Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 12, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 12, 2024. 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 with the addition of a board members planning and zoning report was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the January 22, 2024 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for December 2023 $434,202.78

Receipts for January 2024 +$6,657.79

$440,860.57

Disbursements for January 2024 -$53,234.71

Balance for January 2024 $387,625.86

There were no outstanding checks for the month. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Normanna Road Update – Rick stated that many of the bigger items have already been removed and that he is working with St. Louis County to obtain a dumpster so that clean up can continue. Rick said there are a lot of tires and a lot of other junk remaining but that the landowners seem pleased with the progress that has been made so far.

Hemlock Road Issue – Mike said his last encounter with the landowner was not pleasant and there has not been any clean up noticed. Mike will now be working with Rick on this issue for safety reasons. Rick said he has contacted the MPCA, St. Louis County, and St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department to line up help dealing with this property.

Stewart Camp – Mike drafted a letter to the landowners to open a line of communication which will be sent out by certified mail tomorrow. Mike has spoken with several of the neighbors, and no one has any specific complaints however there are several ordinance violations that have been continual over several years that need to be resolved.

Hidden Falls Plat – Chair Nelson spoke with Becky from MN Power and she informed him that the plat is being held up with St. Louis County. As soon as they are done it will come back to Gnesen for final approval.

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Cartway off Church Road – St. Louis County is recommending this cartway be named a road as there are now 4 homes off the cartway and a 5th one in the works. There was discussion as to who names the road and it was decided to let St. Louis County deal with that, however the Supervisors agreed that they do not want it to be named Church Road. Supervisor Juten said according to the map that was sent out by St. Louis County it looked as though all the personal driveways that snaked through other residents lots were recorded easements.

GCC Floor Cleaner – The machine arrived and is working great.

Island Lake Drive – Delux crack sealing pricing is tabled until April.

Broadband Update – Chair Nelson said he received an email stating that the grant has been fully funded and will now move on to the next step which is CTC working to set up contractors and creating a timeline. Per the email we were informed that installation is planned to start once the ground permits. We are still waiting to hear if the area northwest of the Island Lake Inn will be funded as well.

DNR Grant – Chair Nelson shared what was discussed at the planning meeting that occurred last month with Ken, Sarah, Chair Nelson, and a representative of the playground company.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin said the roads are in decent shape, all are clear of snow and ice, some have minor potholes. The trees on Needle Lane have been removed.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said it was a busy rental month. After being contacted by a resident, Sarah said she has opened up the gym from 10 to noon on Wednesdays for homeschool open gym, leaving the rest of the day open for walkers. Sarah has a representative from Northern Trends coming on Wednesday to look at the flooring at the community center and provide a quote for new flooring.

Sportsmen’s Inn CUP – A recommendation was made by the Planning Commission to approve the CUP to operate as is with no conditions. Chair Nelson questioned if there are no conditions then could the business ever operate as something else? After some discussion it was decided to approve the CUP but to add one condition, which will be that the business will only ever get to operate as a bar/restaurant. There will not be a scheduled review rather it will be complaint based or if a violation is noted. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the CUP, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

ISD 709 Special Election – ISD 709 will be having a special election on May 14, 2024 to try to pass the levy question that failed in November. There was some discussion on the hours that the polls would be open in Gnesen and after some discussion it was decided to be open from 12 – 8pm. Sarah will make sure this is posted and put in the newsletter well in advance to inform residents of the reduced polling hours.

New Desk Chair for Hannah – Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to approve the expenditure for a new desk chair for Hannah, seconded by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Reorganization Meeting – This was scheduled for March 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Normanna Road and Hemlock Road were discussed

**CORRESPONDENCE**: Short Course 2024

Disbursement #16111 through #16144 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $23,768.89 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 8:17 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, Pete Bergman, Carter Williams, Al Werner, AJ Jensen, Stephanie Gray, Brian Gray

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

Employees absent: none

**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – February 21, 2024 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – February 26, 2024 – 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair