

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

March 14, 2022

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

Jon Nelson	Chair
Ed Franckowiak	Supervisor
Gary Juten	Supervisor (Sat in but not sworn in yet.)
Lottie Haller	Clerk
Sarah Blix	Deputy clerk
Mary Bjorklund	Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and six 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 February 28, 2022 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. The Annual Meeting minutes were included in the Supervisor's packet but they are approved at the Annual Meeting next year. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Chair Nelson, to approve the Resolution to spend ARPA funds on Lost Revenue Replacement Category and transfer it into a Special ARPA Fund from the General Fund. Board approved.

Treasurer's report:

Balance for January 2022	\$412,982.71
Receipts for February 2022	+ 26,766.58
	\$439,749.29
Disbursements for February 2022	-15,884.87
Balance for February 2022	\$423,864.42

There were six outstanding checks for the month totaling \$2,397.50. Motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED lights in the Senior's Room-Sarah Blix is waiting for a quote from BZ Electric.

Membership and donations-Clerk Haller will give an update at the next meeting.

Broadband-Chair Nelson stated that the coalition of townships working on broadband grants is reconvening the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Town Board will continue to participate in this effort to apply for another grant. A new grant would need to be in by August and it would be awarded by November.

The Annual Meeting-The Annual Meeting will be reconvened on May 23, 2022. The Board will gather information on what would be required to take over the maintenance of the last 300 feet of Needle Lane. At the Annual Meeting, the residents were asked if they would approve the Town Board to expend taxpayer's money to maintain that part last 300 feet. The vote was tied 11 to 11 with one person abstaining because they did not know the cost to each taxpayer to do this. So the Town Board will be gathering information for when we reconvene to help people understand the costs, such as: who owns the land that a turn-around would go on; will we have to purchase that land; do we need DNR approval to do this; what will be the cost to make a turn-around; and what will it cost to grade and snowplow this additional 300 feet. Nathan Horyza will contact the DNR to see what we can do in this area.

Strategic planning workshop on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan-March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 p.m.

DNR Grant-Sarah is submitting the grant. If we get the grant, the money would be awarded in 2022 and the money would need to be spent by 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road grader operator's road report-Jody Cooke stated that he drove the township roads today and they all are in good shape. Clerk Haller contacted St. Louis County and the Lawnwood Road culvert will be steamed tomorrow and the drifting by Paul Glaesemann's home will be plowed tomorrow by the County. Jody stated that there was some drifting on Eden and Echo Lanes also.

Gnesen Community Center report-Sarah Blix stated that a participant fell at the Silver Sneakers class last week and broke her wrist. Jody will do a temporary fix on the floor where she fell.

First aid kits to have out in case of accidents-Jody Cooke and Mary Bjorklund mentioned that we need to get a good first-aid kit because they were unaware of where a kit was. Jody will talk to the fire department and see if they can put together a couple first-aid kits and he will install them in convenient places. There was a discussion on what we are going to do with the gym floor and we will be discussing this more. We have received some donations towards a new floor.

Short Course-There is information in the Supervisor's packet.

Short-term rental moratorium-Much discussion followed on the moratorium that Gunnar Johnson submitted. It was decided to tell Gunnar that we are not going forward with a moratorium. We will put together a committee to study the issue of short-term rentals and we will put together something in our ordinance to address this issue. A public hearing would be held when this committee has something to submit before it would be adopted in our ordinance.

Emails for Town Supervisors-Roger Peck said our emails are going to be converted over to Professional email and they will cost more than what we pay now. He is suggesting that we change our emails to Supervisor 1, Supervisor 2, Supervisor 3, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Zoning Officer, and Treasurer instead of our names so when that person leaves office, the emails on that address can be passed on with a new password instead of deleted, which shouldn't be done. The Board voted to tell Roger to go ahead with this plan.

Resolution #22-04-Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, and Board approved to reappoint Carter Williams and Pete Bergman to the Planning Commission for a three year term ending in 2025. Clerk Haller has received two Candidate Profile forms for the opening on the Planning Commission. Sarah will contact Diana Brainerd to see if she is still interested in serving on the Planning Commission Board. Clerk Haller will run the vacancy ad for one more month.

Legislative updates & advocacy alert-MAT would like the Supervisors to email your legislators and urge them to support additional transportation funding specifically for townships.

Conflict of Interest-Gary Juten stated that he attended the New Officer's Training and the Supervisor's Training through Minnesota Associations of Townships and they discussed conflict of interest issues. The MAT Attorney told the Clerk that it is possible for a supervisor to perform work for the township under contract if the contract is not one that is worth more than \$175,000. The C6000 conflict of interest paperwork is needed to allow the conflict and for him to report the conflict with every claim for payment.

Zoning Officers Report-Nathan Horyza stated that he has been getting calls about short-term rentals, and hot mix plants. There was some discussion about where the township can amend a Conditional Use Permit. Gary Juten suggested that Nathan talk to Ulland Brothers to see if there is anything they can do to try eliminate the odor. Nathan will reach out to Ulland Brothers.

Chair Nelson asked if there was any other business

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

We have received a few emails about a hot asphalt plant and I asked Sarah to forward them to the Planning Commission so they can discuss them first.

Disbursement #15436 thru #15463 and 3 EFT's were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$14,350.83 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to pay the disbursement.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Chair Nelson. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jason and Marcia Haller, Sue Lyons, Jeremy Stolp, Jayson Stolp, and Carter Williams. Employees present Jody Cooke and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent None.

Upcoming meetings: in-person

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

DAT Meeting-March 17, 2022-6:30 p.m. Rice Lake City Hall

Firewise meeting-March 21, 2022-6:00 p.m.

Reorganizations/certification meeting-March 28, 2022-7:00 p.m.

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

(2022 Calendar of township meetings)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lottie Haller, Clerk

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Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_