Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 10, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 10, 2022. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

David Opack Supervisor-via zoom

Ed Franckowiak Supervisor

Lottie Haller Clerk

Sarah Blix Deputy clerk

Mary Bjorklund Treasurer

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 Franckowiak. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the December 13, 2021Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Chair Nelson. The December 27, 2021 meeting was cancelled.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for November 2021 $364,858.05

Receipts for December 2021 +157,834.11

$522,692.16

Disbursements for December 2021 -47,634.64

Balance for December 2021 $475,057.52

There were three outstanding checks for the month totaling $231.21. Motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Interim ordinance-We received Candidate Profile forms from Jack Singler and Tim Cernohous for the committee to study cell towers. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved to approve Jack and Tim for the Sub-committee. Joe Ferguson and Sherry Underthun, from the Planning Commission and Jon Nelson from the Town Board will also serve on this Committee. Supervisor Opack reminded the Board that they only have one year for this study.

LED lights in the Senior’s Room-Mary stated that the ARPA Funds can now be placed in the Townships General Fund and she thinks we will be able to use those funds to purchase new LED lights for the Senior’s Room. Chair Nelson asked if the present lights could be converted to LED and Supervisor Franckowiak asked if the drop ceiling could be removed and use the ceiling that is under the drop ceiling and Jody and Sarah stated that is their plans.

Needle Lane-Emails from MAT Lawyer Karl-Christian Johannessen. Karl stated that the town cannot maintain that last portion of road. In Minnesota Law, townships cannot spend money on the road if that road has not been maintained for a period of 25 years or more unless a majority of the electors allow the town to do so at the annual meeting.

Reminder of the Public Hearing on the Comp Plan-January 24th at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Haller has submitted that Comp Plan to St. Louis County Planning to review and comment on.

Broadband/Internet grant-Chair Nelson stated that he is still waiting to hear back about the grant.

Electrical problem in the gym-Jody stated that Nathan will fix the problem in the box above the basketball hoop.

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Estimate to insulate the GCC Garage-Jody has not got an estimate as of tonight. Supervisor Franckowiak suggested that we look at insulating the garage at the old Town Hall where we have all of our equipment stored instead. We will look into what it would cost to do both and have that discussion at a later meeting.

DNR Grant-Chair Nelson stated that he, Ken Gilbertson, and Sarah Blix are doing follow-up with the students and will submit the grant by March 10th.

Filing for Town Office opens-December 28, 2021-January 11, 2022. Closes tomorrow. So far I have two residents that have filed-Aaron Hildebrant and Jason Haller. The office will be open tomorrow 1 to 5. Supervisors voted to have the Polls open 3:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Set date for Board of Audit Meeting-February 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Clerk Haller will send out the information to all those that should attend the meeting.

Road grader operator’s road report-Jody Cooke stated that be drove the township roads today and they all look good with some drifting. He stated that there were a few trees over the power lines on Eden Lane and he contacted the clerk and she had the deputy clerk call Minnesota Power and they will come out and remove the trees. Jody stated that he needs to bring the grader up to Needle Lane and push the snowbanks back.

Gnesen Community Center report-Sarah Blix stated that the skating rink is up and running with volunteers watching it several nights a week. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak and Board approved to send the Membership letter to ProPrint to print and mail out. Sarah mentioned that she got a quote on LED lights for around the skating rink for $3,300.00 and they will put that quote in the DNR Grant they are applying for.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office-4 crime activity records printed.

Letter from St. Louis County-Proposed sale of State tax forfeited land-Needle Lane. Zoning Officer

Nathan stated that it is a non-conforming lot that is a non-buildable lot because it does not meet the set-

back requirements. There is also an eighty acre parcel off Normanna Road, that is listed, but it is mostly

wetlands.

Credit Card for Jody Cooke-Mary and Jody will go to the bank and sign Jody up for a credit card.

MAT December 2021 Newsletter-Several DNR Grants listed. There is a facilities direct loan and grant

Program that might be something to look into. Grants for County Road and bridge projects, firefighters

grant from FEMA and other information for you to look at.

American Rescue Plan zoom meeting. Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10 a.m. Mary and Lottie will

attend the zoom meeting.

Tires for the township truck-Supervisor Franckowiak stated that the township truck could use some

snow tires. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack to spend up

to $1,300.00 for new snow tires.

Zoning Officers Report-Nathan Horyza stated that there will be a Public Hearing for a Variance for Penny Fudally on January 19, 2022. He has had a few calls on the Boondock’s-turning it into short-term rentals and he will discuss this at the Planning Commission Meeting-it would probably have to be a Conditional Use Permit. The Dowson’s are building on Schultz Lake now. Minnesota Power Plat 7 & 8-FERC has approved the 3-foot regulation instead of the 25 feet and they would like to make a 3-foot outlot all around. He will discuss this with the Planning Commission at their meeting also.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from Rik Jordan thanking us for the Cookie Fundraiser and hoping that they do it again next year.

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Disbursement #15384 thru #15406 and 5 EFT’s were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $28,391.99 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to pay the disbursement.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 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. Employees present Jody Cooke. Nathan Horyza was present via zoom. Employees absent None.

Upcoming meetings: in-person

Planning Commission Meeting-January 19, 2022-7:30 p.m.

DAT Meeting-January 20, 2022-6:00 or 6:30?

Public Hearing-January 24, 2022-6:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-January 24, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Filing for Town Office opens-December 28, 2021-January 11, 2022 Office will be open 1 to 5 tomorrow.

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

Lottie Haller, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair