Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 14 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 14, 2022. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

David Opack Supervisor-via zoom

Ed Franckowiak Supervisor

Lottie Haller Clerk-via zoom

Sarah Blix Deputy clerk

Mary Bjorklund Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and 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 January 24, 2022 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. The minutes from the Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan held on January 24, 2022 were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for December 2021 $475,057.52

Receipts for January 2022 + 3,373.15

$478,430.67

Disbursements for January 2022 -65,447.96

Balance for January 2022 $412,982.71

There were three outstanding checks for the month totaling $329.60. Motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED lights in the Senior’s Room-Sarah Blix had Ryan from BZ Electric come out and look at switching out the lights and he gave her a quote of $1,500.00. Ryan will get back to Sarah when he has more information on the lights. Sarah mentioned that there are rebates available for switching out the old lights.

Membership and donations-Clerk Haller gave an update on the membership drive. We have received back 140 memberships totaling $2,100.00. Of those 140, 101 made donations totaling $3,770.00.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Boy Scout-Pat Sirois, from the Boy Scout Troop, asked the Town Board if they would waive the fee for the Town Hall rental for the Outlaw Pinewood Derby race in exchange for the Boy Scouts doing work this spring/summer. Pat stated that the Boy Scout Troop, Cub Scout Troop and the Lakewood Girl Scouts would all be doing the derby. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak and Board approved to waive the fee for the rental in exchange for them doing work around the Community Center. Supervisor Franckowiak also said there would be work around the Town Hall also. Pat agreed to add the work around the Town Hall also.

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Road grader operator’s road report-Jody Cooke stated that be drove the township roads today and they all are in good shape. He stated that there were a lot of mailboxes knocked down by the County snowplows. Chair Nelson asked Jody if there were any icy spots and Jody stated that there weren’t any. Jody stated that he brought the truck in to Northstar Ford to have some work done on the module on the truck and if it snows before he gets the truck back, he can use the grader to plow.

Gnesen Community Center report-Sarah Blix stated the fire system and the hood system were serviced and the fire system is now on a schedule to be serviced annually and the hood will be serviced bi-annually. Sarah stated that a resident has asked to have hockey board installed and she feels that the rink should be for everybody. Sarah stated that the resident would be willing to come up and explain his reasons for wanting the hockey boards. Supervisor Franckowiak stated that he would vote no to the boards, saying it has been this way for years and he feels it should stay that way.

Fall Fest/Farmers Market-Sarah Blix, Mary Bjorklund, and Carol Jacobson would like permission to utilize the Gnesen Community Center on Saturday, September 10, 2022 rent free for a Fall Fest/Farmers Market Fundraiser. Mary would have 15 tables inside the Center for people to rent to sell their crafts. Carol would offer food out of the kitchen and Sarah would handle the outside vendors. All proceeds from the cost of the tables and food would be given to the Community Center to put towards a new gym floor. Mary has liability forms that the people would have to sign-off on. The Board approved the free rental.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office-7 crime activity records printed

Minnesota Benefit Association-The Board voted to leave the Group Term Life Insurance amount and to continue with what we have been purchasing the last several years. $5,000.00 for $80.00 annually per person.

The 2022 Spring Legislative & Research Committee meeting-The meeting is on 2/24/22. It is a zoom meeting and Chair Nelson will attend the presentation on Broadband.

Letter from Sheriff Ross Litman-They would like us to set up a strategic planning workshop on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. They will run the workshop, we just need to get interested community members to come and give input on concerns, priorities, and possible solutions to reducing our wildfire risks. The Board would like to proceed with the workshop and Clerk Haller will work with Gloria Erickson, St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator, and Kelly Brooks, from the Gnesen Volunteer Fire Department to set this up and we will co-host with the fire department.

St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Department-The Board said they want to stay with HUD to continue being able to apply for CDBG and HOME Funding for another three years.

Federal Surplus Property Program Eligibility Application-Clerk has filled it out and submitted it but they

want us to fill in a section on “Wants” or “Needs”. Clerk will give Jody Cooke the link and have him

check to see if there is anything we need.

Boundary and Annexation Survey Annual Response Form-Clerk Haller filled this out and submitted it

2/2/22.

Application for Voting Equipment Grant (VEGA-3)-Clerk Haller filled this application out and

submitted it to try get reimbursed for half the cost of the new DS200 voting machine and is waiting to

hear back from them.

Local Board of Appeals & Equalization-Clerk Haller will contact the County and tell them that the April 22, 2022 date will not work for the Town Board Supervisors and she will get another date set up.

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Zoning Officers Report-Nathan Horyza stated that he has been getting calls about short-term rentals and he told the callers that it will be talked about at the Planning Commission Meeting this Wednesday. The Planning Commission will probably set up a sub-committee to address short-term rentals, using the names of the people that sign-up at the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing to help on a sub-committee and then it would have to go to a Public Hearing once they have come up with a plan to address this issue. Nathan also said that Minnesota Power has submitted two plats-Agate Plat and Roanoke Plat and this will be discussed with the Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday also. Clerk Nelson asked Nathan if he has received calls on the tax-forfeited property on Normanna Road that is for sale and Nathan stated he has received several calls on this.

Chair Nelson asked if there was any other business.

Marcia Haller-Marcia mentioned that her son has developed blood clots and asked the Town Board if they would reach out again to the cell tower people and ask them to redirect the antenna away from their home. Jay and Marcia sent a link to the Board about people that have issued a cease and desist order to shut down a cell tower. Chair Nelson asked Marcia if she would share her son’s diagnosis and give him some more details and he would be willing to try contact the cell tower people again. Marcia said she would get Chair Nelson the information.

Feedback from the Supervisors to the Planning Commission-Nothing tonight.

CORRESPONDENCE:

\_\_\_\_\_Thank you note from Don & Barb Juten.

Disbursement #15410 thru #15406 and 4 EFT’s were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $15,884.87 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to pay the disbursement. (Corrected from what was put on the agenda for Monday night’s meeting.)

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jason and Marcia Haller, Kelly Brooks, Pat Sirois, and Gary Juten. Employees present Jody Cooke and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent None.

Upcoming meetings: in-person

Planning Commission Meeting-February 16, 2022-7:30 p.m.

Public Test of the voting machine-February 23, 2022-1:00 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-February 28, 2022-8:00 p.m.

March Election and Annual Meeting-March 8, 2022 Polls open 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Board of Canvass immediately after ballots are counted (Jon and Ed please be here by 8:05 p.m.) Annual Meeting will start at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-March 14, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lottie Haller, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair