

## Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, August 10, 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 Franckowiak and Board approved.

The Board and audience stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chair Nelson stated that we will suspend the agenda to hear from Jim Atkinson, from Minnesota Power. Jim gave a brief update on Minnesota Power's plans to formally plat all of its leases on Island Lake and the potential option for existing leaseholders to purchase their lots. There are regulatory efforts underway that will ultimately determine if the selling part is possible, but there are some unique circumstances around platting that will require accommodation at the County and Township levels. There was much discussion on this and Carter Williams, our Planning Commission Chair stated that the township has its own regulations on the process for platting land and it should go through the Township before the County. Jim will attend the next Planning Commission Meeting to discuss this further.

Minutes of the July 28, 2020 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Chair Nelson.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report. Mary Bjorklund reported that we have received the CARES money in the amount of \$44,000.00 and the first half of the property tax apportionment. (There were four outstanding checks for a total of \$6,577.81)

### OLD BUSINESS:

iWorQ-Zoning Officer, Nathan Horyza was on vacation and will give an update at our August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

GCC projects-D.G. Solem and Sons have installed the mini split air conditioning unit in the town office. The defibrillator has been delivered and we will need to purchase a cabinet to house the unit in. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to have Sarah Blix purchase a cabinet. Jody Cooke is finishing the work on the little addition on the back of the school. He had to replace the rotted plywood on the roof and he had Ted Raymond replace the bricks that were rotten. The vacuum has been purchased.

Playscape and trails-Sarah stated that the maps and interpretive signs are all up. A workday is scheduled to finish 100' of the boards for the board walk in the trails.

Culverts-Supervisor Opack reported that we replaced the existing culvert and lowered one culvert on the Bergstrom Road. A property owner had some concerns about what Dave had proposed to do so the property owner was going to talk to the other Supervisors, so that part of the project is put on hold for now. We also replaced the culvert on the end of Crescent Drive.

Broadband-Chair Nelson stated that last month the Board approved the Minnesota Broadband Grant and the \$25,000.00 of support. He stated we also need to send a letter of support and we should know by the end of the year who won the CAF dollars.

Berg Road issue -The MPCA stated that they do not regulate the extended above ground storage tanks and that we need to check our Ordinance to see if we regulate them. The County suggested that we talk to the person that pumps the torpedo tanks for the property owner to see how often they are pumped. Supervisor Opack asked about the other issue of too many trailers on the property. Clerk gave the Zoning Officer the file we have on this property and ask him to go over the file and to call Steve Happy, the person that pumps these tanks.

Zoning issue update-Tabled until Nathan is back from vacation.

MATIT Insurance Coverage-Chair Nelson has not heard back from them as of tonight's meeting.

CARES-We will put this on the agenda for our next meeting to talk about what the money can be spent on and if an air exchange would be illegible for reimbursement.

Striping Island Lake Drive and West Pioneer Road-Clerk is waiting for a quote from Tars and Stripes, so we will discuss this at our next meeting also.

Signage for the election-Clerk found some examples online and made copies for the election.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Grader operator's road report-Tom Haller drove all the township roads yesterday and there were some washouts and he went out today and did some grading. Tom stated that the new culvert on Bergstrom Road was totally plugged and Supervisor Opack reprimanded him for cleaning it out. Tom stated that he needs to go to Needle Lane and do some grading. He also mentioned that the Lanes over by Eagle Lake need grading. Tom also mentioned that the Pioneer Road, west of Rice Lake Road needs to get that low spot fixed before we do any striping or crack sealing. Clerk will get a quote from Tars & Stripes for the crack sealing and Supervisor Opack will get a couple quotes on fixing the Pioneer Road and we will discuss them at the next meeting. We received a "Thank You" email from a resident thanking us for installing the "NO DUMPING" signs on Church and Pioneer Roads. Supervisor Franckowiak mentioned that he picked up a de-humidifier that was dumped on the Pioneer Road and Tom will take that in to WLSSD. Supervisor Opack also asked the other Supervisors to talk to Tom about training in Jody Cooke on the grader and mower.

Gnesen Community Center Building Manager-Sarah stated she did not have anything to add other than what was discussed above. Jody mentioned that he would like permission to have the old pull tabs shredded. Supervisor Opack made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak and Board approved to pay to get the pull tabs shredded.

Gnesen Community Newsletter-Clerk is working on the September issue. Chair Nelson suggested the clerk should add some pictures of the new ADA swing set and the Board walk.

Water line for the skating rink-Supervisor Opack mentioned installing a water line for flooding the skating rink. Supervisor Franckowiak, Jody Cooke, Ted Raymond and Steve Franckowiak will work on putting something together for our next meeting.

Tree trimming-Supervisor Opack asked about whether the Board wanted Rick's Tree Service to do some more brushing this year and it was decided to have Sarah check to see who we sent letters to on the Pioneer and Church Roads and to notify any resident that hasn't been notified yet. Sarah will also send out letters to the property owners on Sunshine Lake Road and have Rick's Tree Service mark the trees that would be cut next spring/summer.

District 10 Meeting-August 27, 2020 via Zoom-Information to attend was given to the Supervisors.

St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad-Letter asking for donations. Board voted to not donate at this time.

Extended coverage on our Generac Generator-Board voted not to purchase the extended coverage at this time.

Homeschool-We received a letter from a parent that is looking for a facility to rent to help teach students who are unable to return to school this fall. The Board asked the Clerk to contact the parent that sent the email and get some additional information and to tell them that the Town Hall might be available but not the Community Center.

St. Louis County-Reclassification of State Tax Forfeited Land-The Board did not have any concerns with the reclassification, nor did they wish to acquire the parcel.

Thank you-We received an email thanking us for the wonderful outdoor space for children at the Community Center. The person mentioned that we did not have a Facebook page. Discussion followed on this and it was decided to wait on this as we have a website and email where residents can get in touch with us.

**Zoning Officers Report**-No report for tonight.

**Feedback from the Supervisors to the Planning Commission**-Nothing other than having Minnesota Power representative, Jim Atkinson, come to their next meeting to discuss the platting process.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Upcoming meetings:**

Planning Commission-August 19, 2020-7:30 p.m.

DAT Meeting-August 20, 2020 Cancelled

Town Board Meeting-August 24, 2020-8:00 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-September 14, 2020-8:00 p.m.

Disbursements #14940 through #14963 with four electronic transfers were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$55,932.11 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Chair Nelson. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jim Atkinson, Dick Haney, Carter Williams, and Matt Opack. Employees present Jody Cook, and Tom Haller. Employees absent Nathan Horyza.