

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 9, 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. ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the additional agenda item 7 under Correspondence. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular meeting minutes and the election committee meeting minutes from July 5, 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to accept the bills and payroll as presented for payment. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment on agenda items.

REPORTS:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: There was not a meeting, however Treasurer Laessig stated that the Executive Committee met regarding the contract for Tory Davey. Changes have been sent to the attorney.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake took part in an interview with a firm contracted by the County regarding the ambulance service. Once all townships and municipalities have been interviewed the firm will compile a report and send it to the County.
 - Plunkett's will be spraying around the building in late August or early September.
 - Lupino's started graveling Niemela Road and anticipate paving to be completed next week.
 - Clerk Ahonen shared that we had 80 voters participate in the primary election on August 2, 2022.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of July 31, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$196,705.03 with receipts totaling \$10,246.97; expenditures of \$19,997.86; payroll of \$5,518.06; leaving an ending balance of \$181,436.08. 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.
4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on August 4. Discussion surrounded around an attendee asking for additional monies for fuel. The Board asked for proof of the cost increase. They meet again on August 18.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended a short meeting. There are no delinquent accounts and they are still waiting to hear about the grants.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.

2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted several items. All members receive the updates via email.
3. VA Council Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Lake has the minutes available for review in the office.
4. Charter Communications Franchise Renewal: Charter sent a letter stating that the franchise renewal process is underway.
5. MPSC Letters: Michigan Public Service Commission has sent letters regarding their meetings if anyone is interested in attending.
6. Xcel Energy Summer Appreciation Event: Local event is in Ashland, WI on August 16 if anyone is interested in attending.
7. Charter Communications Letter: Letter received regarding upcoming channel changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Apex Tax Program: Assessor Melissa Prisbe attended to discuss a program for assessing township properties. There is no cost for the software. The Township will only be responsible for the hourly rate of the person entering the Township's current information. Once the project is complete, Assessor Prisbe will be responsible for upkeep. After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the hourly rate at \$12.50, not to exceed \$600 to have the information entered. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Sheriff's Report from Decibel Reader: Supervisor Lake shared the decibel readings from the June testing. The findings are that the shooting is under the maximum decibel amount set in the Township Ordinance. Two separate firearms were tested, one was metered at 86.6 and the other at 83.9. The Ordinance states the maximum of 90 decibels.
3. Auditor Proposal: Supervisor Lake has started the search for a new auditor. Makela, Pollack and Ahonen will continue to do the F65 report annually, footnotes and financial statements. Makela Pollack and Ahonen has suggested Johnson and Rennie LLC from Menominee. We do not have a price point yet but we are required to have the full audit done every other year. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to use the firm of Johnson and Rennie LLC for the 2021-2022 full financial audit. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. Possible Road Projects for next year: Supervisor Lake shared that the County Road Commission will begin working on their audit in September for adoption in October. They have reached out regarding any upcoming projects. After discussion it was decided that Supervisor Lake will let the County know that our budget is \$50,000, as adopted in the original budget in April, and our road list remains the same.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Board Member internet reimbursement rates: Supervisor Lake was updated as to the discussion from last meeting regarding members' internet rates ranging from \$60-\$110. After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to continue to reimburse the elected members' internet costs at the full rate. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A township resident in attendance questioned what permits and what process needs to be followed to either purchase and place a shipping container or build a shed on his property for agricultural use. After discussion, Supervisor Lake will share with the resident the contact information for the Building Inspector.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Planning Commission: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
3. MTA Meeting: Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:48 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK