

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 11, 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 G.7. Election Update; Agenda Item I.4. F65 Engagement Letter. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from June 6, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Drier, 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 June 8, 2023. Other than the regular items, there was old business regarding the Operating Budget for fiscal year 23/24, Snow River Contract and the DWSRF Project Plan. Tori Davey has worked with Will Londo regarding the budget and will continue to do so. The wording was updated on the Snow River contract and is now signed and the DWSRF Project Plan has been submitted. New business presented was the Financial Reports and the Water Quality Report. Supervisor Lake asked if Wakefield Township will receive a copy of the Water Quality Report for approval. Clerk Ahonen will ask at the next meeting. Other discussions held were regarding the Jackson Creek project, hydrant testing and flushing; negotiating a water rate with the City of Bessemer; and the emergency water switch during the Wakefield boil order was approved by the board to be changed back. It was a good learning process as this is the first time the emergency system has been used.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake has not received a quote from Ikola Graphics for a new sign. She will reach out to him again.
 - Highland Copper held a meeting that Supervisor Lake was unable to attend. A copy of the presentation was sent to all members. Financing is still in the works.
 - Building Inspector has reached out to Supervisor Lake with some information regarding a problem property. Supervisor Lake will be forwarding the information to Attorney Dean.
 - Supervisor Lake did a ride around because Wiitanen Road residents stated that they were not getting their mail. She has been in contact with the Postmaster. The issue is fixed.
 - Upper Mattson Road has been fixed with HMA millings. It looks very nice. Supervisor Lake will reach out to the Road Commission regarding the plowing of this road.

- FEMA monies have been declined for the repair of Wiitanen Road. The Road Commission is also not accepting anymore work this year. It was suggested that any extra budget be saved and put toward a larger project next year.
 - Road Commission is working on their mapping project this fall. Supervisor Lake questioned the naming of “N. Co. Rd 519” on the maps.
 - Road Commission/Section 32 bid tabulation for the C2AE project have come in at \$58,974.70 for 2023. The Township is responsible for 60% of the cost. The hope is the project will be completed in 2023, as the costs could increase in 2024.
 - The deadline to designate the ARPA funds is fast approaching. There is an incentive to have this done sooner than later.
3. TREASURER’S REPORT: As of June 30, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$222,469.75 with receipts totaling \$15,780.57; expenditures of \$37,750.31; payroll of \$5,810.13, leaving an ending balance of \$194,689.88. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Lake, to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented and place on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting held on June 17, 2023. It was a short meeting with discussion regarding a new garbage truck, a new skid steer, the employee hospitalization plan and a life insurance policy for an employee over the age of 65.
 5. PLANNING COMMISSION: There was no agenda.
 6. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier attended the meeting on July 6, 2023. Two bids were received. C2AE will be looking closely at all bids prior to approval to be sure all requirements were met. The use ordinance was approved. The fee increase notification will be going out with the next billing stating the increase will be effective with the October billing. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023.
 7. ELECTION UPDATE: Clerk Ahonen discussed Proposal 2 changes. County Clerk Collins has submitted a proposal to the County Board to purchase additional election equipment to meet the requirements of early voting. The cost is approximately \$11,000. By having the early voting at the County Courthouse will help the small municipalities for workers regarding the timeframe. The Township is required to have a drop box and video monitoring. The video monitoring is not required until 2026, and there already is a drop box available, but Clerk Ahonen is going to look to see if the State offers a combined drop box/monitoring system. Prepaid postage envelopes will also be required.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted several items. All members receive this correspondence.
3. Charter Communications: Channel changes and fee increases from \$1 to \$10.

4. EGLE Notice of Authorization: Authorization to proceed with the project on Presque Isle River Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PAR-PLAN INSURANCE RENEWAL: After discussion, motion was made Laessig, supported by Heikkila to approve the insurance renewal increasing from \$4,964 to \$6,024, a total of \$1,060. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
2. ROAD COMMISSION AGREEMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the agreement with the Road Commission to complete HMA Millings on Upper Mattson Road for a cost of \$18,600. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Clerk Ahonen reviewed the budget for the first quarter of this fiscal year. The overall percentage of the budget should be about 25%. Changes presented are as follows:
101-266 Attorney: 801 Professional Service +\$10,000.
101-448 Street Lighting: 920 Utilities-Electric +1,200.
101-449 Public Works-Road Comm: 805 Contract Roads -\$9,300.
101-852 Insurance: 714 Workers Comp -\$200; 935 Property-Liability +\$525.
Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Budget Amendment increase of \$2,225, bringing the approved budget from \$263,565 to \$265,790. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. F65 ENGAGEMENT LETTER: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to approve Makela, Pollack & Ahonen to submit the F65 on behalf of Wakefield Township. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Heikkila had a township resident approach him regarding an out-of-town neighbor and shooting whenever they are visiting. Supervisor Lake stated that the resident will need to contact the Sheriff's Department to file a complaint when the shooting is happening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. BOR FOR ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bessemer Township Hall.
3. MTA MEETING: No date received yet.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK