

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. **ROLL CALL**- Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, Jeff Randall – Supervisor, Erin Berg – Clerk, Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Absent: Sue Roberts – Trustee. Also present were Lisa Hegbloom – Utility Clerk, Erik Hauakala – Township Auditor, Steve Hamilton – Gogebic Range Trail Authority President, and 2 residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES –MOTION** by Ikola supported by Randall to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – A resident recommended adding “Post Office” to Unfinished Business Item E. Motion by Randall, support by Berg to approve the agenda with the recommended changes. Motion carried,
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** –None.
6. **PETITIONS**- None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**: - The Supervisor received a thank you card from former Township Clerk, Debbie Janczak, thanking the Board for her retirement party that was held.

Santas Headquarters - A postcard was received informing the Township that the Gogebic County outreach program will hold the event on December 7th in Ironwood and December 8th in Watersmeet and that those who wish to make a donation may do so at local businesses.

44 North – The Clerk receive an email from Stefanie Blaisdell of 44 North stating that there was an increase in the insurance premium that will renew in 2023 and attached alternate options to create some savings.

City of Wakefield – A letter was received from Wakefield City Manager, Robert Brown, looking for the Townships input on the GRTA’s interest in establishing a snowmobile trail on Old US 2.

Gogebic County 911 – A letter was received from the Gogebic County Clerk’s Office stating that the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners has adopted a 911 Service Plan Amendment to update the existing plan and to also inform the community of the steps involved in the amendment process.

8. REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BASA – The Board was informed that the new owner of the ski hills no longer has interested in joining the sewer system. No reason as to why was given.

Gogebic County Landbank Authority – The Board learned that there is a new grant from that State that assures that County’s are 99% sure to be awarded a grant for \$200,000 to help rid of blighted properties. The stipulation is that the County must own the blighted properties.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMPLAINT SAARI – There was nothing to report at the time. A brief discussion was had about the property on Mill Street.

Approved

UNION CONTRACT – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT – The first meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

AUDIT REPORT – Eric Haukala, Haukala CPA, presented the 2022 audit. The opinion was unqualified, which is the highest level of assurance. A discussion took place on the preparation of financial statements. **MOTION** by Randall, support by Tarnaski to accept the audit as presented and place on file. Motion carried.

DPW RESIGNATION /NEW HIRE – The Board learned that two applications were received for the Vacant DPW position. Interviews will be held later in the week.

POST OFFICE – There has been no updates on the Post Office situation. A discussion was had on how difficult it is to get updated information from the Postal Service.

10. NEW BUSINESS

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL REQUEST – Steve Hamilton, GRTA President, presented a proposed reroute of the snowmobile trail that would expand the use of Township property east of the railroad grade. The snowmobile route would be open for public use beginning December 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2022. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Berg to authorize the appropriate signatures on a Resolution of Support of the proposed permit. Motion carried by roll call vote.

DELINQUENT UTILITY LIENS – Lisa Hegbloom, Utility Clerk, presented the Board with the list of delinquent utility accounts that are to be placed as a special assessment for the 2022 Winter Tax bills. These accounts are more than three months delinquent. A separate issue regarding a resident who intentionally wrote a check on a closed account in order to not be shut off was discussed. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to give the resident until the end of the next business day to have his bill paid in full by means of certified bank money order only. If the bill was not paid, his water is to be shut off at 3:30 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Berg to accept the delinquent utility list with the addition of the individual discussed if his bill is not paid. Motion carried by roll call vote.

FIREWORKS PERMIT APPLICATION – SKI HILL – Currently, the application from Blackjack for their New Years Eve fireworks display has been received. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Berg to pre approve the authorization of the fireworks permit for the ski hill once the required paperwork has been received. Motion carried by roll call vote.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer reported that 4 water and 1 tax deposit were made, including the Revenue Sharing check. The office is preparing for the 2022 Winter tax season. The balances of each account were read.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE –The following checks were presented for payment:

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 15959 - 15983	\$21,354.42
Water Fund	# 22271 - 22278	\$10,329.33
Anvil Sewer	# 1381	\$80.85
Ramsay Sewer	# 2836 - 2838	\$11,059.62
West End Sewer	# 1275	\$3,859.67
Blackjack Water	#	\$

Approved

MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Ikola to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS**- The Supervisor informed the Board that the grinder pump at the Anvil sewer failed over the weekend. Justin Niemi, DPW Foreman ordered 2 new pumps.
14. **ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Randall supported by Tarnaski to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved