

Summary of the July 25, 2016 bi-monthly meeting of the Town Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair George Franckowiak. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Supervisor Jon Nelson, second by Supervisor David Opack and unanimously approved.

Chair Franckowiak suspended the agenda to hear from a resident. The resident was at this meeting to make the Town Board aware of a problem with two gravel pits in Gnesen Township, that he feels are operating outside the designated opening and closing time. After much discussion, Supervisor Nelson stated and the Town Board agreed that we need to follow up with two pit owners and familiarize ourselves with the procedures in our Planning & Zoning Ordinance on Enforcement, Penalties and Remedies.

OLD BUSINESS:

P&Z Violation-The land owner did not respond to our letter to appear before the Town Board. Supervisor Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack, board approved to contact our attorney to take court action to have the cabin removed. Clerk will contact our lawyer, Mike Couri.

Election judges-We need to appoint two additional judges. Supervisor Opack made a motion, second by Supervisor Nelson, board approved, to appoint Barb Pucuski and Martha Ritter.

Storm damage-Supervisor Nelson contacted Pete Stauber about the availability of State Aid and Pete said that he not aware of any but the County Assessor is looking at the ability to abate some property tax if the damage meets a certain threshold.

Insurance claim on storm damages at the Community Center-The insurance adjuster contacted Toni Blomdahl today and they want to meet with our contractor to discuss the cost of repair to the garage.

Maps for the Town Hall-Supervisor Nelson will follow up on the purchase of the maps in a different format then discussed before.

Storm damage-Supervisor Opack stated that when they cut up the trees that were blown over by the storm that it scuffed up the yard. He contacted Jim Durfee and Jim will bring a load of top soil. Toni was supposed to talk to Pete Stauber about getting the Sentence to Serve people to come out and help with this. Supervisor Opack also mentioned that Ulland Brothers will let us put the debris from the storm in their Billington Pit and then we will have the fire department come in and burn it at a later date. Supervisor Opack gave Garrett Campbell permission to temporary stock pile power poles for Minnesota Power on his property on Jean Duluth Road.

Roof repair on the Community Center-We will table this until next month after the Supervisors have had a chance to go over the quotes from Jim Perrault and Ward Popenberg.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trees at Community Center-Supervisor Opack, Martin Lepak and Tom Haller went to the Community Center and harvested the trees that blew over in the storm. Supervisor Opack talked to Tom McCabe and Potlatch about purchasing the trees. After much discussion, Supervisor Nelson made a motion to have Tom McCabe take the trees unless Supervisor Opack gets a better offer from Potlatch. Chair Franckowiak seconded the motion, all in favor.

Storm damage-Beth Canete, from Gnesen Convenience Store, asked about the Township doing a fundraiser for people that lost so much in the recent storm. The Town clerk contacted the MAT Association and they said there is no express authority for a town to conduct a fundraiser, especially when the proceeds are to go to private citizens and not something to benefit the public at large.

Gnesen Community Center activities-When there is no power at the Center, the building manager must contact all renters that the building is closed. No activities shall go on when the power is out.

Storm damage-The dug-out by the ball field had a tree fall on it but it was not listed on our insurance policy so it is not covered. Chair Franckowiak will see if Kurt Blegen can repair it with the help of Supervisors Nelson and Opack.

Disaster Emergency Plan-Supervisor Nelson will ask the person helping him come up with a plan for work for suggestions. He also mentioned that the grant writer from UMD who is going to work with the township this fall might be able to help us. There was discussion on getting the Community Center and the Fire Hall equipped with generators to run as emergency shelters in the event of another major storm like this past one.

Application to conduct Off-Site Gambling-The Fire Department turned in an application for approval for their October 15th raffle fundraiser dance to be held at the Town Hall. The town clerk mentioned that it does not need township approval on this form, only the County's approval. Supervisor Nelson stated that we can recommend to the County that they approve it.

National Night Out-August 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE:

One piece of correspondence was received.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)