

Town of Gnesen-Annual Meeting Minutes-March 8, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting and Election of the Town of Gnesen was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The polls opened at 3:00 p.m. and were closed at 8:00 p.m. Board of Canvass met at 8:15 p.m. Chair Nelson and Supervisor Franckowiak verified the results of the election. The Annual Meeting followed at 8:35 p.m.

Clerk Lottie Haller called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. with twenty-three residents and one student in attendance. The clerk and residents stood and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The clerk called for a nomination of a Moderator for the meeting. This can be a Supervisor or a resident. Anyone may attend this meeting, but only residents eligible to vote in Gnesen can make motions or second. Tom Haller nominated Jon Nelson, with a second by Gary Juten. Clerk called for any other nominations. Hearing none Clerk calls for a vote on Jon Nelson. Motion to nominate Jon Nelson as Moderator-all in favor-no objections. Moderator Nelson swore in Lottie Haller by taking the Oath to serve as Clerk for this Annual Meeting. Jon Nelson was sworn in by Lottie Haller, Town Clerk, by taking the Oath to serve as Moderator for this Annual Meeting.

Moderator Nelson then stated that the business of the meeting was for the following purposes:

- 1.) To elect the following officer:
One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term.
- 2.) To approve the Levy set at the Board of Audit Meeting, that was held on February 14, 2022.
- 3.) To finish any old business.
- 4.) To transact any new business for the good of the township.

Moderator Nelson asked the Clerk to read the election results.

Clerk-Total votes cast were 201.

Aaron Hildebrant	12 votes
Jason Haller	53 votes
Gary Juten	136 votes

Supervisor for the three (3) year term-Gary Juten.

There were no write-in votes for the Supervisor position and no blank votes.

Board of Canvass consisted of Chair Nelson and Supervisor Franckowiak. The Board met after the polls closed and the ballots were counted, to check over and verify the election results that the election judges-Lottie Haller, Kathy Johnson, and Martha Ritter turned in. The Clerk declared Gary Juten was elected Town of Gnesen Supervisor for a three-year term, ending in 2025. (Supervisor David Opack tried to zoom the meeting but we were unable to connect with him. Chair Nelson thanked Dave for his nine years on the Town Board and also as the Town Board representative on the Planning Commission for the last four years.)

Moderator Nelson asked the Clerk to read the minutes of the Board of Audit Meeting that was held on February 14, 2022 and the last Annual Meeting held on March 9, 2021. Moderator Nelson asked if there were no objections that the minutes of these two meetings not be read, as all those attending this meeting were given copies and they were rather lengthy. Motion by Gary Juten, second by Kevin Haberman to not read the minutes of both meetings, all in favor, no objections.

Moderator Nelson asked the Clerk to read the Financial Statement of the Town of Gnesen for 2021. Clerk Lottie Haller read the Financial Statement report. Our balance beginning in January 2021 was \$413,593.02; total receipts for the year were \$513,976.18; total disbursements were

\$452,511.68; ending balance for the year is \$475,057.52, which is an increase of \$61,464.50 over the beginning of this year. (The Minnesota Association of Townships advises that we have at least one year's levy in reserve.) Clerk Haller mentioned that the Schedule 2 & 9 forms are provided in the packet that was available at the meeting tonight. They break the information down in more detail, such as how much money was received and from what source and how much money was spent on road gravel and chloride, fuel, phones, security system, paper, toner, legal ads, and etc. Ted Raymond made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, second by Mark Myles, all in favor, none opposed.

2021 Road Report was available if anyone wanted to see it.

Moderator Nelson brought up for discussion the proposed levy for the year 2023, as proposed at the Board of Audit Meeting held on February 14, 2022.

GENERAL FUND-Total Levy for 2020 was \$124,000.00; beginning balance was \$419,309.20; actual expenses paid in 2021 were \$257,032.21 of which the expenses for the Planning & Zoning, Community Center/Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Fire Department and Town Hall were included. Levy for 2022 is \$124,000.00. Proposed levy for 2023 is \$124,000.00 plus \$74,000.00 budgeted for the Community Center/grader loan yearly payment and \$60,000.00 budgeted for the Fire Department Contract for fire services; totaling \$258,000.00. Revenue for the General Fund for 2021 is \$272,887.29 which includes the taxes; liquor licenses, Covid Money, building permits/variance/conditional use permits/additional fees; and town hall/community center rentals/deposits/security; newspaper ads; interest; GCC membership/donations/private donations. Ending balance for the General Fund was \$435,164.28.

ROAD FUND-Total Levy for 2021 was \$80,000.00; beginning balance was \$40,109.68; actual expenses paid in 2021 were \$128,040.05 which includes: culverts, snowplowing, gravel, chloride, tree removal, etc. Levy for 2022 is \$80,000.00. Proposed levy for 2023 is \$80,000.00. Revenue for the Road Fund was \$121,823.61. Ending balance for the Road Fund \$33,893.24. The excess of the levy of \$80,000.00 was transferred out of the General Fund to cover the overage.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUND-Total Levy for 2021 was \$6,000.00; beginning balance was minus (\$45,825.86); actual expenses paid out in 2021 were \$67,439.42, which included the bond principal and interest. Levy for 2022 is \$6,000.00. Proposed levy for 2023 is \$6,000.00. Revenue for the Capital Projects Fund \$119,265.28 from taxes. Ending balance for the Capital Project Fund \$6,000.00.

Total Balance for all funds \$475,057.52, which is an increase over last year's ending balance of \$61,464.50. Grader loan will be paid-off in 2025 and bond loan in 2029.

Moderator Nelson explained that we can transfer money from one fund into another fund if one fund is over budget. Moderator Nelson asked if there was any other discussion on the proposed levy. Ted Raymond made a motion, second by Gary Juten, all voted in favor of the proposed total levy for 2023 in the amount of \$344,000.00, which is the same as the 2021 and 2022 levy.

Moderator Nelson reported that there were thirty-six building permits, four land alteration and three sub-division parcel reviews issued in 2021.

Carter Williams and Peter Bergman were recommended for re-appointment to the Planning Commission for a three (3) year term expiring in 2025 and the Town Board will vote to approve them at the next Town Board Meeting to be held on March 14, 2022. Nick Lepak has decided not to be reappointed, so Clerk Haller will advertise this position in the newsletter. The office has gotten one email for a Candidate Profile from John Simonson and this will be given to the Board to review and any other Candidate Profile forms we receive. We will run the ad for another month.

Moderator Nelson asked if there was any other old business. Hearing none, Moderator Nelson moved on to New Business.

- a. Motion from Ed Franckowiak for authorization to expend \$2,300.00 in township funds for National Night Out, which will be held on August 2, 2022. Ted Raymond second the motion, all voted in favor.
- b. Motion by Ted Raymond to set the location for the next annual meeting to be held at the Gnesen Community Center. Gary Juten second the motion, all voted in favor.
- c. Motion to set the time to convene and call to order the next annual meeting to be held on March 14, 2023, at 8:30 p.m., was moved by Gary Juten, second by Ted Raymond, all voted in favor.

During the coming year, the Township notices will run as legal ads in the Duluth News Tribune. They will also run in the Gnesen Community Newspaper, when the time frame works. Posted notices will be at the Community Center, Gnesen Convenience Store, Island Lake Inn, and the Sportsmen's Inn.

Our bank will be Wells Fargo and our Township Attorney will be Gunnar Johnson-Overom Law.

Moderator Nelson stated that the Certification/Reorganization Meeting would be held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the Gnesen Community Center and the Town Clerk will post the time and date here at the Community Center.

The next annual meeting and elections will be on March 14, 2023.

Moderator Nelson asked if there was anything else the residents wanted to discuss.

Aaron Hildebrant asked the Town Board to take over responsibility of the last 200/300 feet of Needle Lane. Moderator Nelson explained that if a road has not been maintained by the Township for the last 25 years, the Town Board can not authorize taking over maintaining that part of the road. But if the residents, with a majority vote of those that are present at this Annual Meeting, want the Board to take on the added expense of taking responsibility for this portion of the road, this could happen. After much discussion on how this road was a minimum maintenance road and now that there are permanent residence living there year round, the Town Board passed Resolution #21-14 revoking the designation of Needle Lane as a minimum maintenance road on May 24, 2021. Scott Campbell made a motion to have the Township take responsibility of the last 300 feet, second by Aaron Hildebrant. A vote was taken with a show of hands and there was eleven for and eleven against, with one person abstaining as there were too many unknowns as to the cost of this. There were questions as to where do we make a turn around, and whether we would have to purchase property to put the turn around, cost to grade it, cost to snowplow it and etc. With the vote being tied, it was decided to recess this meeting and reconvene on May 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Gary Juten asked what are the plans for the old town hall. Moderator Nelson told him it is still to be decided.

Moderator Nelson asked if there was any other new business. Hearing none, the meeting was recessed at 9:52 p.m. with a motion by Gary Juten, second by Ed Franckowiak, all voted in favor. Meeting recessed until May 23, 2022.

Residents attending the meeting were: Lottie Haller, Jon Nelson, Ed Franckowiak, Mary Bjorklund, Jody Cooke, Scott & Sue Lyons, Tom Haller, Scott & Doreen Campbell, Jay, Marcia and Clay Haller, Aaron & Char Hildebrant, Ted Raymond, Mark Myles, Gary Juten, Kevin Haberman, Steve Franckowiak, John Armstrong, David Werner, Darin Franckowiak, Jeremy Stolp,

Signed: _____
Lottie L. Haller, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Moderator

These minutes are not official and will be approved by the electors at the Annual Meeting to be held on March 14, 2023. (This meeting was taped for transcribing purposes only.)