

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 2, 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 Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Items G.7. Parks and Recreation; H.4. Charter Letter; H.5. Wakefield 4th of July Committee; H.6. Copperwood Contingency Plan; J.4. VA Appropriations. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes and budget hearing meeting minutes from March 5, 2024 as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, 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.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig discussed the March 14th meeting highlighting the following: waiting for the audit report; website is complete; approved a credit card policy; discussed a travel policy; and wrote a letter of support for the City of Wakefield's grant application.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Contacted Rapid Rafiks regarding the color of the new sign, waiting to hear back.
 - Supervisor Lake attended the State investment meeting on March 26th. To start the meeting there was one and one-half hours of public comment, some in support and some against Copperwood Mine. In the end the Board voted unanimously to grant \$50 million for the infrastructure of the mine. These monies come with contingencies but it is a major step toward opening.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of March 31, 2024, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$315,539.05 with receipts totaling \$4,930.14; expenditures of \$7,892.62; payroll of \$7,316.25, leaving an ending balance of \$305,260.32. 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 stated that the garbage truck has not been returned yet as it needs to be road-tested. Rental of the current truck will remain until the new truck is received, sometime in September. The Board will be starting union negotiations.
5. SECTION 32 REPORT: The next meeting is scheduled for this month.
6. PLANNING COMMISSION: Treasurer Laessig attended the last meeting but there wasn't anything on the agenda.

7. PARKS & RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting. It was decided to go forward with a new volleyball court at regulation size as well as increasing the current court to regulation. These two courts will be the only regulation size courts in the area for competition

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake highlighted a few items. All members receive this correspondence.
2. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
3. Prescribed Fire Plans for 2024 in National Forests: Supervisor Lake read the letter received regarding the burns.
4. Charter Letter: Notification of service changes.
5. Wakefield 4th of July Committee: Received letter solicitating donations. The Township's donation is part of our agreement with the City of Wakefield.
6. Copperwood Contingency Plan: Supervisor Lake reviewed the plan and will have it available for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SET SPRING CLEAN-UP DATE: After discussion motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to host the annual spring clean-up on Saturday, June 1, 2024, 8:00 a.m.-Noon. Motion carried. Supervisor Lake will verify date with Waste Management and Hilborn.
2. LAWN MOWING: Supervisor Lake will reach out to Austin to see if he is interested in continuing. If not, we will advertise.
3. PERSONAL PROPERTY CANVAS POLICY: Supervisor Lake read the proposed policy as prepared by Assessor Prisbe. After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the Personal Property Canvas Policy as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. VA APPROPRIATION: The annual payment responsibility for Wakefield Township is increasing by \$17 for a total of \$1,376. After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Ahonen to approve the VA Appropriation payment of \$1,376 for FY24. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Heikkila stated that he spoke to City Manager Brown regarding the Volunteer Fire Department coming to demonstrate the new jaws of life. After discussion, Supervisor Lake is going to check if the Fire Department would be able to come to the spring clean-up day. Trustee Drier brought up a concern about the plowing of the township roads that are covered with the HMA millings. Supervisor Lake will discuss these issues with the County Road Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in Wakefield.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK