Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

March 11, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, March 11, 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 discussion about potential copper mining in Gnesen was moved by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the February 26, 2024 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for January 2024 $387,625.86

Receipts for February 2024 +$22,069.00

$409,694.86

Disbursements for February 2024 -$23,768.89

Balance for February 2024 $385,925.97

There are four outstanding checks for the month totaling $962.05. 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 said progress continues to be made on cleanup with four trailer loads of stuff removed from the property just last week.

Hemlock Drive Issue – No clean up progress has been noted. Mike reported that he drafted an initial violation letter that will be sent to the landowner by certified mail this week.

Stewart Camp – Mike spoke with Jack Singler and Jack said a verbal agreement was made with the Stewarts at one point but said it looks as though several of the camping trailers on the property have since been updated which was not part of the agreement as the agreement was that once any of the trailers were removed, they could not be replaced. Mike is going to continue to work with Jack and create a written agreement that can be filed with the Township. Carter voiced concerns about letting the Stewarts get away with breaking the verbal agreement. Mike said it’s hard to come in with an iron fist when there was only a verbal agreement. Chair Nelson asked Mike to draft an agreement then present it to the planning commission to review.

Old Town Hall Lease Renewal – Linda Lenard requested to have her lease renewed for another year. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve continuation of the lease, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. Linda also asked about hanging a climbing rope from the ceiling. Beau will meet with Linda to access the ceiling prior to deciding if this will be allowed or not.

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GVFD Contract – Supervisor Poppenberg made a motion to renew the contract for 2024 with the removal of section #11 as suggested by GVFD Assistant Chief, Ted Raymond, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

School Board Elections – Sarah learned that the school board gets to dictate hours for running their special election in May and therefore the polls will be opened 7am to 8pm and not the reduced hours that had been discussed and agreed upon at a previous meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin said the roads are holding up well with a few needing some grading, but no big problems noted. Darin said Musolf has one watch spot that may need attention if we get rain.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said she was contacted by St. Louis County Sheriffs Department about making the community center an official emergency shelter in the event it is needed. Sarah was told that the American Red Cross and St. Louis County Health Department would provide all necessary equipment, supplies, and staffing and would also cover any expenses if accrued. Sarah got a quote to replace the flooring in the community room and throughout the hallway from Tony’s Flooring who was referred to her by Northern Trends. The quote includes removing all existing tiles and subfloor, leveling floors, installing new birch subfloor and vinyl plank flooring, and new mop boards for a total of $40,336.75. There is a small portion, approximately 6ft x 22ft, that would need to be abated which would cost $2000.00.

Potential Copper Mining – Chair Nelson provided information he received about potential copper mining that could occur in Gnesen Township just North of Boulder Lake. Chair Nelson will provide more updates as he gets information.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Mike had nothing more to add. Rick said there is a variance public hearing coming up. Chair Nelson questioned the cartway off Emerson Road and if Rick relayed to St. Louis County that they can name it when they make it a road, as to which Rick said he did.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

Classification of State Tax-Forfeited Land

Correspondence from Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative

Disbursement #16145 through #16170 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $15,895.58 with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor of paying the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. 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: Jay and Marcia Haller, Pete Bergman, Carter Williams, Al Werner, AJ Jensen, Ted Raymond, Carol Jacobson, Linda and Joe Lenard, Kathy Buran, Nathan and Stacy Spicer, Matt Thibodeau

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

Employees absent: Bruce Smith

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**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – March 20, 2024 - 7:00pm

Reorganization Meeting – March 25, 2024 – 6:00pm

Town Board Meeting – March 25, 2024 – 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair