

## Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

July 13, 2020

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, July 13, 2020, at the Gnesen Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Jon Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved.

Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack.

Treasurer's report was read. There were five outstanding checks for a total of \$72,655.15. Supervisor Opack made a motion, second by Chair Nelson, Board approved to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

### OLD BUSINESS:

GCC projects-Sarah Blix stated that Jody Cooke installed the new fountain in the gym, faucets in the kitchen, knob and cord on the steam table. Sarah also stated that the scrap from the building has been collected and that the fire marshal stated, in an email, that the stove is up to code. Sarah has painted the rest of the halls at the Center. She has not purchased the vacuum yet. There was some discussion about purchasing an air conditioner for the office, but nothing was decided. Jody mentioned that the roof to the little add-on in the back of the building needs to be replaced and he will get that replaced.

Playscape-Sarah made a little kitchen for the playscape. She mentioned that they need to get a group together to finish the trails with the lumber. Ken Gilbertson compacted the trails. The DNR deposited the grant money, minus the 10% that they hold back until they come inspect it. It was a 50/50 grant, so the total cost to the township was \$1,905.00 due to several people donating their time and talents.

Signs-Tom Haller has installed the "NO DUMPING SIGNS" on the Pioneer and Church Roads.

Culverts-Supervisor Opack meet with Gary Juten and he measured the culverts, ordered the culverts and called in a locate for wires. There will be three culverts for Bergstrom Road and one culvert for Crescent Drive. They will be installed soon.

Broadband-Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved to sign the

Joint Powers Agreement to continue to work with the other townships. There will be no other financial commitment. Chair Nelson stated that Gnesen will be applying for Broadband Grants for both Federal and State Grant dollars.

Planning issue-Supervisor Opack stated that St. Louis County needs a formal request for them to go on the property to check how the property owners are handling their sewage. Then we will address the other issues of too many RV's on the property. Clerk Haller will send an email to the County on Wednesday.

Planning issue-There was discussion on how we want to proceed with this. A. Pursue the intensity of use. B. Pursue the fact that they are using an accessory dwelling for a rental in a waterfront district. C. Pursue the unpermitted screen house. Our lawyer has not contacted Nathan and the Planning Commission would like the Town Board to pursue hiring a local lawyer. It was suggested to contact Gunnar Johnson to see who he would suggest we hire and then have Nathan Horyza follow up with the new lawyer. Clerk Haller will contact Gunnar and get his suggestions to Nathan. Two Planning Commission members, Carter Williams and Pete Bergman also discussed some additional items that the Planning Commission will be addressing when they set up a public hearing such as fines, appeals fees, and violations to get these added to our ordinance when they do the updates.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Grader operator's road report-Tom Haller, grader operator-Tom stated that Steve Franckowiak gave him an air compressor for the town garage. Tom replaced the piston in it and it is ready to go. Clerk will send Steve a thank you from the Town Board. Tom stated that Mike and Scott Grubb, Jody Cooke and he put down the gravel on the Township Roads except Jackson Road, Needle Lane and Tarnowski Road and he is going to contact Mike Grubb to get another load dumped on Park Drive. Tom stated that Dust Doctors could start tomorrow to put chloride on our township roads. We did receive a complaint about the gravel we used this year and Supervisor Opack stated that the concrete that was mixed in with the gravel will break down. Supervisor Opack stated that the County will be doing some work on Turner Road, Thompson Lake Road and Abbott Road and the materials will be coming out of the Twin Pines pit. Supervisor

Opack got the DVD on how to operate the new grader and he gave it to Jody Cooke to watch so he can learn how to operate the new grader also.

Gnesen Community Center Building Manager-

Sarah Blix asked what does the Board want to do with the left over Class 6 that we purchased for the trails and Supervisor Opack said to let it just sit there and we can use it to dress up our parking lot if we get it blacktopped. Sarah asked if she could open up the Center for indoor walking this fall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Chair Nelson said we need to have a Preparative Plan in place before we do that and see what we learn as the Covid-19 moves along. The Board voted to accept the bow-flex piece of equipment that Stephen Arkulary wants to donate. We will have it available for use at the Center when we can safely open the building up again. Sarah stated that Randy Larson from Meteek has offered to repair the columns from the front entrance and that Jody will work at getting them down for Randy. Sarah is getting proposal on replacing the concrete steps; steel front door; and the windows panes replaced in the arch that is covered up over the front door so we can restore that beautiful arched window. Supervisor Opack mentioned getting a defibrillator for the building. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack to purchase a defibrillator for up to \$800.00. Supervisor Opack also asked about paving the parking lot and we are waiting for the other quotes on the cost. It was suggested to use the donations we are receiving from the residents to replace the front steel door and the arch window panes.

Old Town Hall-We have received a couple of calls from people asking what we are going to do with the old Town Hall and we are planning on keeping it because we have our road equipment over there.

Gnesen Community News-Clerk is working on the August newsletter.

Complaint-Chair Nelson followed up on a complaint on a gate someone put up on Island Lake.

Appoint election judges-Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved to approve Resolution #20-08 approving the election judges that have said they would work the elections.

ISO-Public Protection Classification rating-The fire department rating is 6/10. This is the same that it has been, just the classification changed but the same rating as before.

Insurance coverage-We received a letter from MATIT stating that they will be conducting a

survey on township structures to ensure proper insurance coverage and to discuss risk management options. Chair Nelson will contact them, correct the address and find out when they can come out.

Coronavirus Relief Fund Certification Form-Chair

Nelson attended a webex on this and he feels we could qualify for this relief fund. He made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack, Board approved to send in the form by September 15<sup>th</sup> and he listed some of the expenses he feels will qualify.

Face shields and plexi-glass barriers-The Board gave approve to purchase these items for the upcoming elections.

Benafica-The Board voted to not purchase this health insurance benefits for officers and employees.

Informational Meeting-We received an email from a Fredenberg resident inviting us to an informational meeting with Marc Hartman to talk about a product to apply to township roads-July 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Fredenberg Town Hall Pavilion.

**Zoning Officers Report-**Nathan Horyza stated that he has issued a lot of permits this month. There is a Variance Hearing on Wednesday night for Adam Riesland. Nathan stated that they are looking into a definition of Special Events Permits and other updates to our Zoning Ordinance.

**Feedback from the Supervisors to the Planning Commission-**No feedback as of tonight, other than what was talked about above.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Duluth Township Newsletter

Upcoming meetings:

Planning Commission-July 15, 2020-7:30 p.m.

Variance Hearing 7:00 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-July 27, 2020-8:00 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-August 10, 2020-8:00 p.m.

Primary elections-August 11, 2020-Polls open 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Disbursements #14912 through #14939 with four electronic transfers, were read, approved and signed for payment for a total of \$75,952.77 with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Chair Nelson, all voted in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack. No objections, meeting

adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Carter Williams and Pete Bergman. Employees present: Nathan Horyza, Jody Cooke, and Tom Haller. Employees absent: None. Town Supervisor absent: Ed Franckowiak.