Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 8, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 8, 2024. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

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 with the addition of a board members planning and zoning report was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

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

Minutes from the December 21, 2023 Public Hearing for 4054 Normanna Road were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Chair Nelson.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for November 2023 $358,647.38

Receipts for December 2023 +$133,533.74

$492,181.12

Disbursements for December 2023 -$57,978.34

Balance for December 2023 $434,202.78

There were two outstanding checks for the month totaling $200.00. Motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Chair Nelson to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Normanna Road Update – Rick stated he has made in person contact with the person who is squatting on the property. Rick informed the person again that he has until January 10, 2024 to remove his stuff from the property. Rick said the squatter has been actively removing vehicles. Due to a recent complaint that came in from a neighbor about late night noise, the squatter was informed to do his work during daytime hours.

Hemlock Road Issue – Mike said he has made contact with Scott Thines and explained to him the ordinance and what he is in violation of. Scott was informed by Mike that he would continue to watch to see if progress is made with clean up efforts. If no progress is made then Mike will begin to implement the Township’s Nuisance Ordinance fine process. Sarah said she received a phone call today from a concerned Gnesen resident regarding concerns about this property which she shared with the Supervisors.

Cartway off Church Road – This has been tabled until the January 22, 2024 meeting when Supervisor Juten is in attendance.

GCC Floor Cleaner – The floor cleaner has been ordered.

GCC Men’s Urinal – This has been repaired.

DNR Grant – Chair Nelson gave an update from the December 19, 2023 planning meeting that happened with Jon, Ken, and Sarah. Chair Nelson mentioned that there was discussion about moving the playground to help reduce costs as then the old playground footings do not need to be removed and that area can be used as a picnic table area. Sarah mentioned that Matt Lindberg who created the disk golf course met with Ken and he thought the best way to deal with the #1 basket would be to keep it and rename it as a practice basket and then install a new #1 basket in a place away from the road. Sarah will research the price of a new basket and bring back to the January 22, 2024 meeting.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that the roads are all in fairly good condition. Beau asked if they could purchase a new strobe light for the plow truck. Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to spend up to $200.00 on a new strobe light, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said she drafted the 2024 membership letter. Sarah said in the past the letter was sent out as a separate mailing, costing the township around $1300.00. Sarah asked since it goes to the same residents who receive the newsletter, if the membership letter could just be combined with the newsletter which would reduce costs. Both Chair Nelson and Supervisor Poppenberg agreed that the membership letter could be combined with the monthly newsletter with a note explaining to residents that there will not be a separate mailing this year.

Resolution #24-01 Appointing Election Judges for 2024 – Chair Nelson made a motion to accept Resolution 24-01, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Resolution #24-02 Appointing Absentee Ballot Board for March Elections – Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to accept Resolution #24-02, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Resolution #24-03 Accepting Donations for 2023 – Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to accept Resolution #24-03, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Resolution #24-04 Adopting the 2024 Meeting Schedule – Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to accept Resolution #24-04, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

Schedule Board of Audit Meeting – This was scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Filing for Town Office – This began Monday, January 2, 2024 and will run through 5pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

**P&Z BOARD MEMBER REPORT**: Supervisor Poppenberg reported that the Planning Commission is requesting if there were ever any appeals regarding variances they would like the Town Board to handle them. There was discussion on who the hearing officer is for nuisance complaints as there is verbiage in the ordinance stating complaints will be heard by a hearing officer. This will be tabled until the next meeting, but it was mentioned that a list should be created with the names of people who could be possible hearing officers. CUP vs IUP’s – Sarah said this is a work in progress and Hannah is following a historical trail in an attempt to locate all the original CUP applications. Sarah will be reaching out to St. Louis County with several questions on Wednesday. Berg Road – Supervisor Poppenberg said the Commission would like to formulate a plan to deal with this property so that if that are any future developments there is a path to deal with them.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Rick said there is no update yet on the Jeremy Stolp building violation as he is still working on this issue. Rick said he will try contacting Jeremy and bring an update to the P&Z meeting on January 17, 2024.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

Disbursement #16074 through #16110 and 5 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $53,234.71 with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor to pay the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Chair Nelson. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jay and Marcia Haller, Carol Jacobson, Matt Thibodeau, Sherri Underthun, Pete Bergman, Kathy Buran

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

Employees absent: Gary Juten

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**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – January 17, 2024 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – January 22, 2024 – 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair