

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 6, 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 Drier, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item H.3. Bergland Township Planning Commission Master Plan. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from April 1, 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 participated in the ride around on May 5th with the Gogebic County Road Commission. They visited all the roads that the Township would like addressed. The Road Commission is going to write up a proposal for the roads that they will have time for. Supervisor Lake will then meet with the City of Wakefield to work on an agreement.
- Great Lakes Tribunal is still in the “decision pending” stage. Great Lakes has filed an appeal to add 2025.
- Insurance provider was here to look at the boiler and all is good.
- Supervisor Lake has been busy interviewing and submitting letters regarding the support of Highland Copper. The new proposal would have all funds filter through the Township. The Township would receive an administrative fee for this service. There should be a final decision in September.
- Supervisor Lake attended the Board of Commissioners meeting where there was a presentation about the potential mine and the protection of the Porkies.
- Blight letters will be going out soon.

2. TREASURER’S REPORT: As of April 30, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$336,188.36 with receipts totaling \$14,087.89; expenditures of \$15,858.80; payroll of \$5,241.45, leaving an ending balance of \$329,176.00. 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: There was no meeting this month.

4. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier stated there has been multiple meetings. Bids have been sent out for the project to connect BASA to Snow River. An agreement cannot be reached regarding ¼ mile portion of sewer pipe that is needed for the project. Section 32 may just run their own right along side. Rates will be increasing. Many questions still remain regarding the lagoon abandonment.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended several interviews. The search continues.
6. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on April 12th. The funding for the proposed courts has not been received yet. The grant for the dog park is about \$105k and work on that will begin when plans are complete.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has not received the minutes from the County and will be reaching out to the clerk to be added to the list.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: All members receive this correspondence. Supervisor Lake highlighted several items.
3. Bergland Township Master Plan: A public hearing for the draft plan is scheduled for May 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Bergland Township Hall. The plan is on file and available for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Lawn Mowing: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve Austin Ahonen for lawn mowing at the same rate as last year of \$40 per hour. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gogebic County VA 2025 Budget Appropriation and MOU: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the MOU at the rate of \$1,000 for 2025. This is a decrease of \$376 from last year. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Gogebic County VA Minutes: Along with the MOU and appropriation notice, Supervisor Lake was received all of the previous meeting minutes. These are on file and available for review.
3. Public Official Bond Increase: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to pay \$42 for the bond increase of the elected officers. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Jason Lindbeck of OHM Advisors introduced himself to the Board and discussed the services his firm can provide in regards to grant writing and engineering ideas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Spring Clean-up: Saturday, June 7, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.
3. MTA: Tuesday, May 27th at Marenisco Township Hall

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila, for adjournment at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK