

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 5, 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 as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from August 1, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Drier, 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 August 10, 2023. There were eight members present. The regular items were approved. Updated that the water tower fence and the Snowriver project are completed. Approved the financials as well as the audit bid. There were two executive meetings held to discuss Tori's contract on 8/22 and 8/29. Treasurer Laessig thought a contract was agreed on but Tori submitted her resignation with the last day being September 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a special meeting 9/6 at 4:00 p.m.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
  - Supervisor Lake and Assessor Prisbe did their first ride around together to look at some properties. First went to a camp property that the owner is asking to build a garage. The camp is not currently on the tax roll. Assessor Prisbe will be adding the property back to the tax rolls as there were updates made to the camp. The second property is the camp that has had previous issues. Assessor Prisbe took some measurements. The building permit has been paid. The third visit was a Blackjack Road resident living in an RV who asked for the property be made the homestead. The Health Department will be contacting her regarding septic and water installation.
  - Supervisor Lake and Clerk Ahonen participated in a phone conversation with Par Plan Insurance. There are changes that will need to be made to our employee contracts and service agreements.
  - Supervisor Lake was busy with the Trail Authority. All the information has been shared with the Board.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of July 31, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$194,689.88 with receipts totaling \$6,535.75; expenditures of \$11,802.31; payroll of \$5,458.01, leaving an ending balance of \$183,965.31. As of August 31, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a

beginning balance of \$183,965.31 with receipts totaling \$24,676.67; expenditures of \$17,843.85; payroll of \$5,032.19, leaving an ending balance of \$185,765.94. 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. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The new bobcat was received and the members were able to see it. The New Holland is equipped with all the bells and whistles.
5. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier shared that there is a lot of paperwork for the project. There is a special meeting scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> and the regular meeting in October.

#### 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. Library Grand Re-opening: September 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
4. Charter Letters: Receiving notification regarding channel changes.
5. Crystal Falls DNR Meeting: The Michigan DNR is holding an open house tonight in Crystal Falls. There is a compartment review meeting scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>.
6. WUPPDR Annual Meeting Invite: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Konteka. Highland Copper is the guest speaker. If interested please rsvp before Friday.
7. Enbridge Iron River Pump Station Tour: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. includes lunch. Please rsvp by Friday.
8. Rainbow Gathering: August 24<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Industrial Park Sign: Received a quote from Rapid Graphiks for the sign. Supervisor Lake is going to reach out to another company for a comparable quote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. L-4029: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the tax rate request at 1.6238 and 3.0 for a total of 4.6238 mils. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
2. SECTION 32 ROAD AGREEMENT/ARPA FUNDS: Supervisor Lake discussed the agreement with CA2E, Section 32, Wakefield Township and the Road Commission. After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to approve the agreement for the Township portion of \$35,384.53, and to use ARPA funds upon approval from the Treasury toward this amount. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
3. Indianhead Subdivision Road Signs: Supervisor Lake discussed some signs that have fallen. After discussion it was agreed that Supervisor Lake will contact Snowriver to see if they have a preference of look and if they would be interested in a cost share.
4. Snowplowing for 2023-2024: After discussion, motion as made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve Supervisor Lake to start advertising for snowplowing. Supervisor Lake will

also ask the attorney to add the new language. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

5. Upgrades to the Board Room Chairs: Trustee Heikkila shared a quote for 12 new cushions. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to purchase 12 new cushions, tan in color for a total of \$698.09. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
6. F-65: Makela, Pollack, & Ahonen has submitted F-65. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to place the report on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
7. Snowmobile Trail 2 Route: As of 3:00 p.m. today Supervisor Lake has received correspondence that Trail 2 will be closed. Further discussion will continue to happen until a permanent route can be found.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Multiple township residents were present to discuss the Snowmobile Trail 2. After Supervisor Lake announced the closure, members present had further discussion, but expressed their gratitude in the closure.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
2. TOWNSHIP HALL CLEAN-UP: Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
3. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Marenisco Town Hall.
4. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK