

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 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 Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Items G.1. Library Board (shift current items chronologically); H.3. Charter Communications Letter; J.4. Paper Folding Machine; as well as change Agenda Item J.2. ARPA Funds Obligation (removing Resolution). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from November 7, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment on agenda items.

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. LIBRARY BOARD: Lakin Ozzello, Director and Bella Schroeder, Board Member were in attendance to discuss all the exciting changes and updates happening at the Wakefield Public Library.
2. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig discussed the meeting of November 9th. Seven members were present with Dale White presiding as the chair. All regular items were approved. Mary Segalin's contract was approved and some changes are being made. She will be working out of her home versus the Bessemer Township Building; meetings will now be at Ironwood Township; and mail will be picked up at the Bessemer Post Office. The financial reports for August were presented.
3. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - There is a street light out on Indianhead Road but it is uncertain if this is a township owned light. Supervisor Lake has been working with Xcel Energy trying to resolve the issue.
 - There is a meeting scheduled on December 12th with Copperwood and MEDC.
 - Supervisor Lake spoke with Attorney Tinti regarding the site plan. He is well versed and expects it to be completed in a couple weeks. Supervisor Lake will let Mike Foley know that it may not be completed for the next planning commission meeting.
 - Snow River is having an open house on December 16th that the Township Board was invited to. Treasurer Laessig will be attending.
 - Supervisor Lake met with the Road Commission regarding next year's road projects. Puumala Road is on the list for HMA millings and culvert replacement. Discussion was held regarding Johnson Road as a 2-year project as well as Pikka Road even further out.

The Road Commission would like for the Township to consider going back to gravel in some locations versus continuing to pave all roads, and/or consider a road millage.

- During the meeting with the Road Commission discussion was held regarding the road at Indianhead as a result of the Section 32 project. Both the Road Commission and C2AE are withholding payment to Jake's Excavating until the work meets the requirements.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of November 30, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$154,835.83 with receipts totaling \$6,205.77; expenditures of \$7,142.65; payroll of \$5,086.24, leaving an ending balance of \$148,812.71. 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.
5. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier shared that the pipe is in the ground. There is a video meeting on December 7th regarding the next phase of the new grant. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2024.
6. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on November 16th. The final estimate of the garbage truck repair came in at \$89,000. An insurance claim has been sent in.

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: There is an update to some cable packages.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Industrial Park Sign: Supervisor Lake is going to get design options and costs from Rapid Grafiks.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gogebic County Fair Memo: Supervisor Lake shared a memo received from Gogebic County regarding an opportunity for the Township to submit a proposal to have the fair moved to the township. After discussion it was decided that the Township does not have a location that would be suitable. Supervisor Lake will let the County know.
2. ARPA Funds Obligation: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to obligate the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$31,106.25 to update the road surface after completion of the Section 32 grant sewer project. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
3. Wakefield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: The City of Wakefield has offered a seat on the newly created Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to appoint Trustee Heikkila (primary) and Supervisor Lake (alternate) to the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

4. Paper Folding Machine: Irwin Township has borrowed our old folding machine, since we have two. They would like to purchase it for \$200. Motion was made by Lake, supported by Laessig to approve the sale of the paper folding machine for \$200. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Marenisco Township Hall.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
4. DECEMBER BOR (Errors and Omissions): December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Bessemer Township Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK