

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP MINUTES
22295 FROSTVIEW ROAD COLD SPRING MINNESOTA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2022 1:00 PM

Township members present: Cyril Erkens, John Willenbring, Shawn Garding, Jerry Frieler and Heidi Stalboerger. Others present: Michael William, Stearns County Administrator.

Chairman Erkens called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Michael William, Stearns County Administrator presented a proposed, countywide broadband expansion project installing fiber optics to all premises. Mr. Williams reviewed a power point presentation identifying the unserved/underserved areas of the county and specifically Wakefield Township as well as the utility companies participating in the project. Mr. Williams reviewed the cost for the project, the amount of subsidy the county is requesting from townships, small cities and the utility companies, and grants received as well as grant opportunities. The presentation included the breakdown of different areas of the county and construction phases proposed in the plan. The county is suggesting that the townships use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds received from the federal government, but not requesting more than 50% of the funds received by any jurisdiction.

Stearns County is requesting an amount of \$140,700 from Wakefield Township in the partnership broadband expansion project. Mr. Williams mentioned that since Wakefield Township returned \$3,073 to the County from the CARES Act funds, the County Commissioners are discussing the possibility of reducing the amount owed by Wakefield Township for the project by that amount.

MOTION MADE BY SUPERVISOR WILLENBRING SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GARDING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2022-006, RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF ARPA FUNDS FOR PARTNERSHIP BROADBAND PROJECT WITH STEARNS COUNTY, UPON CLARIFICATION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THE PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2. The first distribution of the ARPA funds was received in 2021 in the amount of \$154,863 as well as the residual amount of \$5,071. The second installment of funds is due in June 2022.

3. Clerk Stalboerger reported that Vern Salzl, former President of the Sportsman's Club, recently dropped off a quit claim deed for parcel number 36.24678.0066, the last parcel owned by the Sportsman's Club. The Board agreed that the soil samples should first be reviewed in the soil study conducted by WSB, Inc. as well as reviewing an insurance proposal before acceptance of the gift of the Sportsman's Park parcels.

4. Supervisor Willenbring stated that he felt it was necessary to review the roads, specifically 260th Street (west end), 193rd Avenue and 158th Avenue. The group discussed the importance of collaborative efforts between the Supervisors, Maintenance Department and the Township Engineer. The Board discussed the need for the township engineer to present upcoming road projects for at least the next three years. The Board also discussed the need for signs to be replaced as required and as needed.

5. Supervisor Garding reviewed a blocked culvert on Red Cedar Road, on the south side of the road west of the first homeowner from County Road 71. The Board felt it would be best to have the culvert replaced and will have Todd Menke, Maintenance Department, to contact local contractors for an estimate on the project.

*MOTION BY WILLENBRING SECONDED BY GARDING TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:44 PM.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Approved by:

/s/Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

/s/Cyril Erkens, Chairman