

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025, 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 J.7. Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Service; J.8. Election Grant Purchases. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from December 3, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

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

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.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- During the 3rd week of December there was a push for members to go to Lansing in support of Copperwood. However, the vote did not take place. Supervisor Lake wrote more letters. Today NMU revoked their support for the mine.
- The light on M28 and Johnson needs replacing. MDOT does not want anything to do with it so it is now between the City of Wakefield, Wakefield Township or Xcel Energy. Not sure of the cost for replacement.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of December 31, 2024, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$129,006.45 with receipts totaling \$27,616.50; expenditures of \$7,037.41; payroll of \$6,019.91, leaving an ending balance of \$143,565.63. 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 17th. Other than the normal agenda items, Clerk Ahonen highlighted that a rate study is to be conducted; a retention policy is being drafted; tabled road funding decision; tabled bids for the Indianhead storage tank; discussion regarding the GRWA and Section 32 project continues; voted to go with the USDA grant rather than the EGLE grant and that process has started. Next meeting was scheduled for January 9th but has been postponed.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on December 19th. Each employee received a \$150 Christmas bonus. One of the trucks needs repairs estimated at \$17,000. The engine replacement in the pickup truck is complete with the final cost of \$23,000. The vote to

increase the administrator's wage is tied at 3 to 3. She has submitted her retirement as of July 31st. A committee will be formed to search for her replacement. The new compactor will be installed and the plant will be closed during this.

5. SECTION 32: The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025.
6. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on December 18th, but there was nothing on the agenda.
7. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on December 11th. The City Council approved the recreation plan, it will now be sent to the State for approval. Received \$276,000 grant funding for bunk houses to be added in the tent area of the campground. No drawings have been approved yet. Received \$107,000 grant funding for a dog park, however a location has not been determined. The sledding hill and skating rink have been postponed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Budget/Future Goals Workshop Date: After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Ahonen to schedule the Budget/Future Goals Workshop for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Motion Carried.
2. Confirm 2025 IRS Mileage Rate: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the 2025 IRS Mileage Rate of \$0.70 per mile. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
3. Summer Tax Collection Agreement for W-M School District: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to approve the summer tax collection rate of \$3.80 per tax description. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
4. Township Appointed BOR Member: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to reappoint Tom Wagner to another term (January 2, 2025 to January 1, 2026). ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
5. Township Appointed Section 32 Authority Members (2): After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Ahonen to appoint Trustee Drier and Paula Koruga to the Section 32 Authority. ROLL CALL vote showed four (4) members voting YES and one (1) member abstaining. Motion Carried.

6. Section 32 Ordinance #2025-1: After discussion motion was made by Lake, supported by Laessig to table the approval of the Section 32 Ordinance until there is approval of the project. Motion carried.
7. Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Service: After discussion motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to accept the information regarding the rates effective January 1, 2025. Motion carried.
8. Election Grant: Clerk Ahonen discussed the items and the costs associated for utilization of the \$5,000. After discussion motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to purchase three laptops, laptop bags, additional monitor for the polls, as well as other election office supplies. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK