

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 5, 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 Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the addition of H. 3. Wakefield 4th of July Committee Letter; H. 4. Bois Blanc Township Letter; H. 5. Charter Communication Letters. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the public hearing and budget meeting minutes from March 1, 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. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen summarized the meeting that was held on March 10, 2022, attended by her and Treasurer Laessig, highlighting the following:
 - Discussed the new administrator position. The contract is still under review. Once completed, the contract will be presented to the board approval.
 - Insurance renewal.
 - There is a posting for a new board member at large member.
 - Bylaw changes to include a member from all municipalities on the executive committee.
 - Contract approved with Accounting Solutions at a rate of \$100 per hour for accounting support for Tori as needed.
 - All financial reports were presented.
 - It was recommended to write a letter of thanks to the resigned board member.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Email communication is taking place with the buyers of a blighted property.
 - Need to schedule spring blight ride around in May.
 - Will contact Barry for spring road ride around.
 - Niemela Road project has been awarded to Angelo Luppino at approximately \$70,000.
 - Based on the 2020 Census the Township's population has decreased. Our Constitutional Revenue Sharing will be decreased by \$1,500.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of March 31, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$225,443.92 with receipts totaling \$826.12; expenditures of \$5,181.48; payroll of \$5,554.24; leaving an ending balance of \$215,534.32. 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. Treasurer Laessig also discussed First National Bank's new

fees. Supervisor Lake does not think the fees will apply to the Township as it is public dollars. Treasurer Laessig is going to look into e-statements and online banking to watch for and save fees. Treasurer Laessig needs a notarized letter stating that she should be the account administrator for SAM.gov.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on March 17, 2022. Two members were missing but there was still a quorum. Action was made to purchase a new computer.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended the special meeting to start the grant process to redo the lagoon and tributaries. The engineer suggested just doing the top of the hill the first year for approximately \$900k, the second year do the lagoon, and the third year the sewage system which will cost about \$4m, since it is still up in the air as to how many users there are, depending on developments. There are meetings scheduled for 4/20/22 and 5/10/22.
6. PIPELINE MEETING: There were 80+ people in attendance. The meeting was very interesting. The emphasis was on if there were to ever be a problem the only people that can go near the pipeline are pipeline people; not even first responders are allowed.
7. PLANNING COMMISSION: Discussion was held regarding the noise complaint.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted updates regarding road construction and elections.
2. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence
3. Wakefield 4th of July Committee sent a letter regarding a donation. Our donation is included in our payment that is paid to the City of Wakefield through our contracted services.
4. Bois Blanc Township sent a letter regarding changes in board participation. Supervisor Lake is going to bring it to MTA for discussion.
5. Charter Communications has sent letters regarding the upcoming channel changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Spring Clean up/Scrap Tire Grant: Get letters out regarding the anticipated date of June 4, 2022. The City of Wakefield was awarded a tire disposal grant of \$12k. Residents will pay \$2 per tire disposal. The fee will be paid and they will be given a voucher. There has not been a date set.
2. Approval of lawn mowing employee: Tabled as there has not been a rate set.
3. Designation of Treasurer as Entity Administrator: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to write a notarized letter designating Treasurer Laessig as Entity Administrator. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. GRWA updated bylaws: As mentioned in the update above.
5. GRWA executive committee appointment: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to appoint Treasurer Laessig as the executive committee member. Motion carried.
6. Decibel reader: Discussion was held regarding the purchase or rental of a decibel reader. Purchase is upward of \$3k and rental would be \$288 for a week. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to table the decision until more information is received from the Sheriff's Department regarding other options. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wakefield Township Hall

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK