

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 3, 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; and Michael Heikkila, Trustee ABSENT: Michelle Wasielewski, Deputy Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item J.3. Michigan Township Association Annual Dues. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from May 6, 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 shared the PILT distribution amounts from the County. Wakefield Township will receive \$6,551.23,
- Supervisor Lake discussed an interested party in property in Wakefield Township.
- Supervisor Lake will be heading downstate to Lansing next week with Invest UP. She will be speaking in support of the \$50 million dollar grant for roads and infrastructure.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of May 31, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$329,189.21 with receipts totaling \$9,410.79; expenditures of \$6,790.32; payroll of \$5,351.30, leaving an ending balance of \$326,458.38. Treasurer Laessig also updated the board on BS&A software options. 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: The Water Authority met on May 8, 2025. The administrator updated on the GRWA phone number in the Ramsey office being turned off and no update on the audit, still waiting for the auditor to come on-site. An update was given on the Section 32 project. A bid for new water meters up at Indianhead was discussed and tabled. Bessemer Township maintenance invoices were presented to GRWA for payment, further review of these invoices is taking place.

4. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier updated the bids for the project will be sent out in June. There are still a lot of unanswered questions with this project. Discussion was held. There will be 144 users at \$85/month. The project needs to be completed by December 2026. The Articles of Incorporation

were rejected and re-sent to the State of Michigan this week. The ordinance still sits on hold for Wakefield Township. Jeff Wasley has been brought in by Section 32 for consult on the project.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila reported an offer was extended for the Administrator position. The new hire worked a couple of days and decided not to take the job. The board hired the previous Administrator back and would like to create an Assistant Manager position.
6. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila reported there was not a quorum so no meeting was held.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has not received the minutes from the County and will be reaching out to the County Clerk to add Wakefield Township to the email list for these minutes.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: All members receive this correspondence. Supervisor Lake highlighted items listed in this correspondence.
3. Proposed 2027 Forest Plans: There is an open house on June 25, 2025 in Baraga. There is an on-line link or you may contact Brad Carlson with the State of Michigan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. L-4029: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the tax rate request at 1.630 and 3.000 for a total of 4.630 mils. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Tim Dean Retirement: Supervisor Lake received a letter from Tim Dean, Township Attorney announcing his retirement effective August 1, 2025. The board elected to send out a Request For Proposal for his replacement.
3. Michigan Township Association Annual Dues: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier to pay the MTA Annual Dues in the amount of \$699.89 not to include the optional \$21.00. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: The Earned Sick Time Accrual will be added to next month's agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Planning Commission – Wednesday, June 18, 2025
3. Spring Clean-up: Saturday, June 7, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP