

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 1, 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 G.8. MTA Meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting and budget hearing minutes from March 11, 2025 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.

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

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake has been attending Section 32 meetings.
- Made calls regarding some streetlights.
- Spring ride around is scheduled with the Road Commission on April 16th. Please let her know if there are any areas of concern that you would like to be addressed. Trustee Drier brought up the border roads and how the Road Commission would like to handle the ditching/funding.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of March 31, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$345,984.67 with receipts totaling \$11,096.99; expenditures of \$14,873.02; payroll of \$6,009.82, leaving an ending balance of \$336,198.82. 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: Treasurer Laessig summarized the last meeting that was held on March 27th. Besides regular items the main topic of discussion was Section 32. Mary has not received the audit report, she is working on a policy regarding water meters and mainline charges, upgraded Quickbooks which now has many more features. The City of Wakefield discussed the cost of water pump replacement after recent failure.

4. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier stated there has been multiple meetings. Section 32 has rescinded everything. There are many questions regarding rates, engineering items, and maintenance responsibilities. EGLE has requested to be at the next meeting which is scheduled for April 15th.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the special meeting on March 13th. This meeting was held to discuss wage and recommendation for a new hire. There were 17 applications received, the committee narrowed it to three. A recommendation was made for hire, but an offer was not extended. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13th.
6. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on March 12th. An outline of the proposed courts was shared, however the issue of the moisture needs to be addressed before plans can move forward.
7. PLANNING COMMISSION: Treasurer Laessig attended the last meeting on March 19th. There was no items on the agenda.
8. MTA MEETING: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on March 25th. There was a presentation from a park service employee that was not in support of the mine. PILT funding was discussed, 911 service, and broadband internet. Future meeting dates are May 27th in Marenisco; July 22nd in Wakefield; September 23rd in Marenisco; November 25th in Wakefield.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MTA Legislative Updates: All members receive this correspondence. Supervisor Lake highlighted several items.
2. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the correspondence.
3. Wakefield 4th of July Committee: Supervisor Lake shared the letter sent to us regarding a donation, however ours is included in what we pay to the City of Wakefield in our contract.
4. Carp Lake Township Master Plan: Supervisor Lake has the contact information if you are interested in reading the master plan.
5. EGLE Certificate of Coverage: EGLE is accepting comments regarding the waste water stabilization permit for Section 32. Supervisor Lake has the information available for review.
6. UP Fiber Inc. Press Release: Supervisor Lake shared the notice of UP Fiber Inc. acquiring AT&T infrastructure for broadband expansion across the UP.
7. Gogebic County PILT Payment: Supervisor Lake received notice that the PILT payments are on hold until further notice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set Spring Clean-up Date: Supervisor Lake will reach out to Waste Management to see if June 7th is available, if not June 14th. Clerk Ahonen will mail letters the week of May 5th.
2. Lawn Mowing: After discussion it was decided that Supervisor Lake will reach out to Austin Ahonen to see if he is still interested. If he is not, we will re-address at the next meeting.
3. Building Permit Rates: Supervisor Lake had met with the Building Inspector to update the fees. After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to increase the fees as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried. Clerk Ahonen will update the website with the new rates.

4. Charter Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement: This agreement is received every few years. It allows the Township to charge a fee for all Charter users from 0-5%. After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig to remain at 0%. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
5. Letter of Support for Highline BEAD Funding: Supervisor Lake shared a letter of support regarding funding for fiber internet. After discussion members agreed to send the letter.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. MTA MEETING: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at Wakefield Municipal Building

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK