

Town of Gnesen-Annual Meeting Minutes-March 14, 2018

The Annual Meeting and Election of the Town of Gnesen was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The polls opened at 5:00 p.m. and were closed at 8:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting followed at 8:30 p.m. Clerk Lottie Haller called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. with sixteen residents in attendance. The clerk and residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The clerk called for a nomination of a Moderator for the meeting. David Opack nominated Jon Nelson with a second by Steve Franckowiak. Motion to nominate Jon Nelson as Moderator-all in favor-no objections. Moderator Nelson was sworn in by Lottie Haller, Town Clerk, by taking the Oath to serve as Moderator for this Annual Meeting. Moderator Nelson swore in Lottie Haller by taking the Oath to serve as Clerk for this Annual Meeting.

Moderator Nelson then stated that the business of the meeting was to elect One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term, to approve the Levy set at the Board of Audit Meeting, which was held on January 22, 2018, to finish any old business, to transact any new business for the good of the township.

Moderator Nelson asked the Clerk to read the election results. Total votes cast-Supervisor for the three (3) year term-Jon Nelson-31 votes. There were no write-in votes for the Supervisor position and no blank votes.

Board of Canvass consisted of Supervisor Ed Franckowiak and Supervisor David Opack. They met after the polls closed and the ballots were counted, to check over and verify the election results that the election judges-Lottie Haller, Katy Neff Dawson and Martha Ritter turned in. The clerk declared Jon Nelson was elected Town of Gnesen Supervisor for a three-year term, ending in 2021.

Moderator Nelson asked the Clerk to read the minutes of the Board of Audit Meeting that was held on January 22, 2018 and the last Annual Meeting held on March 14, 2017. . Motion by Carter Williams, second by Kurt Blegen to not read the minutes, all in favor, no objections. Motion by Carter Williams, second by Kurt Blegen to approve the minutes as presented, all in favor, no objections.

Moderator Nelson asked the clerk to read the Financial Statement of the Town of Gnesen for 2017. Clerk Lottie Haller read the Financial Statement report.

2017 Road Report was prepared by the Town Clerk and available for inspection. David Opack gave a brief update on what we have done this year; culverts, gravel, chloride, snow plowing.

Moderator Nelson brought up for discussion and approval the proposed levy for the year 2019, as proposed at the Board of Audit Meeting held on January 22, 2018. We will go through each levy item, discuss them and then vote to accept them after all have been discussed. All in attendance have copies of the cash control statement for 2015-2017.

100-GENERAL FUND-Levy for 2018-\$124,000.00. Proposed Levy for 2019-\$124,000.00.

201-ROAD FUND-Levy for 2018-\$80,000.00. Proposed Levy for 2019-\$80,000.00.

225-FIRE FUND-Levy for 2018-\$60,000.00 to contract with the Fire Department to provide Fire and First Responder protection. Proposed levy for 2019-\$60,000.00. Jon Nelson discussed how the fire department is separate from the township and that we contract with them to provide fire protection and emergency response protection. The Fire Department bonded through the township to get finances for the loan to purchase a new fire truck but the township is

not held responsible for the loan. Kurt Blegen stated that the truck is a mid-sized pumper for \$320,000.00.

410-Capital Improvement Fund-Levy for 2018-\$6,000.00. Proposed Levy for 2019-\$6,000.00.

Motion by Gary Juten, second by Carter Williams to accept the total Levy for the year 2019. All in favor, no objections. The total Levy for 2019 will be \$270,000.00, same as the last eight years.

Jon Nelson, read the 2017 annual building permit report. There were 57 building permits turned in for 2017, which included one cabin, seventeen garages/pole buildings, five other accessory buildings, nine additions, two change in use, one deck, three land alteration permits, four repair/rebuild, two commercial, one other/miscellaneous and twelve new homes. Carter Williams mentioned that the fee schedule has been changed because the Zoning Inspector has been asked by the Town Board to go back to inspect the site an additional time. Carter mentioned that there have also been changes in the Ordinance to make it clearer.

Tim Cernohous and Gunnar Johnson were re-appointed, at the March 12, 2018 Town Board Meeting, to the Planning Commission for a three (3) year term expiring in 2021. Gary Juten has stepped down from the Commission at the end of his three (3) year term. The Board thanked Gary for his service and dedication to the Planning Commission. Jon Nelson thanked the Planning Commission Members for the work they do on the Commission. They are greatly appreciated.

Moderator Nelson asked if there was any other business.

Broadband-Jon Nelson gave an update on the Broadband issue and we have been encouraged to apply again for a grant.

Community Center-After the 2016 blow down, we put together a community work group of members of the fire department, residents and Town Board members to work at getting the Community Center set up as an emergency shelter. There is work that needs to be done to qualify the Center as an emergency shelter-new wiring, lighting, accessible showers and bathrooms. If we are going to do bonding to upgrade the Center, there will have to be a Public Hearing on the bonding. We have worked with graduate classes from UMD and they have come up with some suggestions to help us on the DNR Grant such as a playscape, camp sites, trails, disc golf, day care geared for the outdoor program expanding youth and senior programs, making it a focal point of the community.

Discussion followed on what we would do with the Town Hall. Jon Nelson stated that all of this is in the early planning stages. We could use the Town Hall as a Public Works Building to have a heated garage to store our equipment. There was discussion on whether the Township will have to start doing our own snow plowing in the future.

Vacancy-Jon introduced Ed Franckowiak who will be filling out his dad's term as Town Supervisor until the term is up in 2020.

During the coming year, the Township notices will run as legal ads in the Duluth News Tribune. They will also run in the Gnesen Community Newspaper, when the time frame works. Posted notices will be at the Gnesen Town Hall, Gnesen General Store, Island Lake Inn, Boondocks' and the Sportsmen's Inn. Our bank will be Wells Fargo and our Township Attorney will be Couri & Ruppe and Maki & Overom. We took Porky's Truck Stop off the list of places to post as there is no room there to post.

Moderator Nelson stated that the Certification/Reorganization Meeting would be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the Gnesen Town Hall and the Town Clerk will post the time and date here at the Town Hall.

The next annual meeting and elections will be on March 12, 2019. Motion by Ed Franckowiak, second by Gary Juten, all in favor to confirm the Town Hall as the site for the next annual meeting. Election hours will be announced before the election and meeting at a regular Town Board Meeting. Annual Town Meeting will start at 8:30 p.m. after the polls are closed and the ballots counted. If the Town Hall Office was moved to the Gnesen Community Center, all residents would be notified by mail of the change.

Moderator Nelson asked if there was anything else the residents wanted to discuss. Hearing none, David Opack made a motion, second by Kurt Blegen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. All in favor. No objections.

These minutes are a summary of the Annual Meeting and are not the official minutes. The official minutes are subject to change/correction when the official minutes are approved by the electors at the annual meeting to be held on March 12, 2019. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)