

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 11, 2025, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the Wakefield Township Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget Meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXPLANATION OF GOALS AND BUDGET: Supervisor Lake discussed the goals for the upcoming year. Supervisor Lake discussed the proposed budget in detail highlighting projected revenue, expenses and salaries. Copies of same were provided.

Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Estimated Revenues: Estimated township general fund revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026 will be similar to past history. The Millage rate is set at 4.63 mills.

Estimated Expenditures: Estimated township General Fund #101 expenditures for fiscal year 2025-2026, for the various township cost centers are as follows:

#101	Township Board	23,004.00
#171	Supervisor	20,737.00
#215	Clerk	25,891.00
#247	Board of Review	850.00
#253	Treasurer	24,067.00
#257	Assessor	16,400.00
#262	Elections	1,625.00
#265	Township Hall/Grounds	43,281.00
#266	Attorney	13,000.00
#276	Cemetery	7,078.00
#366	Fire Protection	11,450.00
#448	Street Lighting	14,256.00
#449	Public Works	51,000.00
#528	Refuse/Collector	7,500.00
#684	VA Council Rep.	650.00
#721	Planning	1,660.00
#722	Zoning	3,450.00
#751	Parks/Recreation	3,679.00
#790	Library	3,535.00
#852	Insurance	8,510.00
#862	FICA	<u>6,200.00</u>

Total Expenses: \$287,823.00

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2025-2026 BUDGET: No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 5:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mandy Lake, Supervisor; Jennifer Ahonen, Clerk; Denise Laessig, Treasurer, Robert Drier, Trustee; Michael Heikkila, Trustee; and Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk. ABSENT: none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Items H.3. Bergland Township Master Plan; and H.4. EGLE Letter re: Copperwood Project Air Permit. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from February 4, 2025 as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to accept the bills and payroll as presented for payment. Clerk Ahonen indicated that there were a couple extra items included because of the later date of this meeting. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

REPORTS AND APPEARENCES:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake will be participating in a podcast regarding support of the mine.
- Supervisor Lake received an inquiry regarding property available for purchase in the industrial park. She will gather the information and send on.
- BOR meetings are happening but have not heard anything yet. The Township may be asked to still pay for our portion regardless of our member not being in attendance.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of February 28, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$205,849.47 with receipts totaling \$157,503.72; expenditures of \$12,356.79; payroll of \$5,011.73, leaving an ending balance of \$345,984.67. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and place on file. Treasurer Laessig indicated that tax collection is complete. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Clerk Ahonen discussed the joint meeting with Section 32 on February 13, 2025. GRWA agreed to lease the pipe section to Section 32. Details of an agreement were discussed to include legal fees, liability and maintenance. Next the attorneys will work on drafting an agreement. Other than regular items, a rate study is being conducted on April 3rd; Auditors will be there on the 8th; attained a new liability insurance company; agreed on a quote for the Indianhead storage tank repairs and approved a retention schedule.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended a special meeting on February 6th to discuss the job search committee and the advertising budget. The regular meeting was held on February 20th where discussion continued about the direction the search committee should take.

5. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier attended the special meeting with the Water Authority. There are special meetings that will be scheduled but the next regular meeting is scheduled for April.

6. PARKS & RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila attended the special meeting on February 3rd. This was to approve a new member, Josh Lopac. The regular meeting was held on February 20th and the layout for the pickle ball courts, tennis courts and basketball court, as well as the dog park was presented.

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.
3. Bergland Township Master Plan: Is available online. They are accepting questions and comments via mail.
4. EGLE Cooperwood Letter re: Permit Application for Air Quality: The letter received summarized all the feedback regarding the permit application and approval process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 BUDGET and SUPPORTING MILLAGE: Discussion was held in detail regarding the new budget. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, to approve the 2025-2026 Budget and Supporting Millage as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried
2. SALARY RESOLUTIONS for BOARD MEMBERS: Each member of the Board read out loud the Salary Resolution pertaining to their position.
 - Motion was made by Lake, supported by Ahonen to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Supervisor as follows: effective April 1, 2025, the salary of Supervisor shall be \$19,839 including local travel and economic development administration. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 - Motion was made by Lake, supported by Laessig to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Clerk as follows: effective April 1, 2025, the salary of Clerk shall be \$19,839 including local travel; \$200 for duties performed for special election called by the State of Michigan and is reimbursed by the State. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 - Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Treasurer as follows: effective April 1, 2025, the salary of Treasurer shall be \$19,839 for duties performed, collecting both winter and summer taxes, along with the regular duties of treasurer including local travel. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
 - Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Salary Resolution for the Township Trustees as follows: effective April 1, 2025 the salary for the office of trustee shall be \$3,982 for duties performed as trustee. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. FUND BALANCE COMMITMENT: Supervisor Lake discussed the commitment of the fund balance dollars. After discussion motion was made by Lake, supported by Ahonen to commit \$200,000 to roads and \$100,000 to economic development. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. ADOPT COMPENSATION SCHEDULE for 2025-2026: Changes to the compensation schedule from the previous year were discussed. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to accept the compensation schedule for 2025-2026 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

5. BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL and EDUCATION for 2025-2026: Supervisor Lake discussed travel and training for 2025-2026. After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve board member travel and education for 2025-2026. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
6. MEETING DATES: All regular board meetings will be held on the first TUESDAY of each month at 5:30 pm, unless an election is scheduled. The following are the meeting dates for the fiscal year 2025-2026:

April 1, 2025
May 6, 2025
June 3, 2025
July 1, 2025
August 5, 2025
September 2, 2025
October 7, 2025
November 4, 2025
December 2, 2025
January 6, 2026
February 3, 2026
March 3, 2026

BANKS OF RECORD: First National Bank of Wakefield; Incredible Bank; Gogebic Range Bank.

NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: Ironwood Daily Globe.

After discussion motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila to accept the meeting dates, banks, and newspaper of record as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

7. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT: Supervisor Lake read the resolution incorporating all budget numbers. Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier to accept the General Appropriations Act as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
8. BUDGET AMENDMENTS for 2024-2025: Clerk Ahonen discussed the changes highlighting the following:

Revenues: 101-000-599 ARPA Revenue: \$31,106 moved from unearned revenue to earned revenue effective 3/31/25.

Expenses: 101-262-757 Grant: +5,000, this is a new line item.

Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, to approve the Budget Amendment bringing the approved budget from \$335,759 to \$342,266. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

9. APPROVAL for ATTENDANCE at Pipeline Training: After discussion it was decided to approve Trustee Heikkila for attendance. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to allow attendance to the April 3, 2025 meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Ironwood Memorial Building. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. BOR (Tax Appeals): Monday, March 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Wakefield Township Hall; Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Erwin Township Hall and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Bessemer Township Hall.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each quarter, (March, June, September and December) at 5:00 p.m. or as necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, for adjournment at 6:59 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK