Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 27, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 27, 2023. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

Ed Franckowiak Supervisor

Gary Juten Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the February 13, 2023 Board of Audit Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the February 13, 2023, Town Board Meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Equipment Shop at Old Town Hall Site – Fleisch Excavating gave a quote of $32,750 to insulate and sheet the existing shop at the Old Town Hall site.

Office Computers – Sarah stated that after doing some research, the amount approved at the last meeting, $1000.00, to replace Mary’s computer and printer was not enough. Sarah said she got a quote from Downtown Computer for $1300.00 for just a new computer and set up. Mary had said she did not need a new printer as she is able to print checks on the regular office printer. Sarah said Hannah had looked for a comparable and found one at Best Buy for $200.00 less. Supervisor Juten asked Sarah to see if Downtown Computer would price match the lower priced computer and then made a motion to accept the Downtown Computer quote of up to $1300.00 to replace Mary’s computer, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. All vote in favor. Sarah also commented that the computers both she and Hannah use will also need to be replaced soon, as Downtown Computer said they were both very outdated and may not support certain software at some point. Sarah said she had thought that both of those computers were purchased as refurbished a few years back.

GCC Grant – Chair Nelson stated that the DNR Grant application has been finalized and just needs signatures. Chair Nelson said the total project cost of the grant being requested is $288,000.00. It is a matching grant so Gnesen is only responsible for $144,000.00 which can be both monetary and labor. The grant includes – accessibility improvements, redoing the tennis courts, replacing lighting around skating rink, improving signage around the entire facility, some landscaping such as new sand for the softball field, upgrading the playscape, rerouting the first hole for the disc golf course, replace wooden playground with a new playground, remove existing parking lot then repave and restripe it. Chair Nelson made a motion to accept the grant application as presented and pass a resolution to submit the grant application the DNR, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

P&Z Compensation – Matt Thibodeau, P&Z Chair, said he has heard some concerns that getting compensated may change things. Although reducing the size of the Commission may improve efficiency it will also create less broad viewpoints. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of a smaller sized Commission. Pete said he has concerns with members who do not attend regularly. Chair Nelson said that with compensation there would be expectations with attendance, and it would be requested that the chair would attend the first Town Board Meeting of each month. Chair Nelson said he would like the Commission to discuss and come up with some expectations and requirements. There was mention that the Gnesen ordinance states the Commission is made up of a volunteer group so that verbiage would need to be changed as well.

Township Job Openings – The application period for all job openings will close at the end of the day February 28, 2023.

Linda Lenard Email – Linda had sent the supervisors an email about having a few mini meets throughout her lease period. Supervisor Franckowiak said he didn’t see a problem with it. Supervisor Franckowiak brought up the lease contract and mentioned that some items that should be included are snow removal, lawn care, and utilities. Sarah will draft up a lease contract and present at the March 13, 2023, meeting to be reviewed by the Supervisors before being sent to the attorney for review. There was discussion about what utilities cost. Sarah said that she looked up that information and garbage, electricity, and propane last year was between $3,000 - $4,000. Sarah said that these costs reflect hardly any building use. Jody questioned cleaning supplies. Chair Nelson said he thought paper products should be supplied by the lease holder. Sarah questioned alterations to the building like hanging a climbing rope. All three Supervisors agreed that no alterations or fixed objects are allowed.

Nuisance Ordinance – The Public Hearing was recessed and will be reconvened on April 24, 2023, at 6:00pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Steve Tarnowski, GVFD Gaming – Steve was requesting a signature from the Town Board to approve Lake Effect Restaurant’s charitable gambling license to sell pull tabs, electronic pull tabs, and bingo on behalf of the GVFD. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve signing the gambling license for Lake Effect Restaurant, second by Chair Nelson. Two voted yes, with Supervisor Franckowiak abstaining.

Gnesen Community Center Blood Drive – Will be March 13, 2023, from 11:30am – 6:00pm.

Old Town Hall Bathroom Ceiling Fans – Jody stated the fans in both bathrooms at the old town hall are needing to be replaced.

Awair Meeting – Sarah questioned if the Awair Meeting could be streamlined this year and all employees provided packets and a sign off page that they sign and then turn in once all training has been read. Chair Nelson agreed with a more efficient process for Awair training, Sarah said she will have packets prepared to hand out at the March 27, 2023, Town Board Meeting.

Reorganization Meeting – Scheduled for March 27, 2023, at 6:00pm

St. Louis County Board of Appeals – Scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 10:00am – 11:00am.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09pm 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: Jay and Marcia Haller, Dennis Campbell, Steve Tarnowski, Carter Williams, Pete Bergman, Kathy Buran, Matt Thibodeau, Matt Whiting, Kyle Jensen (and wife)

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

**Upcoming Meetings:**

P&Z Public Hearing for MN Power Plats – March 8, 2023 - 6:30pm

Town Board Meeting - March 13, 2023 - 7:00pm

Township Elections – March 14, 2023 – 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Annual Meeting – March 14, 2023 – 8:30pm

P&Z Meeting - March 15, 2023 - 7:30pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_