Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

September 25, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, September 25, 2023. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

Nancy Poppenberg 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 with the additions of Duluth Urban Watershed report and feedback from P&Z meeting under New Business was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the September 11, 2023, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

**DISCUSSION**: Pioneer Road and the lanes by Eagle Lake need some grading after all the rain this past weekend as there is noted washout. Supervisor Juten made a motion to purchase up to 2 loads of gravel from Ulland to repair the 4 lanes, second by Chair Nelson. 2 votes in favor with Supervisor Juten abstaining. Al Werner from W. Van Road noted that a road has been put in on the MIG property to assess the west portion of their property. It was discussed how the road was installed in the easement that runs parallel to W. Van Road and over CLP underground power lines. Al mentioned that there has been talk that MIG plans to erect 6-8 tiny cabins on their property. There was discussion as to what is allowed on residential property and the Township’s process for dealing with building violations if they occur. Al said he has been in contact with a representative from St. Louis County as there are inconsistencies between St. Louis County’s maps and MN Powers plat regarding the property lines along W. Van Road.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

GCC Garage – Sarah heard back from both garage door companies. Great Lakes Door said the quote they gave the township in May is still valid. Quality Garage Door clarified that the door they quoted is a 2-inch door with a 9.25 R-Value. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Juten to go with the company that was offering the higher R-Value and accept the quote from Great Lake Door, Option B for $9300.00. Supervisor Juten asked if Sarah could call and clarify if the seal provided is double seal or not, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Pricing To Get Mower Fixed – Darin spoke with Northern Welding and was told the repairs for the mower would not exceed $700.00. Supervisor Juten made a motion to proceed with getting the mower fixed, not exceeding $700.00, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Zoning Officer Training – The proposed training could be offered either in person, which is the preferred method, or virtual, which is not the preferred method due to poor internet. The cost for the 2-3 hour training is $3200.00 no matter how many people attend plus mileage which is approximately $235.00 round trip. Supervisor Juten said he would like to see if other Townships might be interested and then split the costs. Chair Nelson said he will reach out to the City of Rice Lake and ask them, Sarah will reach out to Lakewood and Midway Townships, Hannah will ask Duluth Township. Tabled until October 9th meeting to see if there is interest from other Townships.

Home Business Permit – P&Z recommended to the Town Board abandoning the home business application and just using the Nuisance Ordinance and existing Ordinance verbiage to deal with any complaints as they arrive. Town Board approved the Planning Commissions decision and so they will not move forward with approving a home business permit application.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MAT Response Regarding CUP’s – MAT clarified that conditions cannot be added to an existing CUP unless it is part of a revocation and re-issue action.

Rice Lake Road Corridor Project/Resolution No. 23-15 Support for Rice Lake Road Corridor Project – Vic Lund from St. Louis County is asking Gnesen to pass a resolution in support of the proposed Rice Lake Road corridor project so they can seek Federal funding for the project. Supervisor Juten made a motion to pass Resolution No. 23-15 Support for Rice Lake Road Corridor Project, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Subdivision Application – P&Z recommended to the Town Board approval of the presented Subdivision Application. Sarah stated that she and Hannah both think the application should be titled something other than Subdivision Application since it encompasses Lot Line Adjustments, Simple Splits, and Subdivisions. The Supervisors all agreed and thought Land Division Application would be a better title. Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to approve the application with the title change, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Citizen Complaint – A complaint has been made to the office regarding a property on Locust Road. This was turned over to the zoning officers and will be investigated.

Duluth Urban Watershed Report – The Duluth Urban Watershed is performing an audit and looking at different communities’ codes and ordinances and creating a chart comparing all information. They will be sharing this information when completed.

Feedback from P&Z Meeting – Supervisor Poppenberg reported that at the last P&Z meeting there were residents from Sunshine Lake present with complaints of the smell from Ulland’s hot mix plant. Supervisor Poppenberg said although Ulland is following all guidelines they are going above and beyond and have purchased some new equipment in attempts to lessen the fumes. This equipment will be installed prior to next season. Sunshine Lake residents asked if the Ulland complaint hotline phone number could be put in the newsletter so other residents know who to contact if they are experiencing bad fumes. It was discussed that Ulland should send the complaints they receive to the Town Office so they can be documented with the Township as well. Supervisor Poppenberg also mentioned that it was noted that contact numbers had not been included in the newsletter with the list of short-term rentals. Sarah mentioned that she did look and the ordinance does state that the contact numbers need to be included so she will make sure to add them to the next newsletter. Sarah also mentioned that only new STR’s will be put in the newsletter, but she will include a line that informs people that to see a complete list of STR’s they can go to the website.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Couri and Ruppe – Rates will be increasing to $265.00 per hour for all general legal work and to $290.00 per hour for all development work. Supervisor Juten asked if Sarah could reach out to Gunnar Johnson and Hanft Fride and ask about their current legal fees.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm 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, Al Werner, Rick Hanson, AJ Jensen

Employees present: Darrin Franckowiak, Bruce Smith, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson

Employees absent: None

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Town Board Meeting – October 9, 2023 – 7:00pm

P&Z Meeting – October 18, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board Meeting – October 23, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Jon Nelson, Chair

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