

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 7, 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; Denice Laessig, Treasurer; Robert Drier, Trustee; Michael Heikkila, Trustee; and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk. ABSENT: Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Items G.6. Parks and Recreation; J.3. Merit Equipment Swap. 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 April 2, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Heikkila, 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 stated no meeting was held.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - Letters regarding the clean-up date are being sent to all residents.
 - Letters regarding blight will be sent.
 - Supervisor Lake will contact the fire department regarding the jaws of life demonstration at the clean-up. If they are able to present, the time will be included in the newspaper ad regarding the clean-up date.
 - Ride around is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th at 9:30 a.m. Areas to ride by will be Upper Mattson, south end, Puumala Road, Indianhead. Supervisor Lake will also discuss the possibility of ditching and culverts where needed.
 - Supervisor Lake received a phone call from an Apache Drive resident regarding water pooling. This was sent on to the engineering firm and Jake's Excavating will fix.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of April 30, 2024, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$306,263.06 with receipts totaling \$10,814.56; expenditures of \$18,464.12; payroll of \$5,333.96, leaving an ending balance of \$293,279.54. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

Treasurer Laessig also shared that she has the Forestry Report to share if anyone is interested.

4. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier stated discussions regarding the removal of the lagoon are taking place. Hope to have more answers at the next meeting scheduled in May.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila stated the repaired truck is back and the insurance company covered all the costs. The rental truck has been returned. The new truck is scheduled to be received in September.
6. PARKS & RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila stated the committee has applied for a DNR grant in hopes to receive some monies. The sand for the two regulation volleyball courts is coming from Wisconsin. It is anticipated to be about 180 tons of sand, or about 8 or 9 trucks full.

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:

1. LAWN MOWING: After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to hire Austin Ahonen for lawn mowing at the same rate as last year (\$40). ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION POLICY & PROCEDURES and APPLICATION: After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to approve the property tax exemption policy and procedures as well as the application as presented by Supervisor Lake as received from Assessor Prisbe. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. ROOFING BUILDING PERMIT/APPLICATION: Inspector Saari has revamped the building permit to separate roofing. Supervisor Lake presented the application and inspection requirements for approval, as well as an increase in fee to \$75. After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to approve the Residential Roof Permit Application, Inspection Requirements and increase the rate. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. MERIT EQUIPMENT SWAP: Merit Network and Gogebic Range.Net are working to update the router to extend internet usage during a power outage. The cost would be \$750 that is covered by Gogebic Range.Net, however approval is needed by the Township because of the tower. After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to approve the router upgrade as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Drier asked about the industrial park sign. After discussion it was decided that Supervisor Lake will let Rapid Grafiks know that we would like to go with blue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Marenisco.
3. SPRING CLEAN-UP: Saturday, June 1, 2024, 8:00 a.m. until noon. Treasurer Laessig will be the attendant.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK