

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

October 10, 2022

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, October 10, 2022. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson	Chair
Ed Franckowiak	Supervisor
Gary Juten	Supervisor
Sarah Blix	Clerk
Mary Bjorklund	Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and ten residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the Schultz Lake Road lot for sale by St. Louis County was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's report:

Balance for August 2022	\$512,084.06
Receipts for September 2022	<u>+\$11,619.51</u>
	\$523,703.57
Disbursements for September 2022	<u>-33,289.52</u>
Balance for September 2022	\$490,414.05

There were two outstanding checks for the month totaling \$1083.16. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report.

DISCUSSION: Chair Nelson stated awhile back there was discussion about possibly using CDBG money to do some repair work to the GCC parking lot. Chair Nelson said he reached out to St. Louis County and was told that CDBG money could only be used to make handicapped parking spots and not for any other repair work. Dave Stewart who was in attendance at tonight's meeting said he had heard that there was a complaint regarding a logging contract in St. Louis County Twin Pines Pit off Rice Lake Road. Dave said he had that logging contract and he is asking the township not to put time regulations on logging as it is already hard enough for loggers to make money and they have such a short time period for working already. Dave said limiting time would hurt his business. Supervisor Juten gave a brief history on how the situation came about. Supervisor Juten said that when logging occurs close to residential neighborhoods that is when complaints happen due to noise. Supervisor Juten asked Dave if they could limit time when close to homes to limit complaints. Supervisor Juten asked Dave if he would be willing to attend the upcoming planning and zoning meeting to which Dave said he will. Chair Nelson thanked Dave for attending tonight's meeting and letting the board know his concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

Suzie's Greenhouse Parcel Split- Sarah stated that at the September 26, 2022 town board meeting she was asked to look at all the permits that the Bellefeuille's had pulled. The permits showed that the greenhouses were in operation prior to a house being built. Nathan asked Suzie if she looked into when the agricultural status changed. Suzie stated that on her taxes, she lost her agricultural status in 2010. Nathan stated that if the district would have changed from agricultural to suburban residential then that would have been grounds for grandfathering in but that is not the case. Nathan asked Chelsea if she was

able to find any information as to when the district changed to which she said it is unclear because there were several different names for district classifications and that it changed several times between 1990 and 2000. Chelsea said that after the last town board meeting she researched the Gnesen zoning ordinance more and saw that the problem Nathan was alluding to was not with the use of the accessory structures, rather the fact that the accessory structures will stand alone when the land split takes place. Chelsea asked Nathan if even though it is considered a legal non-conforming use if it would be a better path to ask for a variance. Nathan agreed that it would. Chelsea also asked about section 10.101 B in the Gnesen ordinance that reads, *Agricultural accessory buildings may exceed the height limitation of the district provided that the structure is setback a distance at least equal to its height from the nearest property line. Agricultural accessory buildings used to store feed, hay and similar items or to provide temporary shelter or feeding sites for farm animals may be located on parcels lacking a principal building.* Nathan said he would have to look into it. Chair Nelson said that moving forward Nathan will look into Section 10.101 B of the ordinance otherwise they will move forward with applying for a variance through planning and zoning.

Exterior Lighting on GCC- The lighting has been installed.

Heated Shop for Working on Township Equipment- Jody said he has been having difficulties getting bids. He got one verbal bid from Somrock Construction for \$54,000 to insulate the walls and ceiling and then cover the insulation with white metal siding. The Supervisors discussed and decided to table this project until prices come down.

GCC Waterlines- The office received a bid of \$39,445.00 from Carlson of Duluth to replace all the galvanized waterlines at the Gnesen Community Center with PEX. RJ Mehrman also turned in a bid for \$14,360.00. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion to accept the RJ Mehrman bid, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Minimum Maintenance Section on Church Road- Sarah had reached out to MAT to ask what the legalities and process was for closing the minimum maintenance section of Church Road. MAT replied with, *"The town board may close a road to traffic by resolution and placing Rd closed signs and reflective barricades. After the resolution is passed and the appropriate signs and barricades erected, it is a crime for anyone to go around the barricades and drive down the road. Any damage the person does to himself or others is the fault of the driver not the Township."* There was discussion about putting up signs to warn drivers of the closure and what the best barrier would be to block off the road. Nathan said he had talked to residents that live in the area and they all seem to be in favor of the closure. Nathan said that he along with other neighbors would volunteer time to put up the barrier. Jody will price out gates and fence posts for the next town board meeting.

Schultz Lake Road Lot- Supervisor Juten asked for clarification on the lot the township owns on Schultz Lake Road. Supervisor Juten said he thought the township was going to let the lot go up for sale. Chair Nelson clarified that the lot owned by Gnesen was not the lot in question and that it will remain in Gnesen's possession, however the lot adjacent to Gnesen's was up for sale by St. Louis County. Gnesen was approached by the County to see if we wanted to purchase that lot but we declined and said it could go to auction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Report- Jody reported that all the roads are in good shape. Jody said that there was a large tree on Bergstrom Road that is dead and needing to be removed. Jody questioned if it was the township's responsibility to take down the tree or the land owners. Supervisor Juten said it looked like the tree was in the townships right-a-way so it would be our responsibility. Chair Nelson said that in the past Rick's Tree Service was used. Jody will contact the homeowner and Ricks Tree Service to get the tree removed prior to winter. Supervisor Franckowiak asked how Needle Lane held up through the summer. Jody said it was really good.

Supervisor Juten questioned the need for a snow fence since that area was logged recently. There was discussion how to best deal with that issue.

Gnesen Community Center Report- Sarah said that the Trick or Treat Trail event is coming up on October 29, 2022.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:

Nathan said that an unpermitted structure that was built to close to the lake on E. Van Road was corrected by the homeowner. Nathan said the homeowner moved the structure 100ft further back from the lake to meet setbacks. Nathan said that since the structure is under 150sqft the homeowner didn't actually need a building permit. The issue was that he needed to meet the setbacks. Nathan said he had a discussion with a land owner off Needle Lane who wants to put in a subdivision. Nathan gave an update on the nuisance ordinance subcommittee meeting. Nathan said their goal is to have everything completed and presented to the planning and zoning by the beginning of November. Unnamed plat 11 was turned in by Mn Power. Nathan said he has reviewed the plat and it looks like there is only one non-conforming lot.

CORRESPONDENCE:

St. Louis County public hearing notice for proposed changes to their short term rental ordinance.

Disbursement #15628 thru #15654 and 4 EFT's were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$27,593.16 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 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: Marcia & Jay Haller, Dave Stewart, Suzie and Jody Bellefeuille, Chelsea Helmer, Steve Hanke, Dan DeArmond, Kevin Middleton, unnamed gentleman (signed in but couldn't read signature)

Employees present Jody Cooke and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent None.

Upcoming meetings:

Planning Commission Meeting-October 19, 2022-7:30 pm

Public Hearing for STR-October 24, 2022-6:00 pm

Town Board Meeting-October 24, 2022-8:00 pm

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____