

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2023, 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; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; Michael Heikkila, Trustee; and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk. ABSENT: Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Laessig, 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 regular meeting minutes from December 6, 2022. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Drier, 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. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- An emergency plan is now activated and in place at the City Hall in Wakefield. Over the last snowstorm it was used by over 30 stranded travelers.
- Supervisor Lake attended the Highland Copper meeting. It was well attended by several municipalities. The feasibility study is expected to be completed in early January.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of December 31, 2022, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$96,487.61 with receipts totaling \$30,982.09; expenditures of \$12,071.98; payroll of \$5,626.89; leaving an ending balance of \$109,770.83. Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig summarized the meeting of December 8, 2022 highlighting the following:

- Election of officers was held. They remain the same.
- Bylaws need to be reviewed.
- Approved the October minutes.
- Approved two months of claims.
- Discussed the City of Bessemer water purchase.
- Discussed the City of Wakefield rate increase.
- Communication from C2AE regarding an intent to apply for a grant.
- The audit will be presented when by the auditor when it is complete.
- Tory continues to work on the GRWA website.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on December 15, 2022. It was a small agenda only consisting of Tom Smiley Trucking resigning from hauling the garbage. At the next meeting a new contract will be discussed.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: There was no meeting in December.
6. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on December 21, 2022. There was nothing on the agenda, but member Koruga updated them on the grant application for Section 32.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted a few items. All members receive this correspondence.
3. Charter: Received three letters regarding channel changes and rate increases.
4. 2023 BOR Course: If anyone is interested in attending, Supervisor Lake will sign them up. Tom Wagner is our BOR member.
5. Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Rates: Notice received regarding the annual rate increase.
6. Gogebic County Land Bank Authority Grant: Monies have been awarded for five properties. No amounts were given, but the properties are two in the City of Ironwood, two in Bessemer Township and one in Ironwood Township.
7. Paradigm Pipeline Meetings: Supervisor Lake has sent an email regarding the next meeting to be held in March at the Aurora Club. Everyone is welcome to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Budget/Future Goals Workshop Date: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the meeting date of Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.
2. Approve Pipeline Meeting Attendance: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve all members to attend the meeting scheduled for March 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Aurora Club. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Confirm 2023 IRS Mileage Rate: The IRS has changed the mileage rate to 65.5 cents per mile. Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig to approve the 2023 IRS mileage rate. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.
4. Summer Tax Collection Agreement for W-M School District: Supervisor Lake discussed the agreement, the rate is the same as last year. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to approve the Summer Tax Collection Agreement for W-M School District as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.
5. Township Appointed Board Members: Board members needing reappointment are as follows - Tom Wagner, Board of Review; Jeff Pikka, Zoning Board of Appeals; Paula Koruga and Dave Wanink, Planning Commission. Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to reappointment all current members. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.

6. Ambulance Feasibility Study: Supervisor Lake has emailed the 64 page document to all Board Members. The County Commissioners are looking for feedback until February. The hard copy of the document will be placed on file and available for review.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No extended public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Erwin Township.
3. Budget Workshop: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:27 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK