Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

November 14, 2022

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

Jon Nelson Chair

Ed Franckowiak Supervisor

Gary Juten Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

Hannah Jurek Deputy Clerk

Mary Bjorklund Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and nine residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the Park Drive and DNR Grant under old business was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for September 2022 $490 964.96

Receipts for October 2022 +$8,541.36

$499,506.32

Disbursements for October 2022 -32,191.99

Balance for October 2022 $467,314.33

There were two outstanding checks for the month totaling $920.61. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

**DISCUSSION**: Dick Haney thanked all Township employees and P&Z members for their hard work.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Minimum Maintenance Section on Church Road-The resident who owns the land on both sides of the section of Church Road the township voted to temporary close had contacted the Supervisors with some concerns regarding property value and access. Chair Nelson said he spoke with the property owner and explained that she could have a key to access her property whenever she would like, that the closure was not permanent, and the road could be reopened with a request to the Town Board if she ever wanted to develop her land. Jody said he already picked up the gates and asked Supervisor Juten if they were still going to install them this year. Supervisor Juten said they could get installed soon and that they should have Gopher One come out and mark any lines in the ground. Jody will pick up a lock and talk to the landowner to get her a key once the job is done. Phil Smith questioned the road closure and if it will be permanent. Chair Nelson said the closure is not permanent, the reason for the closure is to try to eliminate the garbage dumping that has been happening in that area. Chair Nelson said the road will be closed year-round to through traffic, but it will not be vacated so if the road ever needed to be reopened, it could.

New Employee Emails-Chair Nelson said all the new emails are up and running. Sarah stated that the new emails will be put in the December newsletter and asked if everyone could get theirs set up prior to December so then the old ones can get cancelled as well.

STR’s- Carol Jacobson had reached out to the Department of Health regarding STR’s and got more information on when a Lodging License is required by the State. The States rules are renting as a STR for 6 days or less then a Lodging License is required and 7 days or more no Lodging License is required.

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There was discussion on how Gnesen could require a Lodging License for all STR’s no matter the length of stay even if the State does not require it. As for grandfathering in current STR’s, Chair Nelson said they can still be grandfathered in as long as the know they must meet all requirements that are stated in our ordinance. Dick Delano said that if they are grandfathered in then they also should prove with tax statements that they have been operating as a STR. Carter agreed that legitimate proof that they were operating as a STR prior to the ordinance being put into place should be required and that the STR owners should also prove the start date of their STR. Carter said they should allow current operating STR’s a period, such as 90 days, to get all paperwork together and turned into the office. Carter also suggested a penalty for those who choose to continue operating without completing the proper permits or forms. Supervisor Juten questioned if someone is operating a STR without getting a permit then would it be a cease and desist, to which Carter said yes along with penalties. Carol said that there is a subcommittee currently working on an administrative fine process for issuing penalties. Carol also said that she was told the State does not want to shut any STR’s down, they just want to bring them into compliance. To which all three Supervisors agreed that is the Township’s intent as well.

Park Drive- Alan and Cherie, residents from Park Drive, were questioning how the Township got a measurement of 450ft of currently maintained road regarding Dennis Campbell’s road vacate request. Alan and Cherie felt that the currently maintained portion was closer to 250ft. Supervisor Juten stated he did go out and remeasure and that his initial measurement of 450ft is correct.

DNR Grant-Chair Nelson stated that he, Sarah, and Ken Gilbertson met regarding the grant that we had submitted in March. Ken Gilbertson had spoken with a representative from the DNR about our grant submission and was told why we were not chosen to be a recipient. Chair Nelson said that the alterations are simple – requesting more funding for a new playground, moving the existing basketball hoop from the parking lot into one of the tennis courts, and creating a better site plan with better pictures showing access to all amenities. Chair Nelson said that he, Sarah, and Ken are working on making the changes and will resubmit the application for the 2023 grant year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report-Jody stated that some potholes have shown up since we got all the rain last week. Jody said that on Eden Lane there is a pontoon boat in the area that Jody uses as a turnaround when snowplowing. Supervisor Juten said he thought the boat belonged to Jeremy Stolp and that he will talk to Jeremy about the issue. Jody said he got the plow truck serviced last week, put the plow on the grader, and will get the wing put on the grader soon.

Gnesen Community Center Report- Sarah said that the Trick or Treat Trail was a success with approximately 75 kids and their families attending. Sarah said that they have ideas for improving the event and are definitely planning on doing it again next year. Sarah said there is a resident who would like to open the gym up on Thursday evenings for an open gym night. The resident already opens the skating rink warming house on Thursday evenings and thought it would be fun to also have the gym available with simple organized activities for kids. Sarah mentioned that she is planning a Winter Festival for some time in February which would include a candlelit skating and snowshoe and a snow maze outside, and then chili, corn bread, and hot chocolate served inside. Sarah questioned the three pianos that are in the GCC and what they should do with them as they never get used. Supervisor Juten suggested putting a notice in the newsletter to see if the people who donated them might want them back but if nobody responds then see if anyone else is interested in them.

Road Vacate Request for Bear Lane- Phil Smith, Steve Bauer, and Robert Juten were in attendance to explain their request to vacate a portion of Bear Lane. There was some discussion as to the process for this kind of road vacate. Chair Nelson made a motion to authorize a public hearing for the vacate of Bear Lane as proposed on December 12, 2022, at 5:30 pm, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor.

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Request to Purchase 10 New Election Blinds at $25/each- Sarah stated that they currently only have 6 election blinds and at the General Election there were people waiting for a spot to open so they could vote. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the purchase of 10 new election blinds, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Resolution 22-18 Designating Absentee Voting Location for the March Elections-Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion to accept Resolution 22-18 which designates the Gnesen Community Center as the absentee voting location for the upcoming March elections, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

March Elections-Chair Nelson informed Supervisor Franckowiak that he is up for re-election this March and that filing will be held January 3, 2023 – January 17, 2023.

Request from the Boy Scouts to use the Old Town Hall for their Pinewood Derby Event- The Boy Scouts asked to use the Old Town Hall again this year, February 9, 2023 – February 14, 2023, for their Pinewood Derby event in exchange for spring year clean up at the GCC. All three Supervisors agreed that they could.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Nathan was not in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Carter gave a quick update on what was happening with Mn Powers Proposed Plat 11.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Disbursement #15655 thru #115693 and 5 EFT’s were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $36,142.56 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Marcia & Jay Haller, Carol Jacobson, Dick Delano, Dick Haney, Steve Bauer, Phil Smith, Robert Juten

Employees present: Jody Cooke. Employees absent: Nathan Horyza.

**Upcoming meetings:**

Variance Public Hearing for Susie Bellefeuille-November 16, 2022–7:00 pm

Planning Commission Meeting-November 16, 2022-7:30 pm

Town Board Meeting-November 28, 2022-Cancelled

Reconvened Public Hearing for STR–December 12, 2022–6:00 pm

Town Board Meeting-December 12, 2022-7:00 pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair