

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 1, 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 Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item G.6. MTA Meeting Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from July 11, 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: Treasurer Laessig discussed the meeting of July 13, 2023. There were eight members present. The regular items were approved. The rates are still being discussed with the City of Bessemer. A request for bids for the auditor will be posted. The current auditor has expressed interest in continuing. The fencing has been put up and the waterline has been completed at Snow River. The financial statements were presented.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Supervisor Lake has been in contact with the Road Commission regarding road damage that is caused by snowplowing. If the repairs can be done under general maintenance the cost will not fall under the cost share formula.
 - Supervisor Lake has been in contact with Anderson Tackman of Iron Mountain and Marquette regarding submitting a request for audit bids. Iron Mountain has stated that they do have availability for next summer.
 - Attorney Tim Dean has mailed a certified letter regarding the problem camp property that was received by the property owner on July 27th. WUPHD stated that he applied for the sewer permit on July 26th. Wakefield Township is waiting for payment for the building permit. Assessor Prisbe and Supervisor Lake will be going to the property to take pictures to get the property back on the tax rolls.
 - There was an initial status conference held on July 24th regarding the Great Lakes law suit. All 17 municipalities are to fill out a petition of facts to determine how all cases align by September. There will be a hearing in October to decide if they will do a test concept rather than moving forward with all 17 cases. The Treasury did participate in the conference but it is unclear what their future role will be.

- There is a meeting regarding Section 19 funding for anyone seeking federal disaster reimbursement on August 23rd. The Road Commission will be there on behalf of the road damage in our area.
 - 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 (\$35,384). The hope is the project will be completed in 2023, as the costs could increase in 2024. Supervisor Lake is going to check if we are able to use ARPA funds toward this.
 - Supervisor Lake was made aware that we do not need to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing as we are in compliance when we approve the general appropriations in March and September of every year.
 - Highland Copper has introduced Kinterra Copper in a joint venture. Stumping and grubbing and stream mitigation is currently taking place. Kinterra Copper is an energy-based company investing in electric cars. Housing concerns continue to be discussed.
 - Supervisor Lake suggested a Township Hall clean-up date for painting and weeding. All members present agreed on September 9th.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Laessig had an error on financial report. This item is tabled and will be reviewed and approved at the next regular meeting.
 4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting in July where the bids were reviewed for a new bobcat. Three bids were received and the winning bid went to Lulich Implement for a New Holland for approximately \$48,000.
 5. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier attended the meeting on July 19, 2023. Two bids were received. The winning bid went to Jakes Excavating for \$611,742.20. EGLE has to approve the plans prior to work starting. The hope is for it to happen this fall but it is looking like it will be next summer. The rate increase has been sent out and there has not been any questions, comments or concerns received. The next meeting is scheduled in October.
 6. MTA UPDATE: Clerk Ahonen highlighted items that were discussed at the last MTA meeting. County Commissioner Jim Lorenson discussed the airport contract renewal, Flanery land sale completion, ambulance renewal and struggles, the use of the ARPA funds for building updates, fairground issues and a 4H position at MSU Extension. Barry Bolich from the Road Commission discussed the maintenance projects and timeline. Sherriff Ross Solberg discussed the school resource officers, opioid program in the jail, canine training, the new boat, as well as a rule change regarding who goes to jail. 911 Larry Grimsby discussed the 3-year contract renewal with Negaunee for dispatch as well as building a better government. There will be no picnic. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th.

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. MPSC Letters: August 15th is approval of energy waste reduction; August 29th is approval gas cost recovery plan.
4. Xcel Energy Summer Appreciation Event: Please let Supervisor Lake know if you would like information on attending an event either in Phillips, LaCrosse or Altoona.
5. 2022 consumer Confidence Report-GRWA: Supervisor Lake has this report available for review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. METRO ACT ROW CONTRACT-AT&T: This is just an agreement to allow AT&T the right of way for their lines. There is no expense or revenue associated with this contract. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Metro Act ROW Contract with AT&T. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
2. TOWNSHIP INDUSTRIAL PARK SIGN: Supervisor Lake has reached out the Ikola Graphics and he is unable to do the sign at this time and is not certain when he would be able to. Supervisor Lake will reach out to Rapid Graphics.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. TOWNSHIP HALL CLEAN-UP: Saturday, September 9, 2023
3. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, September 26, 2023.
4. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK