Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

December 11, 2023

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, December 11, 2023. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

Gary Juten Supervisor

Nancy Poppenberg 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 Supervisor Juten second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All voted in favor.

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

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for October 2023 $428,282.84

Receipts for November 2023 +$3,460.63

$431,743.47

Disbursements for November 2023 -$79,449.23

Balance for November 2023 $352,295.24

There was one outstanding check for the month totaling $1,380.88. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Normanna Road Update – Attorney Gunnar Johnson was in attendance to discuss the next steps for abating the property located at 4054 Normanna Road. Gunnar informed the Supervisors that a notice was sent to the landowner with a deadline of December 8, 2023 to clean up the property. Gunnar said that no progress has been made. The next steps are being initiated and a public hearing was scheduled for December 21, 2023 at 6:30pm. Hemlock Road Issue - Chair Nelson mentioned to Gunnar the Hemlock Road complaint. The resident who initially brought the complaint to the Township’s attention contacted Sarah and questioned if anything has been done as it seems like the property is getting worse. After some discussion it was determined that the next steps would be for the Mike to contact Sheriff Ramsay to check if anything has been done on their end, and then send a first letter of violation.

Island Lake Drive – Sarah said she researched at the Recorders Office and found that the only thing that was recorded regarding Island Lake Drive was the plat map that Mark Myles had presented at the November 23, 2023 Town Board meeting. The question was regarding right of way, however the map that had been recorded did not specify what the right of way was. As for the crack sealing, Supervisor Juten contacted Kevin with Sinnott Blacktop and said the deluxe crack sealing was quoted to be $4/lineal foot. Supervisor Juten will measure the cracks and bring back the total figure to the February 12, 2024 Town Board Meeting.

Cartway off Church Road – The Cartway Supervisor’s Order that was created in 1996 was reviewed by the Supervisor’s. The Order does state that the Township is not required to maintain the cartway. Cartways are for ingress/egress for landowners to access landlocked property. Currently there are four homes located off the cartway and there is question if a road needs to be created. Rick will reach out to St. Louis County to find out what their rules require and bring back to next meeting. Supervisor Juten will reach out to Loren Johnston to get more information about the property.

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GCC Floor Cleaner – Twin Ports Paper and Supply provided a price of $4250.00 for a floor cleaner that would work for the gym but could also be used for the rest of the building. Mike Polzin said he has used this specific floor cleaner for the last 6 years and said it works great. Supervisor Juten made a motion to purchase the floor

cleaner from Twin Ports after requesting a demo to make sure that it will meet our needs, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

P&Z Training Recap – Holding one meeting vs. two for variance public hearings – both Hannah and Sarah would like to continue the way we have by holding two separate meetings. This would help distinguish the roles of the Planning Commission/Board of Appeals and Adjustments to limit confusion. Sarah said currently recording are for transcribing purposes only but that the office staff would like to purchase two new recorders and some flash drives, and the new practice would be to record all meetings and retain the minutes on flash drives to archive. Chair Nelson mentioned backing up the flash drives incase anything got erased would also be beneficial. Chair Nelson said the topic of variance appeals to the Town Board should be discussed at the next P&Z meeting. Carol said that the environmental criteria language in the ordinance should be changed to read “may” rather than “shall.” Carol questioned the need for a yearly ordinance review. Chair Nelson asked P&Z to discuss this further. CUPs are permanent unless they are non-compliant, however if the CUP holder can show how they can alleviate the problem, then they can still retain their permit. Also, the ordinance needs to be very clear as to when a CUP vs and IUP is used.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin was not in attendance at tonight’s meeting but did have a chance to complete the road check. Musolf Road had several wet spots. Most roads have been graded and are in good condition. The equipment is all set for winter.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah mentioned the north gym doors are going to need to be replaced as the doors don’t close well and there have been multiple times where the doors have been left open after rentals and the alarms get set off. Sarah said she did put up signs asking renters not to open the door unless there is an emergency.

GCC Men’s Room Urinal – The men’s middle urinal is acting up. Sarah was given permission to have RJ Mehrman take a look at it.

Election Training Update – St. Louis County is promoting new electronic poll pads/rosters. Sarah said it is not a requirement to use these yet, but it may be at some time. The poll pads cost approximately $1700/each. Hannah said she did further research for Duluth Township and beyond the cost there is also a yearly subscription which costs around $500/year for each tablet.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Rick said he has met with Jeremy Stolp and was provided copies of a subdivision application for his property that would separate the old house onto its own parcel. The paperwork was signed by Nathan prior to him leaving, however Rick found out from St. Louis County that the paperwork has never been filed with them. Rick said that according to the land survey he was provided with, the proposed Parcel C is only 4.33 acres which would be a substandard lot. The home on Parcel C was, according to a signed affidavit that was provided to the Township by Jeremy, supposed to be turned into a garage by July 1, 2023, however it has not, and our ordinance states there can only be one residence per parcel. St. Louis County indicated their tax status shows only one property located on the property rather than the two. Rick said he will be meeting with the County Land Accessor for Gnesen and will have more to report at the next meeting. Mike did some research on the Stewart Camp on Berg Road. Mike said he took some new pictures of the property. Sarah informed Mike that Dick DeLano had provided the office some pictures from 2010. Sarah will send Mike the pictures so he can compare them with the current pictures.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

Disbursement #16039 through #16073 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $57,978.34 with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor to pay the disbursements.

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No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, 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, Kathy Buran, Matt Thibodeau, Gunnar Johnson

Employees present: Beau Halverson, Bruce Smith, Carter Williams, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson

Employees absent: Darin Franckowiak

**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – November 20, 2023 - 7:00pm

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

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair