

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 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 Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the correction of removing Agenda Item J3 as it was a repeat. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular meeting minutes and bid opening minutes from November 1, 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, 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: No meeting was held.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake received an email from the Road Commission regarding a meeting that was held with Snow River and Lac Vieux Desert regarding the Indianhead Road project to discuss the submission of a grant in 2023.
 - Supervisor Lake will attend a Highland Copper meeting on Friday. An email will be sent summarizing the meeting after.
 - Supervisor Lake attended a meeting regarding the closure of snowmobile trail 2. The DNR approved a new route.
 - Supervisor Lake discussed the recent power outages in the Township.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 30, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$114,400.13 with receipts totaling \$5,891.80; expenditures of \$18,852.16; payroll of \$4,956.26; leaving an ending balance of \$96,483.51. 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. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended an emergency meeting last Thursday to approve the contract with the engineer to go ahead with the project but right before the meeting started, EGLE called and stated that there is more money available. There is about \$2 million available that does not have to be paid back. C2AE will apply for this grant and they will meet again in January.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on November 17, 2022. The agenda only consisted of the regular items and was adjourned after about a half hour.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Discussion was held regarding the possibility of a recount of Proposal 2 and 3. Gogebic County was not selected for an election audit.
3. 911 Plan Amendment/Gogebic County Clerk: Supervisor Lake emailed a copy of the correspondence regarding modernizing our current 911 call process and the ability to be our own PSAP. Supervisor Lake read the correspondence and the Board discussed. No action needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Wakefield Township sign: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to remove the sign from the agenda as unfinished business and incorporate it in the budget for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Financial Report: The annual Financial Report was received. The auditor usually presents the audit but Clerk Ahonen provided a summary. In the second paragraph it is noted that the audit resulted in an unqualified opinion. Highlights include: page 7, items for future consideration; page 8, net position of \$714,000; page 9, statement of activities showing an increase in net assets of \$50,577; page 10, governmental fund statement showing all good numbers; page 11 explains the difference of the net position in both reporting methods; pages 11-13 explain the capital outlay differences; page 14 is of most importance to Treasurer Laessig and all is good showing monies taken in and going out all zero; pages 15-23 are the foot notes; page 24 is supplemental information comparing the budget to the actuals, which are broken down in detail on pages 25-27. After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to approve the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2022. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Road Projects: Supervisor Lake discussed the road project options that can be submitted to the Road Commission for next year. After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to request repairs to Wiitanen, Wertanen and Upper Mattson roads. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Gogebic County Land Bank Proposal: Supervisor Lake attended a meeting regarding the Gogebic County Land Bank. Municipalities can submit a request for help with funds for cleanup of rundown and blighted properties. There is about \$200,000 available this round. After discussion it was decided that the Township is not currently ready to submit any requests. Supervisor Lake will reach out to potential property owners after the Holidays for possible submission during the second round.

OTHER BUSINESS: Trustee Heikkila stated that he received a phone call from a resident regarding the plowing by the Road Commission. After discussion it was decided that the Township cannot do anything about the County plowing. The resident is to call directly to the County.

Supervisor Lake emailed and has a hard copy available for review of the County Ambulance Service Feasibility Study. Please review and it will be discussed at a later date.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No extended public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Planning Commission: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
3. MTA Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Erwin Township.
4. December BOR: December 13, 2022 at Bessemer Township.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:56 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK