

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 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 Drier, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item J.4. Quickbooks Renewal and the wording change of J.2. State Guidelines for Poverty Exemption Resolution. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from January 7, 2025 and the special board meeting minutes from January 21, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, 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. HIGHLAND COPPER PRESENTATION: Mike Foley attended the meeting and presented a slideshow of the progress that has been made at the site. He is asking for support regarding the MDEC grant.
2. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:
 - The light on M28 and Johnson has been restored.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$143,565.63 with receipts totaling \$73,852.10; expenditures of \$6,486.85; payroll of \$5,081.41, leaving an ending balance of \$205,849.47. 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. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier stated that the Articles have been changed to add Wakefield Township, Bessemer Township and Gogebic County. They are still waiting to hear if GRWA is going to approve usage of the line. A special combined meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025 at the City of Wakefield Town Hall.
5. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: The last meeting was cancelled but they will be attending the special combined meeting with Section 32 on February 13, 2025.
6. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on January 22, 2025. A hiring committee has been selected to find a replacement for the administrator. Her retirement date is

July 31, 2025 but with her accrued vacation and sick the actual last day worked will be some time in June. A special meeting is scheduled to work on the job description.

7. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on January 15, 2025. The committee is working on getting some new members.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: All members receive this correspondence. Supervisor Lake highlighted that prior to February 7th, Treasurer Laessig must verify our millage rates and property tax values.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Public Hearing Date for 25/26 Budget and Regular Board Meeting: After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to schedule the Public Hearing for the 25/26 Budget as well as move the Regular Board Meeting date to March 11, 2025 at 5:30. Motion carried.
2. State Guidelines for Poverty Exemption Resolution: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Resolution as presented to include changes in the income amount and asset standards, as well as the addition of the policy statement at the beginning. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
3. Resolution of Support: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to approve the Resolution of Support for the Copperwood Mine Project to include wording specific to the MEDC Grant. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.
4. Quickbooks Renewal: After discussion, motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to renew our current Quickbooks license at an increase of \$498.06. Treasurer Laessig and Clerk Ahonen will research other possible software in the future. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion Carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 following the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m.
2. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
3. BOR: March 10, 11, 12, 2025

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

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK