

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 14, 2019

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 14, 2019, 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 of the Fire Department wishing to speak, was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak and Board approved.

Minutes of the December 10, 2018 Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Opack second by Supervisor Franckowiak.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report. (There were two outstanding checks for a total of \$10,203.18.)

OLD BUSINESS:

P&Z Matters-The property owner sent a letter about their holding tank but nothing about who they have empty it and how often. Clerk sent them an email telling them that we need that information. Clerk has not heard from the other property owner as of tonight.

Pickup truck-Clerk sent the information to set the township up as a vendor and then they will mail us the bill for the pickup.

CDBG-The Town Board was given a copy of Stacy Harter's proposal of professional Architecture services with a description of the scope of services listed. Chair Nelson stated that we need to prioritize the projects to see what we can afford. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, board approved to go with Arola Architecture for \$4,410.00. Chair Nelson will call Mia Thibodeau and talk to her about possible bonding for the projects required at the Community Center so we have the information for the annual meeting of what the cost would be for us to bond.

Supervisor's position-Filing closes January 15th. No one has filed yet.

Zoning Officer's position-Clerk has not received any applications as of tonight. We received a letter about a company called Hometown Planning that provides experienced and affordable zoning administration. Clerk was advised to run the ad in the Gnesen Newsletter for another month.

Planning Commission opening-Clerk was advised to run this ad for another month also.

Variance-The variance for property owners was approved at the Board of Adjustments and Appeals Public Hearing.

St. Louis County Board Meeting-The meeting that was scheduled for May 14th here at the Town Hall needs to be changed to May 7th due to the general election coming up.

Gravel pit issue-The Planning Commission made a motion by Carter Williams, second by Pete Bergman to pass the property owner's reclamation plan update on to the Town Board and give them 30 days to bring a plan to the meeting that complies with the Minnesota DNR Handbook. Supervisor Opack stated that the plan needs to show elevation, property lines, and contour lines. He also mentioned that the reclamation plan is what they get the bonding off of. The Town Board instructed Deputy Clerk Blix to send a letter to the property owner telling them we need a new plan and if they need help drawing it up, they can contact us. If this is not done, they may be at risk of not operating out of their pit.

Gravel pits-Gary Juten would like to set up a special committee to review the gravel pit Conditional Use Permits and discuss the bonds and other issues related to the pits such as storing recycled concrete and asphalt. It was suggested that we ask Craig Weingart to attend the meeting also.

Location for brush-Supervisor Opack stated that he has received a request for a site to allow people to bring their brush from the recent blow down. Supervisor Opack will get in touch with Minnesota Power to see if their site that was open during the other storm at the Boulder Lake could be used. Carter Williams mentioned an agency called Firewise that has some federal funding. Chair Nelson will check into this funding opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gnesen Volunteer Fire Department-Ted Raymond, Assistant Chief for the department, attended the meeting tonight to inquire about raising the relief association retirement pension. Chair Nelson stated that the Board of the fire department would give the approval for a benefit increase. After they have done their calculations and figure out the cost to them, then we could sit down and talk about negotiating an increase to their Contract for Services. Ted mentioned that they have four new members and that their new truck is working after they got the fuse problem solved.

Grader operator's road report- Grader Operator Tom Haller reported that he went on a road check today and the roads are icy. Tom stated that the County was out and pushed the banks back and scarified some of the roads. He also mentioned that the roads are in pretty good shape with no trees hanging over the roads. The lanes are getting a build-up of snow but they are passable. Supervisor Opack mentioned that we have a problem on Berg Road with no place to push the snow now that a new home has been built where the County use to push the snow. Supervisor Opack stated that the neighbor came and removed the snow that was piled up. Supervisor Opack and Gary Juten went out today and Gary set up a laser to shot the Pioneer Road. Gary gave Supervisor Opack an estimate of what it would cost to fix the road. Tom mentioned the rough spot further down and Gary will add that as a new line item. Supervisor Opack will get estimated on the blacktop needed to do the project. Supervisor Opack asked about the Local Road Improvement Program and Clerk Haller will get the information on this.

Gnesen Community Center-Toni Blomdahl mentioned that there have been a lot of rentals lately. There are 6 or 7 groups renting the building for softball and baseball practice/lessons. They have requested a pitching machine be purchased. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack, board approved that the township purchase a pitching machine for up to \$400.00 and we will charge a fee to use it. We will table discussing the fees tonight and we will go over them at another meeting. Tom will snow blow the skating rink and the fire department will flood it.

Gnesen Community Newsletter- Cindy Erickson reported everything is going good.

Crime activity report from St. Louis County Sheriff's Office for November-There was 7 crime activity records printed.

Proposed sale-We received a letter from St. Louis County Land & Minerals Department about a proposed sale of State Tax Forfeited Land on the corner of Church and Pioneer Road.

Liquor License-Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack, board approved to approve the liquor license renewal for Boondocks Saloon & Grill-On-Sale/Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor; Gnesen Convenience Store-Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor; Island Lake Inn-Combination On/Off-Sale and Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor; Silver Fox Lodge-On/Off-Sale 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor; Sportsmens Inn-Combination On/Off-Sale and Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor.

Census-Sarah Priest, from the Census Bureau wanted to meet with us on January 22nd at 3:30 to provide up-to-date census timelines and opportunities to ensure our community receives a complete and accurate count in the upcoming 2020 census. Chair Nelson, Clerk Haller and Deputy Blix will meet with her.

DAT Meeting-The Board was given the minutes and agenda for the January 17th DAT Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nine pieces of correspondence were gone over.

One building permit was turned in for the month of December 2018.

Upcoming Meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting-January 16, 2019-7:30 p.m.

DAT Meeting-January 17, 2019-6:30 p.m. Rice Lake City Hall

Town Board Meeting-January 28, 2019 – 8:00 p.m.

Disbursements #14408 through #14429 and three electronic transfers were read, approved and signed for payment for a total of \$37,543.54 with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 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: Ted Raymond, Paul Poppenberg, Carter Williams and Gary Juten.
Employees present were: Toni Blomdahl, Cindy Erickson, Kurt Blegen and Tom Haller.