

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 7, 2026, 5:30 PM

Supervisor Lake called the regular Wakefield Township Board meeting to order at 5:32 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 removal of items G.6. Parks and Rec Report. This change moved Section 32 Report to item G.6. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion was made by Laessig, supported by Heikkila, to approve the regular board meeting minutes from June 9, 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: Public comment and discussion regarding internet service progress with the Highline and ITG contract, permitting and the Metro-Act.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion was made by Heikkila, supported by Laessig, 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:

- Township clean up total was 3.5 tons, two dumpsters were used.
- Complaint received for a camper/trailer on Indianhead Road.
- Camper with a collapsed roof on Johnson Road was reported by Trustee Heikkila.
- There is a need for a Blight Officer in the Township.
- There was a July 4th fire at Bingo's Motel. There is an investigation into the start of this fire.
- Wetland project in the industrial park is progressing. There is a lot of wetlands in this area. There are two properties that are not wetlands.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30, 2026, the General Fund #101 had a beginning balance of \$468,245.12 with receipts totaling \$26,390.70; expenditures of \$42,122.16; payroll of \$5,545.99, leaving an ending balance of \$446,967.67. There is a BS&A demonstration on July 9th at the courthouse. 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: Treasurer Laessig summarized the regular monthly meeting of the GRWA board on June 11, 2026. There was no update on the audit. A local contractor attempted to tap into a waterline by Aspirus Grandview Hospital. Discussion was held on the contract between GRWA and the City of Wakefield. Additional information related to rates and usage has been pulled and will be presented to the CPA doing the rate study. The proposed budget was presented with discussion on the GRWA portion of the bonds. A resolution was approved to meet every other month with the meeting in July to still occur.

4. PLANNING COMMISSION: The planning commission met on June 17, 2026. Treasurer Laessig attended this meeting. The planning commission is reviewing the Master Plan. Notification letters have been sent to municipalities.
5. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY: Trustee Heikkila attended the meeting on June 18, 2026. There was one interview this month. There was one resignation. One contractor will be doing all of the repair work.
6. SECTION 32 REPORT: A special meeting was scheduled for Section 32. Trustee Drier attended and presented a summary of this meeting. The agenda items were rate setting, change orders, a payment request, and to set special meeting dates in August and September. The engineer did not attend the meeting. The agenda items listed will be presented at the next regular meeting on July 21, 2026 at 5:00. The special meeting dates were set for August 18, 2026 and September 15, 2026 at 9:00.

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. EGLA GRTA Permit wetlands area in the City of Wakefield with the trails utilized by Gogebic Range Trail Authority for snowmobiling.
4. ORP regional event – Hancock – LEO is hosting a Managing Essentials on July 21st from 9:00 – 3:00.
5. EGLE NPDES Public Notice – Copperwood – the time of the public meeting was clarified in this third version of this public notice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Section 32 Articles of Incorporation: After discussion motion was made by Drier and supported by Heikkila to table the Articles of Incorporation as the final document has not been received by the time of our meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Par-Plan Insurance Renewal: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Laessig to approve the Par-Plan Insurance renewal for July 1, 2026 at a cost of \$8,478.00 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
2. Workers Comp Insurance Renewal was included in the approval of bills listed above.
3. Resolution to Adopt Ballot Millage Language: The ballot language for the Township General Operations Renewal Millage was read by Supervisor Lake. The ballot language includes 3 mills (\$3 per \$1,000 of taxable value) levied for four years, 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030 after discussion motion was made by Heikkila and supported by Laessig to approve the ballot language as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.
4. Auditor Engagement Letter: After discussion motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Heikkila to approve the Auditor Engagement Letter at a fee of \$10,000 as presented. ROLL CALL vote showed all those present voting YES. Motion carried.

5. MTA Picnic- MTA is looking to have a picnic with the next meeting on July 28, 2026 in Marenisco. Clerk Ahonen will be the contact for any items that Wakefield Township needs to bring to the picnic.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Discussion on the waterline City of Wakefield across the highway and Hill road.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENTS

1. REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
2. Board of Review for Errors and Omissions - July.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Ahonen, supported by Drier, for adjournment at 7:17 p.m.
Motion carried.

Jennifer Ahonen, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP