

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, September 10, 2018, at the Gnesen Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Jon Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition information on contracting for snow plowing was moved by Supervisor Opack, second by Supervisor Franckowiak and Board approved.

Minutes of the August 13, 2018 and August 27, 2018 Town Board Meetings were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack.

Chair Nelson asked why the large amount of disbursements and Treasurer Bjorklund stated it was the payment to the fire department. Motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report. (There was one outstanding check for \$571.90 and two of the credit card transactions had a return on them which was not noted on the statement, so we will adjust those when we make the payments tonight.)

OLD BUSINESS:

P&Z complaint-Robert Aho stated he has not been able to connect the property owner. Robert drove by the property a couple times and he stated that the property owner definitely is moving stuff out.

P&Z complaints-Robert Aho stated he has had a number of email conversations and the property owner stated that they had a verbal agreement with Jack Singler, when Jack was P&Z Board Chair and Robert stated that he needs to call Jack and get his take on it. Robert stated that he looked through the whole folder, all the agreements; there is nothing in writing that is an agreement on anything on it. Chair Nelson asked Robert what the property owners say the agreement was and Robert stated that they think they can have four campers on that site year round and it is all family members. After some discussion on whether the trailers were licensed and had tires to make them road ready, Chair Nelson suggested that after Robert talks to Jack, walks the property and finds out how much is out of compliance, then we can bring that to the Planning Commission prior to inviting the property owners to come to a meeting. Robert also need to find out how they are treating the wastewater so we have that on file and he has not got in touch with anybody from the Health Department yet.

P&Z complaint-Robert stated he drove by the property and it doesn't look like there has been any change there. He has not got any response back from the property owner either.

CUP-Robert stated he is waiting for Island Lake Inn to get their CUP together for the dynamic sign they put up.

Pickup truck-Clerk Haller sent an email to Tom Lattimore and he said we had to fill out some forms and they said Town of Gnesen is a political sub-division of the State so there should be no additional process that we need to complete to negotiate a sale for us. Dave can send him the specs or talk to him as to what Dave is looking for in a truck and they will look for a truck for us. Tentatively we are still thinking if we can find a truck it might be something we do rather than contract out the lanes for snowplowing.

P&Z complaint-Robert mentioned that last November he received a complaint about someone that is burying things on their property on Hemlock Drive. Robert stated that the first thing he would like to do is go there to let them know there is a complaint. It was suggested that Robert contact the Sheriff's Department and have a Deputy go there with him. Supervisor Opack made a motion to authorize spending the money to pay the deputy to accompany Robert if we need to have a deputy accompany him.

Plaque-We will table that for now.

CDBG-Chair Nelson is still working on this.

DNR Grant-Tim Newgard contacted the Clerk about applying for a grant for playground equipment thru Game Time. Mr. Newgard had heard we were awarded a DNR Grant. Chair Nelson stated that we are getting the grant for a nature playground, and he has found a company that does these nature playgrounds. So once we get the paperwork from the DNR to go ahead, we can start moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Melody Morris-Supervisor Opack introduced Melody and stated that she is looking for a project to do for a term project at college that involves mapping and she would like to help out the Town Board if we have a project that would be acceptable to her professor. It was suggested that she map out all the culverts and signs on Township roads and Supervisor Opack authorize Melody to do the research and the grader operator could spend a few hours helping her find all the culverts.

Grader operator's road report- Grader Operator Tom Haller stated that the roads are in pretty good shape. He mowed the lanes by Eagle Lake today. Sunshine Lake Road blacktop apron has some pot holes and the spot on Pioneer Road by Mirror Lake and he was instructed to get in contact with Mike Grubb to get some fine, crushed blacktop and take care of this. Supervisor Opack stated that the culvert on the West Pioneer Road on the Howard Gnesen Road end is on the top of the list to be replaced. Tom stated that he will get up to Needle Lane to grade it this fall.

Gnesen Community Center-Toni Blomdahl was absent tonight, so no report from her. Supervisor Opack and Ted Raymond went and looked at the job of pouring a slab for the generator. Ted measured it up and he stated that he will talk to Kurt Blegen and they will get that slab poured.

Gnesen Community Newsletter- Cindy Erickson was absent tonight, so no report from her. Chair Nelson sent Cindy the name of the Boy Scout contact to get an article for the newspaper about the new "Little Library" installed at the Center.

Invasive species-Tom Haller gave an update on the new invasive species, knotweed.

Crime activity report from St. Louis County Sheriff's Office-There were 13 crime activity records printed. Sheriff Ross Litman told Clerk Haller to talk to St. Louis County Public Works about the Special Events Permits that were listed in the report last month. Clerk Haller asked Vic Lund if we could be notified when someone applies for the Special Events Permit from them and Vic said we should contact them once a month and they will tell us what permits are out here. Clerk is still doing some more research on Special Events Permits.

Letter from Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails-They are asking the township if we want to join their organization. Supervisor Opack stated that we are not at that stage of the game yet. Chair Nelson stated that it is good information to have if we want to later.

Sub-division-There was a long, long discussion on whether a piece of property that was being divided was a sub-division or not and whether a permit should have been issued. Chair Nelson stated that, first; he wanted Robert to meet with the Planning Commission and with the property owner so we can clear this up. Second, if in the future, the Zoning Officer, Clerk and Deputy Clerk can't come to an agreement, that they call the Planning Commission Chair person or one of the Town Board Members and not just go ahead unilaterally so that we end up with a concern that we made a mistake.

Snowplowing contract-Supervisor Opack left a voice mail message asking J&C Home and Business Services to submit a new quote for plowing the lanes and the Community Center. We will have to make a decision whether to contract the work out or purchase a truck with plow and hire someone to do the work for us. We will wait until we get the quote from Jason and do a little more research on doing the work ourselves before we make any decisions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fredenberg Newsletter

Duluth Township Newsletter

Six building permits and three site evaluation permits were turned in for the month of August 2018. (There are two more building permits which the clerk has not issued.)

Upcoming Meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting-September 19, 2018 7:30 p.m. CUP Review

Town Board Meeting- September 24, 2018 – 8:00 p.m.

Legal Seminar-October 6, 2018 Cotton Town Hall 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Disbursements #14294 through #14322 and five electronic transfers were read, approved and signed for payment for a total of \$11,084.83 with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack, all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting were: Melody Morris, Wanda & Larry Birnbaum. Employees present were: Robert Aho and Tom Haller.