

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 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 Ahonen, supported by Laessig, to approve the Agenda with the addition of Agenda Item I.4. Lawn Mowing. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from June 3, 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 met with the Gogebic County Road Commission as well as the City of Wakefield regarding road repair. Supervisor Lake took everyone to Wiitanen and Wertanen Roads. After discussion the City of Wakefield agreed to be responsible for half of the amount and the Road Commission agreed to do the work. The contract will be reviewed later in the meeting.
- Culvert replacing and paving will start on Indianhead Road. The road will remain open with one lane at a time.
- Supervisor Lake was in Lansing on June 11 and 12 regarding the \$50 million appropriation. She shared a write up regarding the impact of the award should it be voted through. There is a possibility that she may return later in July for more meetings.
- Supervisor Lake met with White Pine Township Supervisor who is showing support for the mine.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$326,458.38 with receipts totaling \$22,654.93; expenditures of \$7,964.37; payroll of \$6,605.74, leaving an ending balance of \$334,543.20. 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.

Treasurer Laessig also shared that she received some quotes regarding the BSNA upgrade to include accounting software and multiple one-time fees.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on June 12th. Other than the usual agenda items the contract changes presented by Section 32 were reviewed;

Gogebic Range Water Authority did not accept the changes and voted to stay with the current version of the contract; reviewed a contract with Bessemer Township; and presented the 25/26 Budget. There was a question from GRWA to Wakefield Township regarding the \$7.20 water rate that is charged at Indianhead. Supervisor Lake will look into it.

4. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the June 19th meeting. The search continues for a new administrator. There are some questions to the union regarding the position. They are starting a search for a member at large for the board as it currently sits at 6 members.
5. PLANNING COMMISSION: There was no agenda items at the last meeting.
6. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting on June 18th. They were approved for a \$200k DNR grant that requires a 50% pay in. The City of Wakefield has agreed to pay the \$100k. The funds will be used to repair the softball fields. The committee also welcomed two new members.
7. SECTION 32: Trustee Drier stated the bids are being opened on Monday, July 7th.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed the minutes to all members.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: All members receive this correspondence. Supervisor Lake highlighted several items.
3. EGLE Public Notice: Supervisor Lake shared the public notice regarding the installations of culverts around the M28 and Sunday Lake tributary to Plantar Creek.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Par-Plan Insurance Renewal: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the renewal in the amount of \$8,137. This is an increase of \$943 from last year. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
Supervisor Lake is going to contact them to discuss the optional \$300 increase to verify exactly what it covers before approval. With the increase of approximately \$2,000 in the last two years, discussion was held regarding other options next year.
2. Workers Comp Insurance Renewal: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to pay \$764. This is the same rate for the fourth year in a row. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
3. Gogebic County Road Commission Road Contract: Supervisor Lake shared the contract with all members via email. After discussion, motion was made by Drier, supported by Heikkila to approve the GCRC Road contract to include total patching on Johnson and Pikka, ditching, brushing, gravel and culverts on Wiitanen and Wertanen for a Wakefield Township total of \$24,100. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. Lawn Mowing: After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve payment to Austin Ahonen for lawn mowing on May 17 and 25, and June 7 and 17 for a total of

\$800. Clerk Ahonen will discuss with Austin about continuing through the summer. If he is not interested, bids will be requested via our website, Facebook and the Ironwood Daily Globe. This will be for the remainder of the year. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES.
Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Supervisor Lake wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. BOARD OF REVIEW FOR ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Sometime in July.
3. MTA: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at the Wakefield City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 7:32 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK