

Regular Board Meeting
August 28, 2023 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**- Sue Roberts – Trustee, Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, Jeff Randall – Supervisor, and Erin Berg – Clerk and Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Also present were Dave Macomber, Lisa Hegbloom and one resident.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES – MOTION** by Roberts, support by Berg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –MOTION** by Randall, support by Roberts to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS –None.**
6. **PETITIONS-** None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** - A letter from the City of Wakefield notifying that a meeting will be held on August 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Gogebic Range Trail Authority snowmobile trail.

A Letter from the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region stating that they are beginning to work on a materials (solid waste) management program.

8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Gogebic County Land Bank – The Board was notified that the next round of grants for blight has begun.

PAUD – The bills were paid. A policy to not forgive late fees/penalties for late utility bills was adopted.

GRSWMA – The bills were paid. Discussion took place about beginning to search for new trucks.

The DPW painted the front doors of the Township building as well as removed the weed bed that was in the front. A question was asked about how often the concrete pad in the front of the building needs to be sealed.

The address project continues. Supervisor Randall and Bob Berg checked the properties on Eel Lake and Moraine Lake. There were 15 part time residences between the two lakes.

Utilities – There are 7 accounts on the list to be shut-off on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. The current total aged accounts receivable is \$44,750.95.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A) **COMPLAINT – SAARI UPDATE** – The Blight Officer provided the Township Attorney with a list of blighted properties within the Township and asked that a legal letter be sent to the owners of the properties. He also asked the Attorney about the possibility of scheduling a meeting with Mr. Saari to discuss his blighted property.

Approved

B) POST OFFICE – There was nothing new to report at this time.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A) TREASURER – MOTION by Randall, support by Roberts to go into closed session at 5:40 p.m. MOTION by Randall, support by Roberts to go into open session at 5:52 p.m. MOTION by Roberts, support by Ikola to approve any updates to the Treasurer’s laptop and allow for any training required to use the laptop remotely. Motion carried by roll call vote.

B) BALL FIELD – The Board reviewed a list from Kassi Huotari, Business Manager for Bessemer Area Schools, of potential projects to the softball field. The Board compiled a list of questions for the Supervisor to present to Ms. Huotari. No action was necessary at this time.

C) PARK SWING PURCHASE – MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to authorize the purchase and order of the Expression Toddler Swing not to exceed the amount of \$1,783.00. Motion carried by roll call vote. The Supervisor mentioned that he will look at the possibility of a wheelchair swing as well as two benches to be placed in the park.

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Due to the process of opening a new account at the First National Bank (because the township does not currently have any accounts there), the Treasurer will open a new checking account at Gogebic Range Bank for incoming electronic payments from utility customers while qualify for a new grant program. Once that account is opened, the Treasurer will let the Clerk, Utility Clerk and Deputy Clerk know so that they can sign the signature cards.

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

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16419 - 16439	\$16,503.37
Water Fund	# 22368-22376	\$12,688.02
Anvil Sewer	#	
Ramsay Sewer	#	
West End Sewer	#	
Blackjack Water	#	

The Treasurer brought up a check that was drafted to Debbic Janczak, former clerk, for payment for assisting the new Clerk with audit preparation. A discussion was had on whether or not there needs to be a contract between the Township and Ms. Janczak for the assistance. The Supervisor will contact MTA and the Township Attorney for guidance. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to approve the bills as presented with the exception of check #16431 from the general fund and #22375 from the water fund, which was written out to the First National Bank for the opening of the new account. Motion carried by roll call vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS**- A resident asked that his utility bill be sent to his PO Box because he is not receiving the bills at his physical address.

A board member asked about moving “Public Comment” earlier onto the agenda so that residents do not have to sit through the whole meeting to ask a question.

Approved

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Roberts supported by Ikola to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.
Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved