

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

May 9, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, May 9, 2022. The following officers were present:

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| Jon Nelson | Chair |
| Ed Franckowiak | Supervisor |
| Gary Juten | 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. Board Members and eighteen residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the April 25, 2022 Town Board Meeting and the April 25, 2022 AWAIR Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, with the correction to the minutes to read “estimate from RedRock not Hancock of \$97.00 a foot not \$50.00 a foot” as stated in the minutes. Board approved.

Treasurer’s report:

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|------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance for March 2022 | \$423,413.14 |
| Receipts for April 2022 | + 2,673.44 |
| | \$426,086.58 |
| Disbursements for April 2022 | -21,341.15 |
| Balance for April 2022 | \$404,745.43 |

There were two outstanding checks for the month totaling \$6,562.54. Motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Juten, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report. Note-We moved the ARPA monies from the General fund into its own fund.

Suspend the agenda to hear from some residents in the audience.

4054 Normanna Road- Mike Cole and several other residents were here to express a concern about the property located at 4054 Normanna Road and asked what the Town Board is doing about the problem. Chair Nelson stated that our options are limited and told them that they should keep reporting it to the Sheriff’s Office every time they have a problem so it is documented. Mike stated he has called the cops numerous times. Mike mentioned that he thinks the septic system is not in compliance and that they have four RV campers parked there. Dave Opack asked if there were unlicensed vehicles at this location. Supervisor Juten will check with Jason Walsh at St. Louis County about what to do about the campers and the septic. Supervisor Franckowiak will talk to Ross Litman about whether they have hired a Blight Deputy yet and he will try to get an update on what is happening on this matter. Our Zoning Officer will send a certified building violation letter to the property owner about some of the violations that are occurring on the property such as unlicensed vehicles and too many campers.

Archer Drive-E.J. Gudowicz and Julie Schoff asked the Town Board about taking over Archer Drive. She saw in the minutes that we were talking about taking over Needle Lane. Chair Nelson explained that Needle Lane is a Township Road and the residents are asking us to maintain the last 200/300 feet. Archer Drive is not a township road and the Township is not looking at taking over any more road but

they could come to an Annual Meeting and request that the Township take over their road and the residents would vote on it. The road would have to be brought up to county specs before the township would take over any road.

Park Drive-Dennis Campbell asked about vacating Park Drive. Supervisor Juten stated that he talked to Mike Dryke and Mike does not want the road abandoned because he would like to access his property in the back. If we vacated it, half the road would go to Dennis and half to Loretta Hagen. Dennis stated that he just wants a driveway to access his property. Clerk Haller will look up the information on vacating a road and get it to Dennis.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED lights in the Senior's Room-Sarah Blix and Jody Cooke discussed going with 2' x 2' tiles instead of the current ceiling tiles and reduce the number of lights from 16 to 10 2x4 LED lights. Sarah also checked on the price to replace the decorative tiles like the tiles that are in the other half of the Community Room and she stated that the price for those was \$11.19 a piece which was way more expensive than the 2' x 2' tiles. Sarah is waiting for Wescom to give her a new quote on this change. Supervisor Franckowiak told Sarah to go ahead with the quotes on 2' x 2' tiles and 10 lights.

First aid kits-Jody Cooke stated that he has hung up the first aid kit. Chair Nelson mentioned that they should check on these kits regularly to make sure they are not missing any supplies.

Turner Road-Supervisor Juten tried inserting a 24" plastic pipe into the culvert but the river was too high, so he returned that. He put some plates over the culvert and covered them with gravel. He said they have been in there for two weeks and are set. He did get a quote on concrete culverts but they were very costly so he thinks we should stick with the steel pipes and wait until later this summer to replace them. Kevin Middleton suggested that they purchase and reserve the culverts now. Supervisor Juten will get a cost on that for our next meeting. Nathan Horyza stated that the DNR Fishery is looking to do some restoration on Hay Creek and he asked if that would impact Schultz Lake and they said not much.

Cell tower-We received an email from the MAT Lawyer stating that an interim ordinance (moratorium) can be extend up to an additional 18 months only for three reasons and we did not meet the criteria for any of the three reasons, so the current interim ordinance will have to be completed by November 8, 2022. Chair Nelson stated that his only comment on the Interim Ordinance that Sherry Underthun and the sub-committee presented was the 100 foot height distance. From what he found when he was researching it, it could create more issues because the closer you are to that radio frequency beam the chances of creating health concerns, so the lower you go with the tower the lower the antenna is, the closer people would be to the beam. But all of this could be a moot point because 5G towers are probably going to be on powerline posts, it could almost be on County stop signs. So this is his comments to send back to the sub-committee and he asked that they think about that Ordinance with 5G in mind, factored more into the Ordinance.

Culvert by Steve Franckowiak's house on the West Pioneer Road-Supervisor Juten and Kevin Middleton found the end of the culvert and dug it out. Jody Cooke and Ted Raymond brought the fire truck over and pumped it down to get the water off the road. Jody put his pump there and pumped out the water to about a foot below the road. Last Friday the culvert opened up and took a lot of gravel with it. The Board reviewed quotes from Big Lake Contracting and Cedar Drive Excavating and Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, with Supervisor Juten abstaining, to go with the low bid. The unknown would be how much Class 5 will have to go back in.

Insurance papers-Supervisor Juten looked over the equipment costs and he feels the values are adequate. Email from Dawn Zimmerman-Your property (buildings/personal property) is currently covered on a "Replacement Cost" form. Computers/Voting Equipment/Contractors Equipment and Misc. Equipment are all covered on an "Actual Cash Value" form (replacement cost minus depreciation). Therefore, the

values you are currently insuring these items for should be reviewed at least annually in case they need to be lowered. You don't want to pay for something that is "over-insured". There is no other option for this type of coverage. Autos are also covered on an "Actual Cash Value" form. The MATIT policy provides \$25,000 Cyber Liability coverage.

Town Law & Legal Short Course-Clerk sent an email asking if this will be recorded and they said there are no plans to record it-it is in-person.

AWAIR Meeting-Clerk got new First Report of injury forms from the MAT Office and the forms for if someone gets hurt other than an employee. Clerk printed out new state regulations and hung them in the office and put a copy in the Center's office. Clerk got some MSDS information and Sarah found some. All of this information will be in the AWAIR Folder in the office.

Planning Commission letters-Clerk sent letters and emails to Carol Jacobson, Deke Melone and Dennis Campbell about the appointment to the Planning Commission and encouraged those not appointed to stay active in the community. Carol was appointed for a three-year term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road grader operator's road report-Jody Cooke stated that he drove the township roads today and all roads have pot holes and some roads are worse than others. Water is still coming up around those areas. The roads need grading. All culverts are running and all the signs made it through the winter. Jody stated that Darin Franckowiak, Beau Halvorson and he took the wing off the grader. There are logs or stumps popping up in spots on Musolf Road. Chair Nelson stated that there is a spot on West Pioneer Road also. Jody stated he got a call about a tree that was cut down on Crescent Drive and the resident asked if the Township clears up the tree. Dave Opack stated that we haven't cleaned up the trees in the past, just thrown them back farther in the woods in the past. Nathan is waiting to hear back from R.C. Boheim on the Needle Lane issue and he will get that information to the Supervisors when he gets it. We will need to talk to the property owner about a turn around.

Gnesen Community Center report-Sarah Blix stated that rentals are picking up. She contacted Johnson Wilson and they will schedule the repairs to the roof and she will have them fix the duct work in the gym. Jody stated that he had never seen that kind of duct work used in a permanent situation. Chair Nelson suggested that Sarah contact the architect that approved the duct work. Supervisor Franckowiak stated that Sarah have a discussion with Johnson Wilson on what it would take to fix it the right way with actual duct work. Sarah stated that we don't really have a safe way to get up there and fix it if this is something that will continue to happen. Sarah said that she has scheduled the Boy Scouts to do some yard work. Chair Nelson mentioned that he had talked to someone and he was wondering if we don't exceed the budget, maybe change how we spend the money, maybe a little less for food, because we might do some of the food ourselves, then we could spend a little more for children's activities. He didn't feel it was a concern because we just approved the budget and it was up to the committee to decide but he just wanted to confirm that at this meeting. Sarah mentioned that she and Carol Jacobson went to Minnesota Power and they let them pick out the kitchen utensils she wanted. They kept in mind things that could be used for the emergency shelter, National Night Out and considered ways to store the stuff. Sarah reached out to one of our community member to see about him giving us a quote to make cabinets for under that long counter. Sarah stated that Minnesota Power is giving all the stuff for free.

GCC Newsletter-The employee that usually handles our newsletter was off, so they didn't mail out our newsletter until last week because they didn't realize the postage is paid through our credit card.

Letter from Dewey Johnson/Holly Olson-Letter about damage assessment following several days of dealing with road issues from flooding. They would like us to send in a report of any damage. The Town Board stated that we didn't have any flood damage to report. Clerk will let Dewey know this.

Liquor License renewal for Sportsmen Inn- Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Supervisor Juten and all in favor to approve the renewal liquor license for Sportsmen Inn.

Sheriff's Crime report for April-Clerk was asked by a resident if we could specify what the calls were when we put it in the minutes and the Board felt it wasn't necessary.

St. Louis County Association of Townships Officers Annual Meeting-May 25, 2022.

Letter from Lottie-Clerk Haller gave the Town Board a letter that she will be retiring the end of May.

Thank you-Chair Nelson thanked Dave Opack for his years on the Town Board and the Planning Commission as he was only on zoom meetings when he retired and Chair Nelson wanted to thank him again when we was in attendance at this meeting.

Chair Nelson asked if there was any other business.

Mowing the lawn at the old Town Hall-The clerk will send an email to Tyler at Lawn Care and ask him if he would give us a quote on mowing the lawn at the old town hall.

Zoning Officers Report-Nathan Horyza stated that building permits are picking up. They have a Variance Hearing for Randy Pfingsten on May 18th. The Short-term rental sub-committee has two more meetings and they are hoping to be done with the information they would like to see added to our Ordinance and have it ready to present to the Town Board in June or July. Nathan said that Ulland Brothers will be attending the next Planning Commission Meeting to answer questions on the hot mix plant. Nathan asked if the Board wanted him to send the building violation letter to the owner of 4054 Normanna Road and the Board stated yes and give him 30 days to respond and we will re-visit this issue in June.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Free tickets to the circus in Hibbing.

Disbursement #15488 thru #15509 and 5 EFT's were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$10,403.16 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak all in favor to pay the disbursement.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Dennis Campbell, Kevin Middleton, Dave Opack, Michael Cole, Gil Kjorstad, John Armstrong, Darin Franckowiak, Julie Schoff, E.J. Gudowicz, Marcia & Jay Haller, Jeanie Pekkala, Alan Neubel, Richard Godden, Mike Nelson and few others that didn't sign in. Employees present Jody Cooke and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent None.

County Commissioner Meeting-Chair Nelson invited the residents to attend the County Commissioners Meeting tomorrow night.

Upcoming meetings: in-person

St. Louis County Commissioners-May 10, 2022-9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting-May 18, 2022-7:30 p.m.

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DAT Meeting-May 19, 2022-6:30 p.m. Rice Lake City Hall

Road Review-May 23, 2022-1:00 p.m.

Reconvened Annual Meeting-May 23, 2022-7:00 p.m.

Town Board Meeting-May 23, 2022-8:00 p.m.

Signed: _____

Lottie Haller, Clerk

Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____