Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

November 13, 2023

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

Jon Nelson Chair

Gary Juten Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

Mary Bjorklund Treasurer

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 Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the October 23, 2023 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Chair Nelson.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for September 2023 $453,852.47

Receipts for October 2023 +$1,972.12

$455,824.59

Disbursements for October 2023 -$27,541.75

Balance for October 2023 $428,282.84

There were two outstanding checks for the month totaling $393.92. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Chair Nelson to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**: Chair Nelson reported that 264 voters out of the registered 1350 registered voters came out to vote on November 7, 2023 for School Board Elections. Chair Nelson also mentioned P&Z training is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2023 beginning at 6:30pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

MIG Group Update – After the last Town Board Meeting, Mike met with members of the MIG Group again to discuss their project, what their long-term goals were, and what needed to be done to wrap up their current excavating project. As a result of that discussion Mike agreed to extend their Land Alteration Permit for an additional week (expiring November 11, 2023) to allow them time to wrap up the project. Chair Nelson stated he drove by the property to check it out as one of the concerns from residents was the overextending of the commercial zone into the residential zone. Chair Nelson noted that it did not look as though they did. Andrew Knutson, a member of the MIG Group, said that although they do not have anything specific planned for the newly flattened area they have discussed creating additional parking space for the gas station, restaurant, etc. AJ Jenson, a neighbor on West Van Road, said she would like to have open communication with MIG as their project progresses. Andrew Knutson agreed and said they are open to communicating with neighbors rather than having rumors being spread.

Normanna Road Update – Sarah said she had discussed the issue with two neighboring residents and James Biskey but didn’t have much to report other than the power on the property has been disconnected, the squatters have not removed themselves from the property, and the Biskey’s still have not reached out to Sheriff Ramsay to start the eviction process. Sarah said the 2nd citation letter to the Biskey’s was sent out Monday, November 6, 2023.

Skating Rink Liner – Although the skating rink liner was approved at the October 23, 2023 Town Board Meeting, Sarah found out that shipping was going to cost $522.72. Sarah said she has spoken with Steve, who floods the rink, and they will try to figure out some other option.

Ulland Gravel – Ulland informed the Township that they had performed a drone survey on the stockpile of class 5 they crushed for the Township and found that they had only crushed 5000 cubic yards instead of the agreed upon

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6000 cubic yards. Ulland sent an updated invoice reflecting the mistake and asked the Township how they would like to proceed. After some discussion it was decided to let Ulland know that the Township would still like the remaining 1000 cubic yards to be stockpiled. Supervisor Juten will reach out to Ulland and have them crush the remaining 1000 cubic yards in the spring and at that time bill the Township at the price that was already agreed upon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that there are several roads in need of grading. With the warmer weather this week he will get out and get those done before freeze up. No culvert, beaver, or tree damage was noted. Darin said they have been working to winterize equipment so that it is ready. Bruce mentioned that after we got that large rainfall a few weeks back, he noticed the overflow culverts on Pioneer Road between Howard Gnesen and Church Road were plugged. The Township will look into unplugging those before spring. The protruding rock that Scott Olson from St. Louis County mentioned needed to be removed on Boulder Lake Road has been taken care of.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said that she and Beau would like to look into a floor machine for the gym floor. Sarah will bring pricing to the next meeting.

DNR Grant – Parking Lot/Tennis Court Update – Sarah and Supervisor Juten met with two individuals from Sinnot Blacktop to discuss the parking lot and tennis courts. Supervisor Juten said some cost saving options were discussed that would go against Gnesen’s portion of the grant funding such as removing the existing pavement and prepping for the parking lot ourselves, using a black finish on the tennis courts rather than green, and salvaging the existing fencing and tennis net posts. This project will be taking place in 2024 as part of the DNR Grand the Township was awarded.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Mike reported that he is wrapping up on second site visits. Mike also drafted and sent a violation letter to a resident known to be operating a short term rental without a permit but has not heard anything beck from the resident yet. Rick mentioned that he as well is proceeding with second site visits. Rick also mentioned he noticed that there are two versions of the building permit being used, one has a time limit statement for completion while the other one does not. This will get looked into and fixed so that there is only one version.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: Email from St. Louis County Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

Disbursement #15996 through #16038 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $79,255.49 with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. 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, Carter Williams, Al Werner, Andrew Knutson, AJ Jensen, Theresa Lorentz

Employees present: Beau Halverson, Darin Franckowiak, Bruce Smith, Matt Thibodeau, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson

Employees absent: Nancy Poppenberg

**Upcoming meetings:**

Public Hearing for Johnson and Montague Variance – November 15, 2023 – 6:30pm

P&Z Meeting – November 15, 2023 - 7:30pm

Town Board Meeting – November 27, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair