Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

July 24, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, July 24, 2023. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair – Attending tonight’s meeting remotely

Nancy Poppenberg Supervisor

Gary Juten Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Nelson. Chair Nelson mentioned that due to the fact that he was attending remotely tonight, Supervisor Juten would be signing all documents on his behalf.

Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor. One addition to the agenda was later made by Chair Nelson to add the anonymous letter the Supervisors received regarding Island Lake Falls Road.

Minutes of the July 10, 2023, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Minutes of the July 17, 2023, Public Hearing for proposed ordinance amendments were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

**DISCUSSION**: Supervisor Poppenberg said the Planning Commission is asking for reflective vests for each member of the commission to identify them as they are performing site visits. Sarah will look into pricing and provide at the August 14, 2023 town board meeting. Mark Myles talked about future crack sealing for Island Lake Drive and the plan for broadband.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Update on MIG Fines – Sarah commented that one of the gentlemen from MIG did stop by the office today and pay the building violation fines. Sarah also mentioned that the president of the W. Van Road road association had concerns regarding the land alteration permit that he had read about in the minutes. Sarah said that although Nathan was asked to invite the road association along to the site visit he did for that land alteration permit, he never did. Al Werner, who is the president of the road association, was in attendance at tonight’s meeting and he said his concerns are that where the road is platted differs between the MN Power plat map and St. Louis County and because they need to clear trees in order for St. Louis County to continue plowing their road but since it looks as though the road runs on MIG’s property they can’t clear trees until it is figured out. Al said he is also wondering how far back they are removing the dirt from the road on back. Al mentioned he is concerned about water runoff once the hill is removed. Sarah said that when MIG was in to pay their fines, they mentioned they were going to install a fence around their entire property. Sarah questioned if there were concerns regarding the location of the road would there be issues with MIG installing a fence at this time? Al stated the plat states their road has a 66ft easement. Supervisor Juten said the fence installation would need to be 33ft from the existing road right a way. Mark Myles stated that after 7 years there is the right of adverse possession that would allow the people who live on the road to use the road no matter who owns it. Sarah will follow up with MIG and inform them of the road right a way.

Building Violation Update – Supervisor Juten said he didn’t have a chance to contact Ross Litman. This is tabled until the August 14, 2023 Town Board meeting.

STR Non-Conforming Septic – Planning and Zoning recommended only accepting compliant septic certificated as the ordinance states. All three Supervisors are also in favor of upholding the ordinance and only accepting compliant septic certificates as well.

Update from July 17, 2023 Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Ordinance Amendments – Action was taken and the ordinance amendments were approved.

Resolution 23-08 Approving Amendments to Zoning Ordinance #10 – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Tracey Road Description – MN Power contacted the township and informed them that the Tracey Road Order does not clearly define the width of the road as being 66ft. MN Power is asking for the township to pass a resolution amending the road order. Sarah will draft a resolution and provide it at the August 14, 2023 meeting.

Garbage Dumping on Church Road – There was another garbage dumping noted on Church Road just before the gates. Beau and Darin cleaned up the garbage. There was discussion about how to catch whoever is illegally dumping this garbage.

Darin Credit Card – Supervisor Juten made a motion to get Darin a credit card, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Island Lake Inn Special Events Liquor License Approval – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the Island Lake Inn Special Events Liquor License Application as presented, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Zoning Permit Fee Schedule/Resolution 23-09 Approving Amendments to Zoning Permit Fee Schedule – Chair Nelson made a motion to pass Resolution 23-09 approving amendments to the fee schedule, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Special Events Permit – The supervisors looked over the application that was prepared by P&Z for special events. Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept the application that was presented, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

P&Z Meeting Time Change – P&Z is asking to change their start time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm starting in September. All three supervisors approved of the time change.

Update from P&Z regarding Old Fire Hall – Carol said P&Z is suggesting meeting with the owner of the Old Fire Hall to try to resolve the issue. Carol said the suggestion is a small meeting with one P&Z representative and one Town Board representative to meet with the landowner as a last resort prior to continuing the fines with the goal of finding a resolution. Carol suggested recording the meeting. Supervisor Poppenberg agreed that recording the meeting would be beneficial.

STR Question – Sarah stated a resident from Boulder Dam Road called about applying for grandfathered in status for two STR’s she operates. The addresses are next door to each other and share a driveway. The properties are also on leased property so Sarah questioned if the resident would qualify for grandfathered in status to which all three supervisors said no because it was being done illegally. Sarah also questioned since the properties are next door to each other, but two separate parcels can she even apply for permits for both since there is a 1500ft distance requirement on riparian properties. The supervisor asked Sarah to question if there is a well for each cabin, ask for a detailed map of the properties, and ask for more information about the rentals in general and bring it back to the next town board meeting.

Island Lake Fall Road Complaint – There was an anonymous complaint sent to the supervisors regarding ATVs and excessive use of campers at a property located on Island Lake Falls Road. Chair Nelson stated the ATVs would be a Sheriff Department issue, however the excessive camper use would be an ordinance issue. There was discussion on how typically a complaint requires a signature making it official before moving forward with it. Supervisor Juten questioned if the property was leased land to which Supervisor Poppenberg said yes. Carol said she thought the St. Louis County zoning ordinance said a complaint could be anonymous. Chair Nelson asked Carol if she could research that. After much discussion, Sarah was asked to pass the letter on to the new Zoning Officer once they get hired and have them look into the issue.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Fall Legal Seminar Flyer

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jay and Marcia Haller, Carol Jacobson, Mark Myles, Al Werner

Employees present: Darrin Franckowiak Employees absent: None

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Town Board Meeting – August 14, 2023 – 7:00pm

P&Z Meeting – August 16, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board Meeting – August 28, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Jon Nelson, Chair

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