Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

September 11, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, September 11, 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 residents stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for July 2023 $468,647.45

Receipts for August 2023 +$12,460.79

$481,108.24

Disbursements for August 2023 -$22,615.02

Balance for August 2023 $458,493.22

There were four outstanding checks for the month totaling $2,717.44. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**: State Representative Natalie Zeleznikar attended tonight’s meeting. Natalie spoke to everyone explaining why she ran for Representative and what her goals are for being in office. There was some discussion about property taxes and the need for the system to change so people don’t get taxed out of their homes. Natalie said she is always willing to speak with people and offered both her phone number and email to be published. To contact Natalie you can call her at 218-409-6822 or email at [rep.natalie.zeleznikar@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.natalie.zeleznikar@house.mn.gov).

**OLD BUSINESS**:

GCC Garage – Sarah provided the Supervisors with the garage door quotes that were obtained in June by Jody Cooke. Quality garage door resent their quote with the same pricing that was provided prior, $10,978.93. Sarah had contacted Great Lakes Door for an updated price but hasn’t heard back yet. A quote from DG Solem & Sons for a furnace came in at $3,670.00 and Beau priced out insulation for the lid at $1000.00 for ½ inch foil faced and $1500.00 for 1 inch foil faced. Supervisor Juten questioned the thickness of the garage doors that were quoted by Quality Garage Door. Sarah will contact them and provide at the September 25th meeting. Sarah said she also had contacted Como and for them to install a new 500-gallon propane tank it would be less than $300.00. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the expenditure of $300.00 for Como installing the propane tank, $1500.00 for the 1-inch-thick foil faced foam, and $3670.00 for DG Solem & Sons to install a furnace, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

MIG Variance Issue/Resolution #23-14 – Chair Nelson spoke with a member of the MIG Group, and they were happy with the Township’s decision to pass a resolution allowing their structures to remain as permitted rather than going through a variance procedure. Chair Nelson made a motion to accept Resolution #23-14 Allowing the Additions to the Structure Located at 7055 Rice Lake Road to Remain as Permitted, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor. Sarah will record the approved resolution.

Zoning Officer Training – Hannah researched the zoning officer training that she heard about through Duluth Township. Hannah said she was told the training would cost around $3000.00, would be provided from a gentleman from Bloomington, MN, and would be an in-person training. Hannah said she could investigate if other townships might be interested in splitting the costs and attending the training too. Chair Nelson suggested

Page 2 of 3, September 11, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes

bringing it up at a DAT Meeting. Hannah will reach out to the gentleman who provides the training and will bring more specifics back to the September 25th meeting.

Communication Towers – Sarah provided the Supervisor’s with the email exchanges that occurred with our previous Zoning Officer and American Towers regarding the new requirements that were adopted in our

Ordinance. American Towers replied that they are following the FAA guidelines and are in full compliance with them and the requirements of their existing CUP. Chair Nelson stated that the American Towers CUP is up for review in 2024 and he would like P&Z to investigate adding the new testing requirement as one of their conditions.

Amendment to Resolution #23-13 – An amendment needed to be made to the approved resolution indicating where the funds for Gnesen’s matching portion would be coming from. Chair Nelson made a motion to accept the amendment to Resolution #23-13, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that the roads are in good condition. Darin said there are a few hazard trees that need to be addressed, two on Needle Lane, and one large tree at the intersection of Thompson Lake and Tracy Roads. Darin said the tree is the one that residents nail their name plates to. He suggested cutting the top portion and leaving the bottom so that the signs could stay. Darin said all the tree removals could be done by the road crew rather than hiring it out. Darin also said fall pruning should be done to eliminate trees drooping in the right of way over the winter. The plow truck has a broken passenger side mirror which needs to be replaced. Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to replace the broken mirror, second by Super Juten. All vote in favor. Darin said he has noticed that ATV’s have been scooting around the gates on Church Road and asked about opening the gates for the fall and winter then reclosing them in the spring. Chair Nelson said if ATV’s can get around them then he recommends just leaving the gates as is. Supervisor Juten asked if the mower had been brought to Northern Welding yet. Darin said it had not. Supervisor Juten asked that it be brought in prior to the next meeting.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah reported that the GCC Farmers Market was this past Saturday and went well. Sarah said $157.00 was raised from sales out of the kitchen for donations towards the GCC.

2023/24 St. Louis County Snowplow Maintenance Agreement – The Supervisors reviewed the maintenance agreement from St. Louis County and gave Sarah permission to renew the contract for the upcoming season.

Sick and Safe Time – Discussion regarding the new sick and safe time rules and how it may look for the Township and what added costs could incur.

STR Grandfathered in Only – P&Z asked about extending the deadline for septic permits to be turned in for grandfathered in STR’s since the county is backlogged. Sarah explained that all other paperwork and fees were turned in, just the septic compliance certificate were missing. Chair Nelson said if everything else was turned in then there should be flexibility allowed for governmental delays that residents have no control over.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Both Mike and Rick were in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Mike stated he has started working on second site visits for the permits he was given. Rick said he hasn’t started yet but will be soon. Sarah said the zoning officer laptops are at Downtown Computer and is hopeful to get them back soon.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: None

Disbursement #15944 through #15966 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $16,140.00 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg all in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 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: Jay and Marcia Haller, Carol Jacobson, John Armstrong, Kathy Buran, Natalie Zeleznikar

Page 3 of 3, September 11, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes

Employees present: Mary Bjorklund, Beau Halverson, Darin Franckowiak, Matt Thibodeau, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson

Employees absent: Bruce Smith

**Upcoming meetings:**

Public Hearing for MN Power – September 20, 2023 – 6:30pm

P&Z Meeting – September 20, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board Meeting – September 25, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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

Jon Nelson, Chair