

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 1, 2024, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order 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 Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the update of J.2. to Audit and F65; addition of J.3. Election Grant; J.4. Meeting Date Change; as well as adding a new agenda for the Election Commission Meeting immediately following the Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes of September 3, 2024, as presented. 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. Clerk Ahonen added that the approval report will now be printed from meeting date to meeting date, versus 1st of the month to the last day of the month and will therefore include the Xcel Energy payments.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake has been working on address signs throughout the township and changes at Snow River. If there are any signs that you know are missing or need updating, please let her know.
- Submitted another letter of support for the Highland Copper to include the funding in the budget.
- Road project ideas have been sent to the Road Commission, but no response has been received yet.
- Received a phone call regarding the purchase of some property and directed the person on the steps needed to complete the purchase.
- There has not been any communication or attorney updates regarding the tax tribunal.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of September 30, 2024, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$163,373.10 with receipts totaling \$7,383.91; expenditures of \$5,633.28; payroll of \$5,944.77, leaving an ending balance of \$159,178.96. Motion was made by Ahonen, 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.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig summarized the meeting from September 12th. Other than regular items, auditors will be there in person on October 7th; Ashley from CA2E was there to present some grant applications and amendments to some applications that were already submitted but have now changed based on the City of Bessemer's funding of some; and Ben Tucker presented some information on new electronic meters.

4. SECTION 32 REPORT: There is a meeting scheduled for this month.

5. PLANNING COMMISSION: Treasurer Laessig attended the September 18th meeting. A resident requested a variance to allow building of a pole barn prior to building a house. The variance was granted. Treasurer Laessig will send the invoice.
6. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the September 19th meeting. Two employees requested verification of their seniority dates and Chris has submitted her intent to retire effective July 31, 2025.
7. PARKS & RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila attended the September 9th meeting. Private residents are proposing the construction of 2 tennis courts, 2 pickle ball courts, and a basketball court in Eddy Park. The committee received 74% return rate on the survey. Planning a skating rink and sledding hill across from the firehall this winter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative: Supervisor Lake highlighted a few items. All members receive this correspondence.
3. Copperwood Air Permits: Copperwood has applied for air quality permits regarding the installment and operation of the mine. Supervisor Lake has all the information available for review or there is a QR Code on the door to scan for your information. Comments and concerns can be shared at the public hearing on October 30th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. AT&T Phone: The landline contract is up for renewal. The monthly amount is increasing \$20 per month to approximately \$180. There is an option to transfer to a cell phone at approximately \$55 per month. After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to change to the cell phone option effective with the next contract period. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Snowplow Bid: One bid was received from Schneck Builders for a cost of \$85 per time for the front and side and \$95 per time for the internet tower parking lot. A copy of the liability insurance will be requested and placed on file. Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to approve Schneck Builders for snow removal. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
2. Audit and F65: Clerk Ahonen summarized the Financial Audit as received from Anderson Tackman Company for period ending March 31, 2024. The Township has received a good and clean audit. Clerk Ahonen discussed the F65 and filing. The report is available for review. After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to accept the Audit Report and F65 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Election Grant: Clerk Ahonen discussed the grant opportunity provided by the Michigan Bureau of Elections for election equipment. Application was submitted requesting \$5,000 to provide 3 laptops for the QVF program. After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to approve the grant application process, and upon payment to purchase the equipment. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

4. Meeting date change: Due to the Presidential Election and other conflicted meeting dates motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to change the November meeting to Monday the 11th. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Heikkila discussed a Township property that most recently had a trailer for living quarters that is now gone. He believes the resident is living in the garage. Supervisor Lake is going to look into this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Monday, November 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
2. PLANNING COMMISSION: Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each quarter (March, June, September, December) at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK