Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

April 10, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, March 13, 2023. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

Gary Juten Supervisor

Nancy Poppenberg Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

Hannah Jurek Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Board Members and seven 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 March 27, 2023 Reorganization Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Minutes of the March 27, 2023 Public Hearing for 7031/7047 Rice Lake Road were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten.

Minutes of the March 27, 2023 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for February 2023 $496,758.24

Receipts for March 2023 +$12,301.14

$509,059.38

Disbursements for March 2023 -25,089.65

Balance for March 2023 $483,969.73

There were three outstanding checks for the month totaling $393.93. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

**DISCUSSION**: None

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Township Job Hiring Update – Supervisor Juten discussed the possibility of hiring a 4th employee to help with road work. Supervisor Juten said there has always been a retired person working as the grader operator because it provides flexibility. Supervisor Juten said although Darrin mentioned that he could take time off from his full-time job to grade roads, he felt since there was an interested person, it would be beneficial to have a 4th person as another backup. Supervisor Juten will reach out to the interested individual. Nathan said he has interviewed both individuals who applied for the Deputy Zoning Officer job but hasn’t decided yet as he wanted to touch base with the Supervisors to make sure he could hire who he thought would be the best candidate for the job. Chair Nelson reminded everyone that the Supervisors had given Nathan full permission to do the hiring for the Deputy Zoning Officer position. Nathan asked if it would be possible for the Township to purchase another laptop so the new Deputy Zoning Officer would have one. The office staff will look into pricing and provide information at the next meeting.

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Nuisance Ordinance Definitions- There was discussion on potential definitions for “junk” and “blight” that would go in the nuisance ordinance as the first set of definitions that were provided were considered troublesome and it was thought that they may create more issues. Chair Nelson stated that based off the first public hearing he doesn’t believe that any resident wants definitions that could be subjective. Chair Nelson asked the subcommittee to relook at the definitions and bring something back to the public hearing. Chair Nelson also mentioned that according to most of the people who attended the public hearing, they want to use the tools that Gnesen already has and not create new ones. Chair Nelson stated maybe that means we just continue to use the St. Louis County Sheriffs Dept and not create new ordinances.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report- Jody said the roads are in rough shape with a lot of potholes and they are very muddy. Jody stated that after last week’s snowfall the County never plowed their roads and Church Road north of Normanna Road was very narrow and in poor condition. Jody said he would take the grader out and try to wing back the snow on Church Road. Jody and Darrin said depending on the weather, they would like to get out grading within the next few weeks. Jody mentioned that both the grader and mower need servicing. Jody had reached out to McCoy and was informed that pricing for servicing is $154 per hour if the equipment is brought to McCoy, $169 per hour if they come to the Town Hall to service the equipment plus an extra $3.50 per mile travel, hourly and $125 per service guy travel time, hourly. Supervisor Juten said he would rather have McCoy come to us for servicing rather than driving the equipment to McCoy. Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept Jody’s recommendation with the expectation that McCoy would come to the Town Hall to service the equipment, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. Jody will call McCoy Tuesday to get on their service schedule.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said she has contacted Per Mar and is working on scheduling a time for installation of the new security system. The gym floor project is scheduled to start on Monday, April 17, 2023. The removal of the asbestos tile is expected to take approximately one week then Lake Effect Coatings will be coming in to look at the concrete flooring under the tile prior to the new flooring being installed. The entire process should only take a few weeks, but Sarah said she blocked off the gym from being rented through the end of May just in case. Sarah also mentioned there will be a plant sale held at the GCC on May 13, 2023.

Conflict of Interest Discussion – Supervisor Juten mentioned that there was a concerned resident that approached him after the Monday, March 27, 2023 Town Board meeting in which a resolution was passed to allow Supervisor Juten to assist the Township with road work and get paid the hourly wage for doing so. Supervisor Juten explained the resolution that was passed only allows him, as the road supervisor, to get paid the hourly rate of $22.18 to spot gravel trucks and clean out culverts and it has nothing to do with his company, Cedar Drive Excavating, getting jobs. Supervisor Juten said at the MAT training he attended he was told that the resolution was exactly what the township needs to do. When there is a vote being made that has anything to do with Cedar Drive Excavating and bids, then Supervisor Juten said he abstains from the vote. Chair Nelson said the resolution is specific to the road supervisor because they are expected to help spot trucks, etc. Chair Nelson said it is important that the township have a clean bidding process put in place. Supervisor Juten mentioned that moving forward there will be a new bidding process being implemented – those contactors interested in performing jobs for the township can send their contact information to the Town Office. As jobs become available, Sarah will send out job specs to the interested contractors who had contacted the office with their contact information, they can then mail or drop off their sealed bids to the office. The bids will then be opened in front of everyone at a Town Board meeting. Sarah will be putting a notice in the May newsletter.

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John Werner Memorial – Chair Nelson asked if the Township would like to make a donation, in honor of former City of Rice Lake Mayor, John Werner, to the military memorial the City of Rice Lake is planning to create on the corner or Rice Lake and Martin Roads. Supervisor Poppenberg said she would like more information regarding the memorial. Chair Nelson said the City of Rice Lake has information regarding the memorial. Carol Jacobson said she would donate $100 towards the memorial if the

Township would match her donation. Chair Nelson made a motion to match Carol’s donation of $100, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Liquor License Renewal for Silver Fox Lodge – Supervisor Juten made a motion to grant renewal of Silver Fox Lodge’s liquor license, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Como Propane Lock in Price for 2023/24 Season – Como provided an updated price of $1.629 per gallon for propane. There was discussion as to if we should call around and get pricing from other companies. Sarah will call around and get pricing from a few other companies and bring pricing back to the April 24, 2023 meeting for further discussion.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Nathan had nothing to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: Flyer from Jake’s Companies

Disbursement #15802 thru #15824 and 5 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $17,080.11 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Darrin Franckowiak, Annie and Chris Kuklock, Dennis Campbell, Jay Haller, Carol Jacobson, Kathy Buran

Employees present: Jody Cooke, Nathan Horyza. Employees absent: Mary Bjorklund

**Upcoming meetings:**

Board of Appeals – April 18, 2023 – 10:00am

P&Z Meeting – April 19, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board – Reconvened Public Hearing for Nuisance Ordinance – April 24, 2023 - 6:00pm

Town Board Meeting – April 24, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Hannah Jurek, Deputy Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair