

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 2, 2024, 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 H.6. Charter Letter. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from December 5, 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 Drier, 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. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Snowriver held their grand opening Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer Laessig attended. She stated the event was very nice. As a result of a conversation that Treasurer Laessig had with Representative Markkanen, Supervisor Lake received an email from his office regarding information about the tax tribunal. Supervisor Lake and Assessor Prisbe will work on getting information to his office.
- Supervisor Lake received an email regarding a settlement offer of the tax tribunal on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We will continue with the tribunal and not settle.
- No sign designs have been received to date.
- Highland Copper and MEDC meeting has been moved to January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of December 31, 2023, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$148,812.71 with receipts totaling \$32,969.76; expenditures of \$8,941.47; payroll of \$6,211.10, leaving an ending balance of \$166,629.90. 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.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen and Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Ahonen highlighted the following: New officers were elected. The only change being Treasurer Laessig is now the secretary replacing Bev Ikola. Jay Kangas is replacing the Ironwood Township seat vacancy on the Board with Maria Graser. All seat terms were looked at. Wakefield Township has to verify the term dates and alternates. Mary Segalin is starting the audit process. Mary also discussed quickbooks renewal. Next year's meeting dates were approved. Two water line breaks were discussed. Water sales for the month and financial reports were approved. The Executive Committee will have a new appointment from Bessemer.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>. There has not been an update on the truck repair, however, the insurance company did pay. A truck is currently being leased from Texas at the cost of \$9,500 per month. There also is an additional transportation charge of \$2,200 each way. Checking into getting a new truck. Trustee Heikkila also stated that the first Parks and Rec meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024.
5. SECTION 32: The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2024.
6. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, but there was nothing on the agenda.

#### 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. EGLE Northern Natural Permit: A bridge will be installed to gain access to a pipeline for maintenance.
4. Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Rates: A letter was received updating the rates for street lights.
5. MTA District 1 Board Member Vacancy: Looking for someone to take over the vacancy on the Board caused by Mary Segalin's departure from Ironwood Township until 2025.
6. Charter Communications: There is an update to rate of some cable packages.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Budget/Future Goals Workshop Date: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to schedule the Budget/Future Goals Workshop for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Motion Carried.
2. Dates for Joint Meeting with City of Wakefield: After discussion, Supervisor Lake will invite the City of Wakefield to our April 2, 2024 meeting. If there are items of urgency, a second meeting in March can be scheduled.
3. Confirm 2024 IRS Mileage Rate: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to approve the 2024 IRS Mileage Rate of \$0.67 per mile. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
4. Township Appointed BOR Member: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to reappoint Tom Wagner to another term (January 2, 2024 to January 1, 2026). ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
2. BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK