

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

August 22, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, August 22, 2022. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair
Ed Franckowiak	Supervisor
Gary Juten	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the August 8, 2022 Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Juten.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Juten stated that he has completed the ditching on Pioneer Road that was discussed last month. Some discussion about hiring a Deputy Clerk. Sarah stated she has an interested person but wanted to know the correct process before moving forward. Supervisor Juten asked how elections went. Sarah stated that there were 379 who voted and that it ran smoothly except for some issues with the new voting machine. Sarah said she has a representative from ES&S, the company who sells the voting machines, coming out next week to look at our machine and solve the problem. Conversation about the new website. Sarah provided the Supervisor's with a sitemap which lays out the new website and the information that will be included on it. Sarah said if there was anything else that they thought should be added she needs to know so she can add it to the sitemap and then forward it on to Faster Solutions, the company who is working on this project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrative Process Response from MAT and Couri and Ruppe- Nathan was not in attendance at tonight's meeting so this will be tabled until the September 12, 2022 town board meeting.

Revised Short Term Rental Ordinance Draft- This is still being revised by Attorney Mike Couri so there is no update at this time.

Revised Communication Tower Update- Chair Nelson read the suggestions that Mike Couri made regarding the communication tower ordinance draft. Mike suggested that the tower ordinance be added to Gnesen's existing ordinance rather than be its own separate ordinance. Carter said that we already have a section in our ordinance regarding towers so it would be added to that existing verbiage. Chair Nelson said that Mike was concerned with section 13G-Application Requirements for Towers- specifically the part that read "*Prior to issuance of a conditional use permit for the tower, applicants will be required to provide the township with a bond made payable to the township or escrow funds sufficient to ensure the compliance with this ordinance including twice the estimated cost of removing the tower, equipment, etc. from the site. Such escrow or bond shall be maintained until the tower is removed from the site upon which it is proposed to be installed.*" Mike stated that this could become a difficult task for the township to keep track of and was questioning whether it was worth the trouble since most leases should require the removal of the tower at the termination of the lease anyways. Carter questioned if that would be something that should be between the tower company and the land owner. Carter suggested instead of getting involved in a lease agreement why not add a clause that states that any lease agreement must include the removal of the tower at the end of its use. Chair Nelson suggested removing section 13G and replacing it with Carter's suggested verbiage. Chair Nelson said another section that was in question was section 16B. Mike said the language that is currently written

violates MN Statute 463.357, Subd 1e so he suggested that it be removed so that we are compliant with the state laws. Section 19 Mike suggested to take out the \$3,000 fine due to the fact that it is likely unenforceable. In its place Mike suggested just adding the standard misdemeanor language relating to criminal enforcement. Mike also suggested that the township adopt an administrative fine ordinance in the future to assist with enforcement of zoning violations. Chair Nelson stated in Section 3 – Conditional Use permit Required for Towers – in the paragraph that reads “*New Towers will not be permitted within a 5-mile radius of any existing tower, or within 1500 feet of existing residence*” Mike suggested adding the verbiage, “*Unless such existing tower is not physically capable of supporting the equipment proposed to be installed by the applicant.*” Carter said unless it is legally required to keep the section that Mike suggested, he would rather not add that verbiage. Chair Nelson agreed. Marcia asked if there was a way to add some of the new verbiage to the existing tower, such as the testing that is required in Section 15. Chair Nelson said he was unsure if that could be done but stated it would be worth checking into.

Exterior Lighting on the Community Center- Tabled until the September 12, 2022 town board meeting to see if the quote from Electric Systems comes in.

Bids for Turner Road Culvert Project- Chair Nelson stated that only one bid has been received. Supervisor Juten said that on August 9, 2022 he had contacted Darrell Johnson, Butch Seeley, Kevin Middleton, Greg Kunst, and Greg Kaneski to see if they would like to put in a bid for the project. Supervisor Juten said he followed up with them on August 12, 2022 and Darrell Johnson said he was not taking any more work this year, Kevin Middleton said he was not set up with the right pumps to do the job, Butch Seeley said he was too busy and not taking any more work, Greg Kunst has never called back, and Greg Kaneski said that he could bid the project but would not be able to do the work this year. The bid that was received from Cedar Drive Excavating is for \$11,230.00 and the work would get done this year. Currently a steel plate is covering a large hole in the gravel on Turner Road and the work needs to get done this year before it fails. Chair Nelson moved to accept the bid from Cedar Drive Excavating, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. Two voted in favor with one abstaining.

Response from Vic Lund about “Loose Gravel” sign on Pioneer Road- Sarah had contacted Vic Lund from St. Louis County to see if it was necessary to put up a Loose Gravel sign on W Pioneer road where the blacktop stops and turns into gravel by Mirror Lake. Vic’s response was if the road does not cause drivers to reduce speed then they discourage putting up a sign. Chair Nelson said he drove the road and did not have to reduce speeds. Supervisor Juten also added that it is posted 35 miles an hour.

Boulder Lake Road Turnaround- Cedar Drive Excavating provided a bid for \$3,610.00 to complete the job this year. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion to accept the bid, second by Chair Nelson. Two voted in favor with one abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

What happens with a CUP when a parcel split occurs- Still waiting on a response from MAT regarding this question.

Christine Sherepa-Turner Road sign request- Christine Sherepa has asked for a Dead End sign to be put on the corner of Turner Road and Lawnwood Road. Sarah will reach out to Vic Lund from St. Louis County to see about getting a Dead End sign put up.

Heated Shop for Working on Township Equipment- Supervisor Franckowiak brought up the need for a heated garage to park the plow truck and to work on equipment in the winter. Jody said his only concern was that there is no floor drain in that garage. Supervisor Juten questioned how we would heat the garage – if it would be adding insulation, likely a hanging heater, and installing a floor drain. Jody questioned the future of snowplowing and if a larger space might be needed. Supervisor Franckowiak said it looks like it is surely heading in the direction where St. Louis County will plow less of our roads. Jody asked what the future of the old Town Hall is. Supervisor Franckowiak said the most valuable

building on that site is the new garage and at some point the old Town Hall could be torn down so a larger shop building

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could be constructed. Chair Nelson said at this time it makes sense just to insulate and heat the existing garage and see what happens in the next couple of years with snowplowing. Chair Nelson asked Jody to get some quotes for heating and adding a floor drain and bring back to the September 12, 2022 town board meeting.

Steam Table from GCC kitchen – Sarah asked if we could get rid of the steam table that was in the kitchen at the GCC since it does not get used and a stainless table would be a better use of space. Supervisor Franckowiak agreed that he has never seen it used and that it can be scrapped.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Report from Sarah that there have been an increased number of calls and email to the office about STR's.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jay and Marcia Haller, Pete Bergman, Sue Lyons, Deke Melone, Pete Bergman, Dennis Campbell, Carter Williams

Employees present: Jody Cooke Employees absent: None.

Upcoming meetings:

Town Board Meeting-September 12, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting-September 21, 2022-7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing – CUP Reviews – September 21, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-September 26, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Signed: _____

Sarah Blix, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____