

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

July 25, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, July 25, 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 Franckowiak. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the July 11, 2022 Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak.

DISCUSSION: Jody asked for permission to purchase some some basic tools for the Town Hall garage so that he does not have to use his personal tools. Chair Nelson gave Jody permission to purchase the necessary tools. Ed stated that he noticed there was a dead birch tree at the old Town Hall that needs to be cut down and he volunteered to do the work at no charge to the township.

OLD BUSINESS:

Calcium Chloride-Due to a supply shortage we are still waiting. Jody questioned if it is getting to late to put down calcium chloride this year. Supervisor Franckowiak said since we still have the month of August to get through that it would still be beneficial.

Potential New Broadband Project and Mediacom proposal-Chair Nelson had reached out to CTC in regards to the questions that arose at the July 11, 2022 Town Board meeting concerning the broadband proposal. In regards to contracts CTC's response was as follows: *"We typically do not require contracts. We have in the past on a couple projects where the financial model was shaky so by requiring a contract it helped us reduce some risk. We do not hold people to contracts if they move etc...we have only done so if someone has us build to their home and then cancels service right away (which never happens due to the quality of CTC services).* In regards to speed, CTC's response was: *"Our minimum broadband service is 250mbps download and 250mbps upload. Managed WiFi services are included in all of our services. No other charges appear on your bill. The 250Mbps is \$64.95. We also offer a 500mbpsX500Mbps service and a 1Gig download and 1Gig upload service that's \$99.95."* And in regards to how they run the fiber their response was: *"Construction to a home is dependent upon the property itself. On rural projects we generally plow the majority of drops (drop = fiber from road to home). If having to cross multiple items (utilities, sprinkler systems, sidewalks etc...) then we will bore. Constructing around some areas may require more plowing depending on rock conditions. Each homeowner will be able to work with our technician individually to determine the drop route."* As for how much money CTC can contribute to the project, CTC responded saying their budges is fully allocated for this year. There is a 50/50 match grant for 2023 and CTC is proposing to add a much larger portion of Gnesen Township into that grant than what was proposed at the July 11, 2022 Town Board meeting as well as finishing off the northern portion of the City of Rice Lake. The total cost of this project would be between 2-2.5 million dollars. The grant would cover half and then it would be up to Gnesen Township, City of Rice Lake, and CTC to come up with the remaining funding. Chair Nelson also stated that Mediacom is proposing a broadband project in Gnesen Township. The Mediacom proposal would include installing fiber down Rice Lake Road to Normanna and then would incorporate Schultz Lake residents, Horseshoe Lake residents, the residents who reside on the North end of Sunshine

Lake, and further North on Rice Lake Road to include the residents on Abbott Road. After much discussion Supervisor Juten made a motion to contribute \$100,000 of Gnesen's ARPA funds towards the broadband project being proposed by CTC, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor.

Revised Short Term Rental Ordinance Draft- Chair Nelson stated that after doing some research he saw that some towns use minimum stay requirements to help prevent party group rentals. Chair Nelson said that some towns have a minimum stay requirement of 2 days while others ranged from 7-30 days. Chair Nelson asked if the subcommittee had done any previous discussion regarding this topic. Supervisor Juten said that the only discussion regarding length of stay was that anything under 30 days would be considered a short term rental while over 30 days would be a long term rental. Chair Nelson stated that having a minimum stay requirement could help ease residents' concerns in regards to loud noise and parties. Supervisor Juten agreed that it would. Chair Nelson also said that some areas establish districts and determine a number of rentals based on a percentage. Chair Nelson said that a percentage could be paired with other regulations too such as "not adjacent to" or a distance requirement. Supervisor Juten said he felt like establishing districts would make things difficult to regulate. Supervisor Franckowiak said he has a hard time voting on rules that restrict people from utilizing their land the way they want to. Pete said he understands but that protecting individual property owners rights also means protecting the rights of the property owners that are not operating STR's. Chair Nelson said that this topic will be discussed again at the August 8, 2022 Town Board meeting when Nathan is in attendance. Pete questioned what happens if someone runs a STR without getting a permit? Chair Nelson said that a penalty for that could be added in the ordinance verbiage. Pete agreed that it would be a good idea to add something.

Revised Communication Tower Update- Sherri Underthun made the changes that the Town Board had requested her to make at the June 27, 2022 Public Hearing. The next step is to send the ordinance draft to an attorney for review.

Dual Monitors in the Office- These have been installed.

Exterior Lighting on the Community Center- No update at this time.

Pioneer Road Update- This is scheduled to be completed Thursday and Friday of this week.

Road Vacate on Park Drive- Supervisor Juten measured the road and the Township currently maintains 410ft of Park Drive from the centerline of Eagle Lake Road to the turnaround.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrative Process Response from MAT and Couri and Ruppe- Sarah spoke with Mike Couri from Couri and Ruppe regarding an administrative process for enforcing violations. Sarah stated that the process starts with a 3 month fine process and if the problem is not resolved it then moves forward on a civil route. Mike Couri suggested that the township adopt a nuisance ordinance and stated that they have one already drafted that the township could adopt rather than drafting our own.

Prices from Couri and Ruppe- Current rates for 2022 is \$230.00/hour. Rates for 2023 will increase to \$250.00/hour. After reviewing this information Chair Nelson made a motion to send the Communication Towers Ordinance draft and the STR draft to Mike Couri asking him to review and mark any red flags that need to be looked at again and any changes that need to be made along with recommendations as needed. Chair Nelson stated to specify #7 on the STR draft and ask for recommendations in regards to that and to explain to Mike what part of the process each ordinance draft is currently in, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor. Chair Nelson also asked if Sarah could request a copy of Couri and Ruppe's nuisance ordinance to review at the next Town Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

13th Annual Couri and Ruppe Township Legal Seminar – Sarah will contact Couri and Ruppe for an agenda.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 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 Haller, Pete Bergman, Sue Lyons
Employees present: Jody Cooke Employees absent: None.

Upcoming meetings:

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

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

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

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____