

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 2, 2023, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order and led those present in 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.4. State of Michigan MPSC Letter (2); Agenda Item H.5. Charter Communications. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from April 4, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

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

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen discussed the meeting of April 13, 2023. Other than the regular items, there was one new business item. Tory Davey presented the Operating Budget for fiscal year 23/24. The Board suggested some changes in formatting. Clerk Ahonen is going to schedule time to meet with Tori to help her with entering the budget in Quickbooks. There was also discussion regarding a resident that hasn't paid. It was suggested Tori reach out to other entities regarding their policies for non-payment. EGLE visited GRWA and the only item discussed was the lack of operators.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake is working on the newsletter.
 - Supervisor Lake received notification from WUPHD regarding a non-payment for a septic permit.
 - Wiitanen Road is washed out. This road was part of this year's gravel program but now the County has requested FEMA monies for this. A ride along with the Road Commission will be happening soon.
 - During the flood, there was a water break. There is no water to 17 houses along Johnson, Wertanen and Bingoville area. Then the boil advisory started for the City of Wakefield and all those municipalities receiving water through the GRWA. The GRWA Emergency Plan will be initiated tomorrow. The City of Bessemer has enough water to provide to everyone temporarily. With the current boil advisory, Clerk Ahonen requested Tom Ruppe (website administrator) can be added to the press releases as he is posting the press releases on the websites for all three townships. Supervisor Lake will talk to Robert Brown to get him added.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of April 30, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$238,972.80 with receipts totaling \$17,368.61; expenditures of \$12,113.11; payroll of \$6,531.05, leaving an ending balance of \$237,697.25. 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. SECTION 32 REPORT: The last meeting was held on 4/19/23. Just waiting on the bond and other paperwork.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: No update. The meeting was canceled due to no quorum.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted the change regarding military ballots and the new timeframe of acceptance. All members receive this correspondence.
3. Michigan Tax Tribunal Petition: Assessor Prisbe was in attendance to discuss a petition that came out of the last Board of Review. Great Lakes Gas has filed an EMPP exemption. Several cities and townships are affected by this and the financial loss for the Township could be significant if this exemption is granted. Attorney Dean was also in attendance and he offered to work with Assessor Prisbe on how to move forward.
4. State of Michigan MPSC Letter (2): Letters received notifying of the public hearing dates and times.
5. Charter Communications: Reducing the cost of a package by \$1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. SPRING CLEAN-UP/LOCATION: Motion was made Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to hold the spring clean-up on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the Western U.P/ Recycling Center located in the Wakefield Township Industrial Park and to pay the same per diem rates and gift certificates for the volunteers as last year. ROLL CALL showed 4 YES and 1 ABSTAIN. Motion Carried.
2. LAWN MOWING: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to hire Austin Ahonen for lawn mowing at the same rate as last year with monthly billing. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CITY OF WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT: Supervisor Lake reviewed the new agreement with the City of Wakefield. Fiscal Year 23/24 is the same as last year's amount, 24/25 and 25/26 both reflect an increase of 3% for a total increase of \$1,500 at the end of the third year. This agreement needs to be approved by the City of Wakefield as well. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Municipal Services Agreement with the City of Wakefield. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. SECTION 32 SEWER AUTHORITY FINANCING CONTRACT RESOLUTION: Supervisor Lake highlighted portions of the contract which has been previously emailed to all members for review. Attorney Dean was present for any questions. After discussion, motion was made by

Heikkila, supported by Ahonen to approve the contract as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1 SEWER RATE AND CHARGES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Supervisor Lake reviewed the updated ordinance. This ordinance is set up to generate revenue to pay off the bond and create a small surplus. During review Attorney Dean pointed a duplication. The repeated paragraph will be removed and he will send a new copy for signature and publication. After discussion, motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to approve Ordinance 2023-1 with the removal of the duplicate paragraph. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. SPRING CLEAN-UP: Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. until Noon at the Western U.P. Recycling Center located in Wakefield Township Industrial Park.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK