

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

August 8, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, August 8, 2022. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair (via zoom)
Ed Franckowiak	Supervisor
Gary Juten	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk
Mary Bjorklund	Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and four residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the July 25, 2022 Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer's report:

Balance for June 2022	\$336,177.88
Receipts for July 2022	+\$283,610.78
	\$619,788.66
Disbursements for July 2022	<u>-52,745.78</u>
Balance for July 2022	\$567,042.88

There was three outstanding checks for the month totaling \$821.02. Motion by Supervisor Juten second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Juten said that Scott Olson from St. Louis County contacted him about the turnaround on Boulder Lake Road. Scott was asking him if the Township would remove some trees to expand the turnaround so that the County snowplows would have room to push snow in and still be able to turnaround. Sarah will email a bid request to Cedar Drive Excavating for clearing and leveling the area and present at the next meeting. Supervisor Franckowiak asked Jody how the plow truck held up last winter. Jody said other than the transmission problems, which have since been resolved, it worked fine. Jody said it will need an oil change soon and questioned if there was anywhere in specific he should bring it to have it done. Supervisor Franckowiak said to just bring it wherever and provide an invoice to the township. Jody also said the grader needs servicing at 15,000 hours. Jody will look into how many hours the grader is at and call McCoy to set up an appointment if need be. Supervisor Franckowiak questioned Jody if there was a floor drain in the garage at the old town hall to which Jody said no. Supervisor Franckowiak asked Sarah to add to the agenda for the next meeting discussion regarding a heated shop to store and work on township equipment.

OLD BUSINESS:

CTC Broadband Project- Chair Nelson stated that the broadband grant application has been submitted and we should hear by the beginning of 2023 if our application was accepted or not.

Calcium Chloride-Jody reported that most of the roads have been done and that they should be finished later this week.

Short Term Rental Ordinance Update- This is currently being reviewed by Mike Couri.

Communication Tower Ordinance Update –This ordinance draft was reviewed by Mike Couri however the Supervisors did not have a chance to review prior to the meeting. Chair Nelson stated he would like time to look over the comments that Mike provided and also have it sent to the Planning Commission for them to review at their next meeting. This will be discussed at the next town board meeting.

Exterior Lighting at the GCC- Sarah received a quote from Wescom for \$5376.00 to install lighting on the exterior of the GCC. Superior Franckowiak asked Sarah if she could contact Wescom and have them provide a more detailed quote and also to get a second quote from another company too.

Pioneer Road Update- Supervisor Juten gave an update on the Pioneer Road project that has been completed. Supervisor Juten stated that in 2021 the project was bid out at \$5720.00 but with the inflated costs of fuel and the cost of a loader that would have been needed to load the gravel in the Palmer pit an added \$1400.00 was approved making the total money dedicated to the project \$7120.00. Supervisor Juten said by changing the plans as they had discussed at a previous meeting which involved trucking the old black top to the Dirt Works pit, the township was able to save a lot of money on trucking and was also paid \$2.00/yard for all the old blacktop. The actual cost for completing the Pioneer Road project was \$5198.00 minus the credit for recycling the old blacktop which was \$572.00 for a total of \$4626.00. Supervisor Juten stated that since they were under budget for the project and had extra gravel in the Palmer pit he used some of the material to fix the overflow parking lot at the Community Center - \$545.00, and fixed the wash out on the Pioneer Road hill - \$377.50. Overall money spent to complete all three projects was \$5548.50. Supervisor Juten said he would still like to do some ditching on Pioneer Road by Mirror Lake to help eliminate washout of the new gravel that was just put down. Supervisor Juten also stated that there is still about 100 yards of material left in the Palmer pit for the township to use and that he would like to use it on the Turner Road culvert project. Supervisor Juten also questioned if a “loose gravel” sign needed to be put up to warn people that the pavement ends and turns to gravel. Supervisor Juten asked if we would need to go through St. Louis County to get these installed. Sarah will reach out to Vic Lund from St. Louis County for further guidance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road grader operator’s road report- Jody stated that he has been working on mowing the ditches and that he hopes to be done by next week. There is a speed limit sign on Church Road that still needs to be moved but Jody said he wants to have One Call come out and mark any lines in the ditch first.

Gnesen Community Center report- Sarah gave an update on National Night Out. Approximately 136 adults and 62 kids attended this year’s celebration. 20 blood donations were collected at the Memorial Center blood drive. Sarah said that a total of \$1642.63 was spent on kid activities, food, and the movie and \$462.00 was collected in donations

Nuisance Ordinance from Mike Couri- Mike Couri provided the township with a sample nuisance ordinance. Chair Nelson stated he would like some time to review the document and then discuss at the next meeting. Supervisor Franckowiak agreed and asked if it could be sent out to the planning commission for them to review as well. Nathan said he thought the ordinance sample was too detailed and not all relevant and said he would like to reach out to Mike and ask further questions. The Supervisor’s gave Nathan permission to do so. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Turner Road Culvert Install- Supervisor Juten said that the culverts for this project have already been purchased but was questioning how to go about getting bids. Supervisor Franckowiak suggested throwing it out for sealed bids and see what comes in. Supervisor Juten will reach out to Big Lake Contracting, Digger Darrell, and Seeley Excavating and ask if they would like to provide a sealed bid for this job by the next town board meeting.

St. Louis County Snowplowing for 2022/23- Sarah stated that St. Louis County is asking Townships to submit their snowplowing requests for the upcoming season by September 15, 2022 and she asked the

Supervisors to verify the roads that we would be asking St. Louis County to plow. Supervisor Franckowiak stated that the list looked correct and that Sarah could move forward with filling out the application.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Nathan said that he was contacted by a contractor who is doing some improvements to the Boondocks restaurant. Nathan said he will get some more information and do some background research on the property. Nathan said he was contacted by someone who wants to purchase the greenhouses from Suzie Bellefeuille. Nathan said the buyer and Suzie and proposing doing a parcel split to separate Suzie’s house from the greenhouses. Nathan said he is questioning the split because the business will no longer be connected with the house. Chair Nelson asked if we could rezone the area commercial. Nathan will present this to the planning commission at their August 17, 2022 meeting for their feedback.

CORRESPONDENCE:

MAT 10 district flyer

Disbursement #15575 thru #15596 and 5 EFT’s were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$54,327.92 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Marcia & Jay Haller, Sue Lyons
Employees present Jody Cooke and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent None.

Upcoming meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting-August 17, 2022-7:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-August 22, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____