

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 6, 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 ABSENT: Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item H.6. Notice of Policy Change, Agenda Item H.7. Michigan Township Par Plan Election Ballot, Agenda Item J.1 Sign and Agenda Item J.2 Township Landscaping. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, 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 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.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: The GRWA had their regular meeting on May 11, 2023 and two special meetings on May 16, 2023 and May 30, 2023. Update included:
 - Snowriver request to relocate a water main with the construction of the new lift
 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund planning document submittal form
 - Resolution adopting a final project plan for water system improvements
 - 2023-2024 budget tabled until next meeting
 - E-coli detection and emergency action plan summary

2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Township clean up was held on June 3rd, 5.3 tons collected, 30-32 residents
 - Working on a final order for address signs. Let Supervisor Lake know of any signs that need replacement for this order, looking to replace signs this summer before snowplow season
 - Blight letters will be sent out this month
 - Resident on Johnson Road has contacted the DNR and the Railroad to fix a culvert in his yard, the front yard has filled with water
 - Section 32 grant is moving forward, approved bid language on 5/31/2023, bids for construction will be posted on June 13, 2023 with bid opening scheduled for July 6, 2023
 - The replacement of the road from the Section 32 sewer grant project will become a part of our annual road projects, Wiitanen Road washed out and will be graveled with gravel added to the north side, Upper Mattson Road millings will start next week, additional discussion on ditching with ARPA money and 519 still on hold

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of May 31, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$237,697.25 with receipts totaling \$7,597.26; expenditures of \$18,009.48; payroll of \$4,815.28, leaving an ending balance of \$222,469.75. 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: Held a meeting with BASSA and Bessemer Township. Following the Section 32 sewer grant project, the next phases include two more grants each \$2 million to move the sewer to Bessemer Township and then moving sewer from Bessemer Township.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Met on May 18, 2023 after no meeting for two months. Discussion was held to purchase a new garbage truck. The red pickup truck is also on it's last leg. Trustee Heikkila also gave an update from the MTA meeting held in Marenisco on May 30, 2023; Negaunee will be the emergency dispatcher and the Sheriff's department will be receiving their work dog to also use with search and rescue.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Two items noted in MTA updates in Personal Property Tax and updating broadband options in our region on the map.
3. State of Michigan MPSC Letter: public hearing Underwood Tower Road Bridge project.
4. EGLE WRD Public Notice
5. EGLE Notice of Authorization/Merit Network Permit
6. Notice of Policy Change; NTP policy, total exclusion
7. Michigan Township Par Plan election ballot; will be submitted checking the only representative listed on the ballot

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sign: discussion was held on the businesses that will be included on the sign. The sign should state Wakefield Township Industrial Park on the top with the individual business hanging below so changes can be made to businesses as they come and go. The sign should be metal and not treated lumber. Supervisor Lake will contact local vendors.
2. Township Hall Landscaping: discussion was held on cleaning up the front of the township building. Supervisor Lake will research plant options, the rock garden areas will be pulled out and cleaned up, an edging will be added, painting of the cement side walls and maps will be added to the enclosed bulletin board giving travel information to parks and area tourist sites.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: The flagpole is back up and fixed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Planning Commission: Wednesday June 21, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP