Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 22, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 22, 2024. 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 addition of DAT Meeting report was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the January 8, 2024, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

**DISCUSSION**: Sarah mentioned that P&Z would be holding a public hearing for Sportsmen’s Inn CUP on February 7, 2024 as that business is in the process of being sold and as a grandfathered in business that was the requirement if it ever sold. The recommendation from that public hearing would then be sent to the Town Board for final approval/denial at their February 12, 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Normanna Road Issue – Rick said he is working with the landowner and the squatter and so far, all the vehicles have been removed and both the camper trailers are scheduled to be removed. Rick said St. Louis County has a fund that can help with clean up and move things along quicker and so he is looking into that. Chair Nelson said he spoke with Gunner, the township attorney, and let him know that from here forward a supervisor will be assigned to situations like this and they can act as the person of contact so that Gunner isn’t contacting the township employees.

Hemlock Drive Issue – Mike has been continuing to have contact with the owner of 4108 Hemlock Drive. Although the owner seems aggregable to start cleaning up, Mike has not noticed any progress being made. Mike said he will continue to watch and start the fine process if no progress happens. Mike said there have been reports of the landowner digging large pits in his backyard, significant in depth and there have been complaints of him burning stuff in the pits which creates nauseous smells. Mike said he suggested to the landowner constructing a fence to at least hide the junk from his neighbors until clean up can happen.

Stewart Camp 4524 Berg Road – Mike provided the Supervisors with a list of violations regarding this parcel. These violations have been going on for several years. The Supervisors suggested drafting a letter listing out the violations and providing them with the ordinance and sending it certified mail to all of the landowners to spark conversation. Mike said there are two parcels and questioned if each parcel should be treated individually or as one since they are owned by the same people. Chair Nelson said they should be treated individually.

Cartway off Church Road – Matt Goodwin from St. Louis County GIS Addressing and Rick have been conversing back and forth regarding the cartway and if it needs to be turned into a road since there are several homes off the cartway. Matt Goodwin said if there were three homes located off the cartway then St. Louis County would require it to be named a road. Currently there are four and a fifth building permit was just turned into the office. With that being said, it is necessary now for the cartway to be named a road. Rick will follow up with Matt from St. Louis County. Matt Thibodeau from the Gnesen P&Z said they would like to create a cartway subcommittee. Currently Carter and Matt have volunteered to be on it, but they would also like a Supervisor to be on it. After some discussion it was decided to wait on the subcommittee and if Rick can work with landowners and Matt from St. Louis County then we would likely make more progress proceeding that way. Supervisor Juten said there looks to be a lot of driveways running across other residents’ parcels. Supervisor Juten said in the future if there is a neighbor dispute it could cause a lot of issues so he would rather stay in front of it and require easements to be created now. Supervisor Juten will follow up with some of the landowners and bring back to the next meeting.

GCC Floor Cleaner – This was ordered from Twin Ports Paper and Supply and we are still waiting for a demo.

DNR Grant Pricing for Disk Golf Basket – Sarah received a quote for another basked from Matt Lindberg which is $340.00 after shipping. Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to purchase the basket, second by Chair Nelson. All vote in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Hearing Officer for Nuisance Complaints – P&Z recommends putting an article in the newsletter letting people know the general description of what the position would require. Sarah and Hannah will work together on this and get an article in the March newsletter.

Hidden Falls Plat – Several members of the P&Z are asking the Town Board to reach out to MN Power for an update on the plat and why there seems to be a delay. Sarah will give Chair Nelson the contact information and he will reach out for an update.

Conservation Subdivision Subcommittee – Tabled until the next meeting so the Supervisor can do some research. Sarah will send all three Supervisors the verbiage from our comp plan regarding conservation subdivisions.

Old Town Hall Lease Renewal - Sarah reminded the supervisors that the lease will be coming up for renewal. If Linda chooses to renew, she will need to provide a written notice by March 1, 2024. Sarah provided the supervisors with a breakdown of utility costs so that if they would like to revisit lease verbiage regarding how much the township agreed to pay towards the monthly utilities they can.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:** Rick gave thesupervisors an update on the Jeremy Stolp issue that he also presented at the last P&Z meeting. Rick also mentioned that there is a question regarding shipping containers. Currently our ordinance does not allow shipping containers in residential or waterfront districts. Rick said there are a lot of shipping containers in Gnesen and suggested the ordinance gets looked at to allow them with some regulations such as requiring a building permit so that they meet the ordinance requirements.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Local Board of Appeals Meeting schedule from St. Louis County – Gnesen will be April 16, 2024

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm 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: Carol Jacobson, Sherri Underthun, AJ Jensen, Matt Thibodeau

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

Employees absent: None

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Board of Audit Meeting – February 12, 2024 – 6:00pm

Town Board Meeting – February 12, 2024 – 7:00pm

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

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

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Jon Nelson, Chair

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