Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

June 12, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, June 12, 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 five residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the May 22, 2023 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for April 2023 $468,931.23

Receipts for May 2023 +$1,649.54

$470,580.77

Disbursements for May 2023 -35,528.86

Balance for May 2023 $435,051.91

There were no outstanding checks but one outstanding EFT for the month totaling $455.47. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg, all vote in favor to accept the Treasurer’s report.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Ulland Gravel – Supervisor Juten reported that Ulland will likely load the gravel this year. Supervisor Juten will confirm that prior to putting gravel on the roads. Supervisor Juten did not get an updated price for gravel if Gnesen was providing a loader and loading the material themselves.

Stripping on W. Pioneer Road – Sarah received a quote from Sir Lines A Lot for $2,550.00. All three Supervisors agreed that they will go with the recommendation from Vic Lund at St. Louis County that was reported at the last Town Board meeting and not maintain the stripping on W. Pioneer Road and now that road will remain unstripped.

Heated Maintenance Facility at the GCC – Jody provided two quotes for new garage doors. Quality Garage Door quoted $10,978.93 and Great Lakes Door quoted $8,300.00 - $9,300.00 as they gave three different options. Chair Nelson noted that the Quality Garage Door quote also included a new man door. Jody stated he thought prior to really considering new doors the township needs to investigate if there is a bug infestation between the old roof and the new roof. Jody stated that the new roof was just put on over the old one and every time he goes into the garage there is a ton of sawdust-like material that collects above the garage doors. Jody said he thought the money would be better spent remodeling the facility at the old town hall as that is large enough to hold all the township rigs. Chair Nelson questioned if we should still get the bug infestation investigated and hold off on the garage doors for now. Sarah will contact an exterminator.

Ordinance Updates – The Supervisors reviewed the ordinance updates that were provided from the Planning Commission. Carter mentioned that the Commission recommends all changes that are provided tonight be brought forward to a public hearing. After some discussion and clarification, a public hearing was set for Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Culvert Steaming – St. Louis County sent the Township a bill for $832.41 and the Supervisors were questioning what all the charges were for. Jody stated that the county did steam the culvert on Bergstrom Road but were

Page 2 of 3, June 12, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes

unable to make it to Crescent Drive so therefore the fire department helped unclog that culvert. Chair Nelson asked if Mary would follow up with the county and question the charges on the bill prior to paying it.

Marketable Title Act – Sarah researched the roads that were in question from the last Town Board meeting which were the roads along Schultz Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Eagle Lake and found that all the roads were recorded either through the Registrar or Titles or Registrar of Deeds. Since all of the roads in these areas have been maintained continually by the Township there are no foreseen issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that all 4 new road signs have been installed. A sign on W. Pioneer Road was overlooked and needs replacing. Chair Nelson made a motion to approve spending up to $175.00 for the new sign, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. Sarah will purchase a new sign and the road crew will replace it. Church Road gate has settled over the winter so the road crew will be fixing them. Sarah had purchased some more gate keys so there can be one on the grader and mower key ring as well. Gravel will be put on the roads Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Discussion about tree removal on Church and Pioneer Roads. Chair Nelson suggested talking with the residents in locations where trees need to be removed and the road crew can do the removals. Darin suggested even holding off and see what next winter brings this past winter was an exceptional winter with the wind and snow and the trees may not be a problem again.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah mentioned the new flag has been installed on the flagpole. Kevin Middleton was able to remove the playset so that project is done. June 1st was outdoor cleanup day at the community center. A group of residents cut and removed trees that had fallen on the trails while a group of boy scouts and some of their parents cleaned debris out of the tennis courts, raked, picked up fallen branches, and cleaned the playscape area.

Calcium Chloride – Jake’s Companies provided a quote of $1.30/gallon for calcium chloride. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the expenditure for calcium chloride this year, second by supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. Sarah will contact Jake’s Companies and get it lined up to be put down sometime the end of June.

Planning and Zoning Fees – Dave Opack asked if Mary could conduct an audit to see what the township is spending on Planning and Zoning permits. Dave mentioned in the past the fees were meant to cover costs of processing the permits, but he feels the township has grown and the fees need to be revisited.

No Trespassing signs along trails at GCC – Sarah mentioned that a resident who resides on the southern border of the trails has requested some No Trespassing signs be installed to keep visitors from entering his private property. Chair Nelson gave Sarah permission to purchase four signs and provide them for the resident to sign and put up where he feels they are most needed.

Old Townhall – Sarah said Ed Franckowiak sent in email and said someone on an ATV spun circles on the yard at the Old Town Hall and he wanted to know if the township wanted him to fix the yard and put down some grass seed. Jody said he looked at the yard and it wasn’t rutted up, just the grass was ruined in some spots. It was decided since it wasn’t rutted up to leave it and let the grass fill in on its own.

Liquor License Renewal for Lake Effect Restaurant – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve granting the liquor license renewal for Lake Effect, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Nathan was not in attendance at tonight’s meeting, but a few items were discussed. Midlife Investment Group (MIG), owners of the Lake Effect Property, have paid for their land alteration permit. Carol Jacobson questioned if MIG was going to be fined for building their deck prior to permit approval. Sarah reminded the Supervisors that MIG was instructed that they needed a permit prior to construction yet constructed the deck anyway. They had also constructed their front entry prior to permit approval. Sarah also mentioned that the deck was built 85ft from centerline although they are required to be 110ft from centerline. Carter said that a fine of triple the fee has been established by P&Z and that the MIG group should be held to the same standards as everyone else. Chair Nelson questioned if they should be fined once or twice since they have done this two times now and it was agreed that two fines would be appropriate. Carter questioned if the township even has the authority to grant a permit that is less than the County standard? If the county requires 110ft setback, then how were they permitted to build at 85ft? Chair Nelson instructed P&Z to put this on their next agenda and clarify if it should be one or two fines and what the permit fees were for those two building projects so they can be fined appropriately. Chair Nelson asked Hannah to reach out to Nathan and have him contact the County and talk with them about the fact that he permitted a deck at 85ft versus the County’s requirement of 110ft and see

Page 3 of 3, June 12, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes

how we should proceed and then report that back to the Planning Commission at their June 21, 2023 meeting. An oil spill was reported to have occurred at Ulland’s Oscar Pit. Sarah said she received an email along with a picture. Sarah said she contacted the Minnesota Duty Officer and later she received a phone call from the MPCA to whom she provided Ulland’s contact info and was told that they would be dealing with the situation. Sarah received a call after from the same gentleman with the MPCA and he informed her that he had spoken with Tim Grehek from Ulland along with their environmental specialist and they were in the process of cleaning up the spill. There was discussion between the Supervisors and members of the Planning Commission on reporting procedures and if it should be required to have the pits report any situation like this to the Town Office and if containment systems should be required around tanks so that in the event of spills they are at least contained. Supervisor Juten asked Sarah if she could make note of this issue so it can be discussed at their pit inspection in September.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

Disbursement #15854 through #15880 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $122,941.30 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 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, Jay and Marcia Haller, Carol Jacobson, Carter Williams, Dave Opack

Employees present: Jody Cooke, Mary Bjorklund, Bruce Smith, Beau Halvorson, Darin Franckowiak

Employees absent: Nathan Horyza

**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – June 21, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board Meeting – June 26, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair