

**WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**MINUTES OF THE CONTINUATION OF JULY 6, 2023 MEETING**  
**JULY 20, 2023 7:00 PM**

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Willenbring. All joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members Present: Chairman John Willenbring, Supervisors Shawn Garding and Dave Dold and Clerk Heidi Stalboerger. Others Present: Mark Stalboerger

Stalboerger distributed Pay Voucher #1 from WSB, Inc for the 2023 Seal Coat road project. The Supervisors will review for the August meeting.

Stalboerger stated that Planning Commissioner Wally Backes has discussed plans with her for his retirement. The Board is willing to work with Commissioner Backes if he would like to stay on but is also willing to accept his resignation for his Planning Commission position.

The Board discussed the process for seeking a candidate for the upcoming Treasurer vacancy. The Board discussed the desired qualifications and the timing of the vacancy. Frieler has stated that he is willing to stay in his role until the end of 2023. Stalboerger stated that she has been working with the accountant to review the suggested updates to the Chart of Accounts for more accurate record keeping and ease of budgeting. The group reviewed the CD/Investments List, considering the maturity date of each CD and when the funds will be available for earmarked projects and expenditures.

Stalboerger stated that the Gardner property on Langevin Drive is no longer in violation. The property owners abated the violation by removing the 6' X 27' RV (Principal Dwelling Unit). Subsequently, the property was sold, and the new buyers have already contacted Stalboerger to discuss plans for a building site for a principal residential structure.

The JCMH rezoning request was heard by the Stearns County Planning Commission, which ended in a 3-3 vote with no recommendation for the Stearns County Commissioners. The Stearns County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the rezoning request. The Board directed Stalboerger to attend the meeting on August 8, 2023.

Stalboerger was asked to seek grant funding for the Sportsman's Park concession stand to double as a storm shelter. Stalboerger contacted the Stearns County Emergency Management Department. Currently, Wakefield Township does not have a storm shelter listed as a goal, but this can be added if the Board feels it is necessary. Supervisor Garding will contact someone from another municipality to find out more about the funding they received.

The Board discussed the financial viability of the improvement ideas to the Sportsman's Park. The Board members agreed that the park improvements discussed so far are a costly endeavor. The park is located in a community that has multiple parks, within its jurisdiction as well as the nearby area. Historically, the park use has been dwindling. The Board discussed other options for the property, including options that would once again generate tax income. The Board discussed the long-range use of the park property as well as maintenance, including expense to operate and maintain the park and possible partnering with a civic organization to maintain the park. The Board agreed that the primary function of the township is to maintain the roads. The Board discussed alternate options for the park, such as food trucks and portable restroom

facilities, that don't include increased expense for building improvements and maintenance. The Board requested that Stalboerger reach out to Ben Anderson, Stearns County Parks Department to attend an upcoming Park Committee Meeting to present a report on the parks in Stearns County, usage and park expense.

The Board discussed the Management Agreement with the Cold Spring Softball Association for the Ball Park area of the park. The group reviewed agreements from several area park systems including, the City of Cold Spring, City of Richmond, City of Sauk Rapids as well as the agreement that was presented to Wakefield Township by Township Attorney, Bob Ruppe. The Board directed Stalboerger to contact Tammy Garding to obtain the list of finances for the Cold Spring Softball Association and discussed what has historically been financed through the Softball Association and the new expenses incurred by Wakefield Township. The Board agreement that maintenance of the existing infrastructure is important as the well at the ball park is failing. An estimate received by Jennings Well Drilling has been received in the amount of \$10,395 to replace the pump. This estimate may qualify for a rebate from Xcel Energy. The Board directed Supervisor Garding to obtain a second estimate and forward to Stalboerger for distribution and further investigation into rebate qualification.

The Board directed Stalboerger to craft a Management Agreement from the agreements reviewed. The Board will review the document and request a meeting with the Cold Spring Softball Association for comments.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GARDING SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DOLD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:24 PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

/s/Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

/s/John Willenbring, Chairman