

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 6, 2024, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order with 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 Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item G.6. Parks and Recreation Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 2, 2024 and budget workshop meeting from January 24, 2024. Motion carried.

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.

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

REPORTS:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake attended the Highland Copper meeting last week. Plans are still going forward but more legwork needs to be done to secure funding. Supervisor Lake will be writing a letter of support of the mine.
- City Manager Brown is drafting an application for a grant from EGLE to help with the water issue on Johnson Road. Supervisor Lake will be writing a letter of support for this as well.
- Some patching has been done on 519. However, a large spot has been missed.
- There has not been any updates regarding the tax tribunal.
- Rapid Grafiks reached out regarding color scheme for the sign. Supervisor Lake will suggest blues and greens and request a couple design options to choose from.
- Supervisor Lake will work on a quote for road sign replacement up at Snow River. There are funds left in the road budget from this fiscal year.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, 2024, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$166,636.25 with receipts totaling \$57,590.86; expenditures of \$7,972.51; payroll of \$4,949.52; leaving an ending balance of \$211,305.08. 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. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended the meeting on January 17, 2024. There have been several phone meetings regarding the removal of the lagoons, just waiting on the approval. The connection policy is being looked at by the attorney. C2AE is working on all the grants and everything seems to be going as planned.

4. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig summarized the meeting of January 11, 2024 highlighting the following:
  - Approval of bills.
  - Audit to start on 01/16/24.
  - Phone lines.
  - The last billing cycle was not sent out but is now caught up.
  - Received a new credit card.
  - Insurance renewals.
  - Financial reports through November.
  - December water sales.
  - New website.
  
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on January 19, 2024. Bids were received for a new truck, one more to come from Mack. The broken truck should be returned soon, if it hasn't already.
  
6. PARKS AND RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting that was held on January 10, 2024. Discussion surrounded the appointment of the President (Mike Zeckovich) and Vice-President (John Siira) and the addition of a volleyball court.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted a few items. All members receive this correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Public Hearing for 24/25 Budget Date: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the meeting date of Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Adopt State Guidelines for Poverty Exemption: After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to adopt the State Application for poverty exemption, guidelines and asset testing at \$5,000.00. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Budget Amendments: Clerk Ahonen reviewed the budget amendments. Several changes on line items creating an overall change of the budget of \$9,060.00. They are as follows:

Revenues:

101-000-402 Property Taxes: Budget \$150,000 increase to \$158,810 (+\$8,810)

101-000-491 Building Permits: Budget \$1,750 increase to \$2,000 (+250)

Expenses:

101-101-756 Supplies Electronic: +740  
101-101-900 Print/Publish: +300  
101-101-946 Misc.: +700  
101-215-704 Deputy Clerk Salary: +\$200  
101-247-910 Education: +25  
101-247-956 Misc.: -25  
101-262-956 Misc.: +320  
101-265-930 Repairs & Maintenance: +1600  
101-266-801 Professional Service: +3,000  
101-722-801 Contract-Bldg. Inspector: +\$2,000  
101-722-861 Mileage: +\$200

Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the Budget Amendment bringing the approved budget from \$265,790 to \$274,850. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

4. Appoint GRWA Board Member: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, to approve Treasurer Laessig as the GRWA Board Member at large with Supervisor Lake as alternate. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Clerk Ahonen discussed the current cost for Quickbooks. The subscription is good now but other options will be discussed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No extended public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (This will also be the Public Hearing for the Budget.)
2. Planning Commission: Wednesday March 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
3. MTA: Wednesday, March 28, 2024 (needs to be verified).

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Lake, for adjournment at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK