

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 7, 2022, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: 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 Heikkila, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the meeting minutes from May 3, 2022. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: Township resident in attendance questioned whether or not there is an ordinance regarding lawn care. Supervisor Lake does not think there is but she is going to check into it and let the resident know.

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 May 12, 2022, attended by she and Treasurer Laessig, highlighting the following:
 - Communication was shared from the City of Wakefield and Wakefield Township appointing members to the executive committee.
 - Communication was shared from the First National Bank regarding the signatures on the accounts.
 - Applications are still being taken for the Board Member vacancy. It is for a member at large so anyone interested can apply.
 - Upgrading BS&A, the billing software.
 - Program controller went out at Indianhead to estimate repair costs.
 - The executive committee met after the regular meeting and discussed the contract for Tori Davey. Members will be attending a presentation at the City of Wakefield regarding rate increases.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake has been getting complaints regarding the condition of Wiitanen Road. The portion of the road that is in question belongs to the city.
 - Clean up went well. The actual numbers haven't been received yet but seems there was more than last year.
 - Scrap tire grant went well. There aren't any official numbers but believe there were about 80 tires for the Township. If there are any grant dollars left, will look at doing it again in the fall.
 - Letters were sent to blighted properties inviting them to participate in the clean up day. Some took advantage of it. Blight letters will be sent out soon.

- MTA picnic will be held at Ramsay park. Supervisor Lake will verify the date.
 - Supervisor Lake met with the Road Commission. Items discussed were the gravel road mileage and Wiitanen Road. We are budgeted for \$40,600 for the gravel project. Great Lakes Road, Olson, and Old M28 were sited as potential roads for gravel replacement. City of Wakefield has issues with the crew being able to care for Wiitanen Road. Supervisor Lake would like for the County and City to come to an agreement to get Wiitanen Road taken care of.
 - Drone studies are close to starting on 519, funding is provided by the mine.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of May 31, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$207,437.31 with receipts totaling \$9,537.93; expenditures of \$8,491.51; payroll of \$5,058.37; leaving an ending balance of \$203,425.36. 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. Treasurer Laessig also shared that taxes will be going out so we will be receiving more revenue.
 4. SECTION 32 REPORT: A public hearing was held May 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the grant application. There were no questions. Supervisor Lake shared that she was questioned regarding the capacity from the purchasers of Indianhead. She forwarded the question on to the committee.
 5. PLANNING COMMISSION: Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, June 15, 2022.
 6. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting. A vote was held to send two part-time workers to Escanaba to obtain their Class B CDL license. Both want to go to become permanent employees.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted various topics.
3. Charter Communications: Correspondence regarding channel changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Decibel meter: Supervisor Lake spoke with Sheriff Jesse Yesney last week. He will be renting a decibel meter. He will bill us for the rental and any other costs associated with getting the reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. GCRC Road Contract: According to the original contract for Niemela Road, our portion is 60% of the cost, approximately \$60,600. However, the measuring was off. Supervisor Lake discussed options. Further discussion was also held regarding the gravel project to Great Lakes Road. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to sign the new contract to cover all of Niemela Road at an increase of \$15,600; and gravel the entire Great Lakes Road. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. WVFD Jaws of Life: Members of the Wakefield Volunteer Fire Department were here last meeting to discuss the need for funds to purchase new jaws of life. After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to give the WVFD \$7,500 toward the purchase. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. State Electrical Assistance: Supervisor Lake contacted the attorney regarding the ordinance to allow the State to enforce the electrical code. We already have one in place from 1995. Supervisor Lake will send a copy and a letter to the State.

OTHER BUSINESS: Trustee Drier was approached regarding a fallen down sign and the repair. Supervisor Lake will reach out to the Road Commission and go from there. Discussion will be held regarding what should be on the sign.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Planning Commission: Wednesday, June 15, 2022
3. MTA Picnic: Either Tuesday, June 28 or Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Bessemer Township

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK