

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2026, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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 G.7. MTA Meeting and J.4. MTA 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 5, 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: No public comment.

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.

REPORTS AND APPEARANCES:

1. SUPERVISOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Supervisor Lake received a few zoning/building permit questions/calls.
- Complaint received on camper parked for the summer, will need to monitor this living arrangement.
- Received a call looking for locates for fibre optics.
- Other updates are related to agenda items below.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of May 31, 2026, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$471,101.38 with receipts totaling \$9,204.95; expenditures of \$6,780.61; payroll of \$5,300.55, leaving an ending balance of \$468,225.17. Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, 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 reviewed the regular monthly meeting of the GRWA board on May 14, 2026. The audit fieldwork was completed, items need to be removed from the Bessemer township offices and the board agreed to meet every other month and update the by laws to reflect this. The GRWA had a special meeting with the City of Wakefield on June 2, 2026 to discuss the water rates. Andy Cambell was on zoom to present the costing of water rates and proposed rate increases.

4. SECTION 32 REPORT: Trustee Drier presented an update from the Section 32 meeting. The articles of incorporation have been sent to the township boards for review and approval. A draw was approved to pay Jake's Excavating for the work completed over the winter.

5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on May 21, 2026. There is a new resume for an interview. The GRSWMA is looking at trading in two trucks to purchase three trucks. There was a fire last week at the transfer station. There was a lot of damage and the transfer station is currently closed to the public. They are hoping to reopen soon. Regular trash picking is still happening. The transfer station is hauling to Ashland. Mandy will verify dumpsters for the Township Clean Up on Saturday.

6. PARKS & RECREATION: Trustee Heikkila attended this meeting. A bid was accepted for the dog park. The DNR grant for the softball fields has not been received. Music in Park will happen again this summer.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Gogebic County Board of Commissioners: Supervisor Lake has emailed this correspondence.
2. MTA Legislative Updates: Supervisor Lake reviewed the items in the most recent MTA update.
3. A letter from Barbara Reiner was received by the Township. This letter is in relation to trail changes by the open pit. This property is in the City of Wakefield. The City of Wakefield has also received this letter.
4. Veteran Council meeting minutes have been received from Jack Lillar and available to the board for review.
5. A Gogebic Business Forum flyer was received and shared with the board.
6. The Copperwood NP/NDES permit public notice will be holding a virtual meeting on July 8, 2026. This comment period was extended due to the overwhelming number of comments received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. LAWN MOWING: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen and supported by Heikkila to approve the use of the Robotic Mower to include a five to six month cost of \$2,623.50 to \$3,148.20. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. HIGHLINE PERMIT: After discussion Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laeissig to table the Highline Permit to the July meeting pending approval from the Road Commission. Motion carried.
3. METRO Act ROW Permit from Michigan Bell to UP Fiber: After discussion Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laeissig to table the METRO Act ROW Permit to the July meeting pending a response from the attorney. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. L-4029: After discussion motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laeissig to approve 2026 Tax Rate Request L-4029 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. SECTION 32 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION: Discussion was held on the Articles of Incorporation. Supervisor Lake will email questions to the attorney and administration at Section 32.
3. CITY OF WAKEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen and supported by Laeissig to approve a three year 3% increase to the interlocal agreement with the City of Wakefield. The three year total of the agreement is \$81,939.88. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Additional questions were discussed during extended public comment, options for disposing a dumpster trailing while the transfer station is closed and pot hole repairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

2. SPRING CLEAN UP DATE: Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 8:00 am – 12:00pm at Western UP Recycling Center located in Wakefield Township Industrial Parl.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Drier, supported by Laessig, for adjournment at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP