2022-2027 Assessor Contract for Supplemental Assessing Services. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
13. 2022-2027 Assessor Employment Agreement: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen to approve the 2022-2027 Assessor Employment Agreement. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Michael Heikkila asked if there are stimulus monies that could be utilized to help residents move snow from the end of their driveways.
2. Robert Drier questioned if there was a program to issue fire extinguishers to township residents that was utilized in the past.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. The combined BOR (Tax Appeals): Monday, March 14, 2022 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Wakefield Townhall); Tuesday, March 15, 2022 (2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Erwin Township Hall); March 15, 2022 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bessemer Township Hall).
3. MTA meeting – Wakefield Township Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
4. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each quarter, (March, June, September and December) at 5:00 p.m. or as necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:35 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP