

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 7, 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; 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 Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item H.6. Charter Community Letter. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 3, 2023 and budget workshop meeting from January 24, 2023. Motion carried.

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.

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

REPORTS:

1. SECTION 32 REPORT: Kelly Heidbrier (C2AE) and Paula Koruga (Section 32) attended tonight's meeting to discuss the Section 32 grant as well as a bond proposal. Section 32 was approved for a 50% grant funding the sewer project at Indianhead Mountain. Section 32 is looking to secure bonds to borrow the remaining \$475k that it will take to complete the project. Since Section 32 is very small and has little revenue coming in, they are unable to secure the bond. Section 32 is asking for Wakefield Township to back the bond. Should Section 32 ever go default Wakefield Township would be liable. After discussion, Kelly Heidbrier will initiate the conversation via email between Supervisor Lake, Wakefield Township attorney, and the financial manager to see if this is possible. Supervisor Lake will share the current ordinance with the attorney as well.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Received some zoning questions regarding Bingo's property and also farming on 80 acres.
 - If anyone has any questions regarding the ambulance feasibility study, please let Supervisor Lake know prior to the end of the month and she will compose a letter.
 - The Township's garbage ordinance needs to be reviewed as there is an Airbnb property that has stopped paying their bill so service has stopped. Supervisor Lake will reach out to the attorney to see if the charge is able to be put on the taxes.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$109,774.91 with receipts totaling \$59,576.24; expenditures of \$5,880.53; payroll of \$4,986.24; leaving an ending balance of \$158,484.38. Motion was made by Ahonen, 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.

4. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen summarized the meeting of January 12, 2023 highlighting the following:
 - Regular operating items.
 - No communications.
 - There were old items but no discussion was held.
 - The audit was presented via zoom. It was a good clean audit.
 - Regular financial reports were approved as presented.
 - Treasurer Laessig shared that the auditor is asking for internal control of someone from the board reviewing invoices prior to being sent out.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on January 19, 2023. A lot of discussion was held regarding the new contract for garbage pick up to be hauled to the landfill. The decision to hire back Smiley's Trucking was made.

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. Gogebic County Council of Veterans Affairs Letter: The council is asking for the appropriation of \$1,359 (increase of \$27). This amount is based on population.
4. Ottawa National Forest Special Use Authorization: Merit Network is installing fiberoptic cable along M28.
5. MI-HOPE Grant Letter of Support: Supervisor Lake was asked to draft a letter of support from the Copper Country Habitat for Humanity that benefits Gogebic County residents.
6. Charter: Received three letters regarding channel changes and rate increases.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Public Hearing for 23/24 Budget Date: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the meeting date of Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.
2. VA Council Appropriation: After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to approve the appropriation amount of \$1,359. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Adopt State Guidelines for Poverty Exemption: After discussion, motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig to adopt the State guideline for poverty exemption as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.
4. Treasurer Printer: After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to approve the purchase of a printer not to exceed \$700. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.
5. Budget Amendments: Clerk Ahonen reviewed the budget amendments. Several changes on line items creating an overall change of the budget of approximately \$4,000. They are as follows:

Revenues:

101-000-491 Building Permits: Budget \$400 increase to \$1,750.

101-000-665 Interest All: Budget \$3,000 decrease to \$1,500.

Expenses:

101-215 Clerk: 801 Audit +\$1,750.

101-262 Elections: 702 Salaries +\$140; 956 Misc. +\$630.

101-265 Twp. Hall/Grounds: 802 Contract Labor +\$1,500; 921 Natural Gas -\$1,650.

101-528 Refuge/Collection: 804 Scrap Tire Grant +\$250.

101-722 Zoning: 801 Contract-Bldg. Inspector +\$500; 861 Mileage +\$300.

101-862 Employer Payroll Tax: 715 FICA All +\$500.

Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Budget Amendment decrease of revenue of \$149.08 bringing the approved budget from \$260,142 to \$259,992.92 and increase of expenses of \$3,920, bringing the approved budget from \$280,947 to \$284,867. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Paula Koruga thanked the Board for the consideration regarding the Sewer Authority. Ms. Koruga also questioned if there is an ordinance regarding any Airbnb properties and if there is a tax that could be assessed. Supervisor Lake is going to discuss with the attorney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. (This will also be the Public Hearing for the Budget.)
2. BOR Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Bessemer Township Hall.
3. BOR Tax Appeals: Monday, March 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wakefield Township Hall.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Erwin Township Hall.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Bessemer Township Hall.
4. Planning Commission will meet third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK