

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 5, 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 as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Ahonen, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from July 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:

- Road work has started on Indianhead Road, Wiitanen Road as well as Wertanen. Also, work on 519 edge for drainage.
- Spraying for hornets will take place soon. Please do not open the windows if you are here working.
- Supervisor Lake testified via zoom for the grant funding to the House for transparency. We are marked as being “transparent” and now we wait to hear.

2. TREASURER’S REPORT: As of July 31, 2025, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$334,543.20 with receipts totaling \$10,359.97; expenditures of \$16,616.97; payroll of \$5,533.39, leaving an ending balance of \$322,752.81. 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 an additional payment of \$0.75 from the State of Michigan but has not received the bank statement to verify the funds were received.

3. GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY: Treasurer Laessig attended the meeting on July 10th. Other than the usual agenda items they tabled the Indianhead water bids, still waiting on the audit, and approved the water rate resolution.
4. SECTION 32: The bids were opened on July 7th, with Jake’s Excavating coming in as the low bid. The engineering for BASA and Section 32 are at different rates so there was a question if the grant funds can be comingled to cover the difference. Snow River and the Tribe attended the last meeting asking that the pipe be made bigger to support a convention center. Section 32 is going

to check with the engineers. It is proposed that Section 32 will dig a new ditch with their own pipe rather than leasing from GRWA. This would increase rates about \$30. This still has to be voted on. Another meeting will be held within the next week.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting. They are still working through the details of a union member learning the administrator position, which is a non-union position. Discussions regarding the search for a member at large are still taking place.
6. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT: Trustee Heikkila attended the last meeting. Bid requests are being sent regarding the dog park, parking lot and gazebo to be paid for via a grant. The committee also voted to have the meeting every other month, rather than monthly. The meetings will be held on even-numbered months.

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 a few items.
3. Red Cross Volunteers: If anyone is interested in becoming a Red Cross Volunteer the information regarding such will be posted on the door.
4. MSU Extension Citizen Planner Program: Training to become a certified citizen planner for planning and zoning will be held in Ironwood for a cost of \$250 for six weeks. If interested please let Supervisor Lake know.
5. VA Council Meeting Minutes: Supervisor Lake has the minutes available for review.
6. Gogebic Conservation District: A letter was received solicitating funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Township Attorney: The current attorney is retiring. After discussion, motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to retain Attorney Steve Tinti at the rate of \$200 per hour. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. F65: After discussion, motion was made by Laessig, supported by Drier to have Anderson Tackman file our F65 for the rate of \$2,000. Clerk Ahonen will contact them to let them know as well as ask if they are interested in conducting our audit next year. ROLL CALL vote showed all those presenting voting YES. Motion carried.
3. 2026 Township Local Road Work: Supervisor Lake has an upcoming meeting with the Road Commission to discuss next year's projects. After discussion, the Board agreed to price out Johnson Road.
4. Veterans Evaluation Services Mobile Clinic Request: Request was made to utilize our parking lot and building to conduct compensation and pension examinations for local Veterans. After discussion it was decided that Supervisor Lake will suggest a different location as we are so far out.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Drier stated the need for new clocks. Treasurer Laessig will purchase two.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
2. PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
3. MTA: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at Marenisco Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Typed by: Michelle Wasielewski, DEPUTY CLERK