Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 13, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 13, 2023. 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 7:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and twelve 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 January 23, 2023 Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for December 2022 $550,061.91

Receipts for January 2023 +$6,423.26

$556,485.17

Disbursements for January 2023 -47,992.03

Balance for January 2023 $509,493.14

There was one outstanding check for the month totaling $100.00. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Equipment Shop at Old Town Hall Site- Jody explained that Nustad, LLC had turned in a bid of $43,365.00 to insulate the walls and ceiling in the existing shop, cover insulation with steel panels, cut in floor drain, and add a heat strip in the drain to keep it from freezing. Supervisor Franckowiak asked if we spend money to fix up the existing building or build a new heated shop and keep the existing one for future cold storage. Chair Nelson asked Jody if space is adequate in the existing shop. Jody said it is tight and you need to pull stuff out to make room for working on equipment. Supervisor Franckowiak said that both the Old Town Hall and the GCC garage are in need of a lot of work and a decision about what to do with them will need to be made at some point. Supervisor Juten agreed with Supervisor Franckowiak and said that as the Township grows more equipment will need to be purchased. Jacob Nustad commented that a heated building would save on equipment wear and tear. Supervisor Juten said that he and Jody looked at the possibility of putting an overhead door in the East side of the Old Town Hall and that the grader would fit but the foundation may not be thick enough and floor drains would need to be installed.

Linda Lenard- Chair Nelson gave a brief update on what was discussed on this issue at the last Town Board Meeting – Linda is asking to lease the Old Town Hall building for approximately six days a week for gymnastic classes. With her new insurance, classes could be filled at a 10:1 ratio. Joe Lenard stated that they figured there would be about six to eight vehicles every 1 hour 15 minutes as classes start/end.

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Linda was hoping to start classes as soon as summer 2023 and at least going through the end of the 2024 school year. After some discussion about timeline for starting, contracts, cleaning, Chair Nelson made a motion to approve a lease for Linda to use the Old Town Hall building for a gymnastics facility April 1, 2023, through the end of the 2024 school year and charge Linda $400/month, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Response from MAT about P&Z Compensation- Chair Nelson said that MAT clarified if the Town Board would want to start compensating the Planning Commission that it would be a Town Board decision not a voter decision. Chair Nelson said he thinks it would be a good idea to help with efficiency and was thinking $40/month. Carter Williams agreed with Chair Nelson and said that the Chair position especially takes a lot of time to do properly. Chair Nelson said there was also discussion about reducing the number of members. Currently there are nine members. Carter said nine members is a lot and would like to see four or five active members instead. Nathan agreed with Carter. Carter said he would like a P&Z representative to attend the Town Board Meeting as well. Chair Nelson agreed and said that a meeting pay of $60 could be set for whoever attends the Board Meetings. Carter said he would like to bring this up at the P&Z meeting on Wednesday if this is what the Town Board is wanting to move forward with. Nathan suggested that some expectations need to be set if the Town is going to start paying P&Z members. Supervisor Juten made a motion to set monthly pay at $40/month and $60 per meeting for the chair and whoever attends the Town Board Meetings, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor. Carter also mentioned that there needs to be some research into what Nathans job position is supposed to cover as he feels like Nathan is doing things that are not in his job description. Carter said it will be discussed more at the next P&Z meeting.

Township Job Opening Update- Several people have applied for the different jobs that the Township currently has openings for. Chair Nelson said that Supervisor Nelson and Jody will be interviewing people for the grader operator/plow/mower job, Sarah and Jody will interview people for the janitor position, and Nathan will interview people for the Deputy Zoning Officer position. Chair Nelson said that we will run the ads through the end of the month.

Clarification on Numbering Ordinances- Sarah said she felt the suggestion that Nathan gave at the last meeting for numbering ordinances was not proper. Sarah said she did some research into what other Townships do and looked on the MAT website and found that many other Townships use the date that the ordinance was adopted as their ordinance number. This would also help with locating minutes regarding how the ordinance was adopted if that ever came up in the future. Chair Nelson asked if this would be the method moving forward to which Sarah said yes.

STR Application- Nathan presented the sample STR application he prepared for tonight’s meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report- Jody said the roads are in pretty good shape and ne noted water running through some of the culverts that froze up last year. Chair Nelson mentioned that if there is any issue with frozen or roads that need sanding, we can contact St. Louis County to help.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said there have been several rentals as the GCC. She altered the schedule to block off a section to allow time for the gym floors to be replaced.

DNR Grant Playground Quote- Stacy from Flagship Recreation provided us with a revised design layout for a new playground, which would be part of the DNR Grant that Gnesen is applying for. Sarah said the initial design had a sunshade and a spider web that would require maintenance, so they opted to take those out and replace them with some other pieces of equipment. Supervisor Juten asked what the cost was for the playground. Chair Nelson said roughly $77,000.

2023 CLP Infrastructure Grant- CLP is looking for letters of support from Gnesen to show support in CLP applying for an Infrastructure Grant. Chair Nelson said that no money is being requested just a

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letter of support. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve sending a letter of support, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor.

Broadband Grant (CTC)- CTC is applying for another grant to get broadband for the Northwest part of Island Lake which is not included in the broadband grant that was already approved for Gnesen Township. Chair Nelson said that CTC is asking is Gnesen is willing to put any money down towards the grant. Supervisor Juten asked how much money would be necessary. Chair Nelson said he would like to designate at least $20,000. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion to approve designating $20,000 towards this new broadband grant, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Permission to Purchase a New Computer and Printer for Mary- Chair Nelson made a motion to approve up to $1,000 to purchase a new computer and printer, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Permission for Hannah and Mary to go to Wells Fargo so Hannah Can Sign Checks- Since Mary will be absent for the April Town Board Meeting, Hannah needs to be added as an employee with rights to sign checks. Chair Nelson made a motion to approve Hannah as a check signer, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor.

Gnesen Generals Question About Selling THC Products- Beth from Gnesen General reached out to Sarah and asked if the Township had any regulations about selling THC (hemp based) products. Chair Nelson said it is completely legal to sell hemp-based products. Nathan stated that it could become a controversial issue but that there is nothing in our ordinance currently to stop it. Nathan said if Gnesen Township wanted to stop the sale of THC products then there would have to be ordinance verbiage created to support that.

GCC Gym Floor- Big Lake Contracting provided a quote for $15,500.00 to install epoxy flooring in the GCC gym and Lake Effect Coating provided a quote of $22,850.00. The Lake Effect quote included an added Urethane topcoat and repainting the basketball lines whereas Big Lake’s did not. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion to approve the quote from Lake Effect Coating, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**- Nathan reported that the Wing residence located at 7155 Island Lake Falls Road burnt down a few weeks ago. Nathan explained that Josh had gotten a variance to add on to a cabin that did not meet setback from OWHL. Nathan said that Josh will be reapplying for a new variance and building permit but because it was damaged by more than 50% it is no longer grandfathered in and now, they will be expected to meet all setbacks.

**CORRESPONDENCE-** Flyer from TextMyGov

Disbursement #15741 thru #15774 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $47,992.03 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Dennis Campbell, Linda Lenard, Joe Lenard, Carter Williams, David Leonzal, Darrin Franckowiak, Jay and Marcia Haller, Kelsey Dunaisks, Jacob Nustad, Casey Fogelberg, Kelly Brooks

Employees present: Jody Cooke, Nathan Horyza. Employees absent: None

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**Upcoming meetings:**

Planning Commission Meeting-February 15, 2023-7:30 pm

Public Hearing for Administrative Enforcement/Nuisance Ordinance – February 27, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Town Board Meeting-February 27, 2023 – 7:00 pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair