

## Regular Meeting Town of Gnesen

June 12, 2017

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, June 12, 2017, at the Gnesen Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Jon Nelson. The Town Board, Town Employees and one resident stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Supervisor David Opack, second by Vice Chair Jon Nelson and unanimously approved. Minutes of the May 8, 2017 and May 22, 2017 meetings were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Vice Chair Nelson.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. Motion by Supervisor Opack second by Vice Chair Nelson, all in favor to accept the Treasurer's report. (There were four outstanding checks and two outstanding electronic withdrawals for the month for a total of \$2,039.15.)

### OLD BUSINESS:

Zoning Officer's position-We received an employment application from Robert Aho for the position. Mr. Aho was here tonight to ask some questions about the position. Supervisor Opack explained a little about what the position entails and advised Robert to talk to Gil Kjorstad. We will set a deadline of June 23<sup>rd</sup> for applications to be submitted. Cindy Erickson will also update our website with the deadline information.

P&Z Matter-Our attorney, Mike Couri, emailed us that the judge granted our summary judgment in the case but stayed its implementation until the variance issue is decided, unless the property owners don't file their appeal by July 24, 2017, in which case the summary judgment will then be immediately effective. This means that the issue of whether the property owner violated the ordinance by subdividing the lot with an area of less than 9 acres was decided in the Township's favor. If the property owners appeal the variance denial by July 24<sup>th</sup>, Mike will tender the case to the Township's insurer and they would defend the township in the variance appeal. Mike said he would expect a final decision by the Court in October or November.

Emergency Plan Committee-Vice Chair Nelson gave a brief summary of the meeting earlier tonight. Mia Thibodeau will make a draft emergency plan using the Duluth Township's template as an example. Scott Lyons will contact Red Cross about working with us to set up the shelter. Kurt Blegen will contact Duluth Electrical about getting the right size generator for the shelter. Vice Chair Nelson suggested bringing the shelter up at the next DAT Meeting to see if other townships are interested in helping to get this shelter going. Vice Chair Nelson stated that we will still want to have an on-going committee of volunteers that will make their selves available to run the shelter. Vice Chair Nelson will write up a summary for Cindy Erickson to put in our newspaper inviting community members to come to the meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gnesen Community Center. Deputy Clerk Blomdahl mentioned having the committee attend National Night Out.

Lawnwood Road-Rick's Tree Service finished cutting the trees on Lawnwood Road today. Supervisor Opack stated Rick's Tree Service hasn't cut the trees at the Community Center as he wants to hold off on the rest of the work until he has talked with St. Louis County about what they might want done to the township roads.

Town Treasurer position-The Town Board would like to put a deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup> for accepting applications for the position. Clerk will contact Mary Bjorklund and tell her we are keeping the position open until July 15<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Erickson will update the website with the deadline date.

Short Course-June 29<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Haller registered Supervisor Opack for the training for the Local Board of Appeals and herself for the Clerk's training.

Garbage dumped on township roads-Clerk Haller called WLSSD and they do not give out free passes for residents anymore. Clerk Haller left a message for the person that cleaned up the garbage on Church & Pioneer Roads today asking what the Sheriff's Deputy said when the deputy came to look at the garbage he had picked up along the road but the Clerk had not heard back from him before this meeting. Supervisor Opack contacted the County about putting some gravel in the area that was logged off to try to prevent dumping. Garrett Campbell, the logger, put several loads in the area. Supervisor Opack stated that the Clerk should contact the County to see if they have any surveillance equipment the township could use to try to find out who is dumping their garbage in the area.

League of Minnesota Cities Life and Disability benefits-Clerk Haller called the League today and left a message. From the website information it looks like the employee would need to work 30 hours per week to qualify for these benefits. We do not have any employees that work 30 hours.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Grader operator's road report-Tom Haller stated that all of the township roads were graded earlier this month. Supervisor Opack will contact Mike Grubb to see when he is available to haul gravel for the town roads.

Gnesen Community Center Building Manager report-Toni Blomdahl stated that Jacob Nustad and Angel Peluso will be running the Summer Youth Program. Session 1 will run June 19-23. The Scout Troop that rented the Community Center said they would like to donate five or six picnic tables to the Center. Supervisor Opack talked to Mike Polzin from a Scout Troop and asked him about doing a scouting project to fix up the wood signs around the Township and Mike said they will look into doing this project.

Gnesen Newspaper-Nothing new to report.

Insurance-We received a letter from MAT asking if we wanted to increase our coverage. The Town Board felt what we have is sufficient for now. Clerk Haller will call and add the snow blower attachment to our insurance policy.

Letter from St. Louis County Public Works Department-We received a letter talking about an inspection of our roads because they need a clear unobstructed roadway when they plow with their updated new trucks. Supervisor Opack will schedule a review meeting with the District Superintendent. Supervisor Opack stated that we should talk to the City of Rice Lake and inquire about the positives and negatives of doing their own snowplowing. Supervisor Opack stated we will discuss this more after he meets with the District Superintendent.

Noxious weed-We received an email from MAT about some additional species of noxious weeds added to the list.

Population and household estimates-We received a letter from the MN State Demographic Center about the population and household estimates. The Town Board did not wish to challenge their estimates. These estimates are used to distribute state aid to cities and townships. A final report will be released to the Minnesota Department of Revenue in July. (Population is up one and households are up three.)

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Crime Activity Report for May-The report was reviewed.

Underground line extension-We received a letter from Minnesota Power notifying us that they will be doing a new underground line extension for new construction at 4047 West Pioneer Road. If the road is not restored to its previous condition, we will send a letter asking them to restore the road.

MAT-We received an email from MAT about their response to the current proposed road funding and road policy issues.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received was included above.

Ten building permits were turned in for the month of May 2017.

Upcoming Meetings:

P&Z Commission Meeting-June 21, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-June 26, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

Short Course-June 29, 2017

Disbursements #13883 through #13905 and three Electronic Transfers were read, approved and signed for payment for a total of \$19,630.39 with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Vice Chair Nelson, all in favor to pay the disbursements. CTAS Balance after tonight \$305,436.46.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Vice Chair Nelson. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting were: Robert Aho. Employees present were: Kurt Blegen, Toni Blomdahl, Tom Haller and Cindy Erickson. Employees absent: Gil Kjorstad.