Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

March 25, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, March 25, 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 P&Z meeting update was moved by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the March 11, 2024, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg.

**DISCUSSION**:

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Normanna Road Issue – Rick stated that the St. Louis County Deputy he has been working with is on vacation, so progress has slowed until he returns to work. Communication with the landowners remain positive.

Hemlock Drive Issue – Mike said a violation letter was sent certified to the homeowner but neither he nor the office has gotten a response. Mike said he continues to check progress. Chair Nelson said Gunnar Johnson suggested that the township follow the same process that was used for the Normanna Road Nuisance. Supervisor Poppenberg mentioned that the Planning Commission stated they were concerned with the abatement costs for this property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution #24-09 Reappointing P&Z Members – Supervisor Juten made a motion to reappoint Sherri Underthun, Matt Thibodeau, and Kevin Middleton to the Planning Commission, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

CTC Broadband for the GCC – Chair Nelson made a motion to approve switching to CTC for internet services for the GCC, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor. Sarah will contact CTC to get on the install list and sign up for the middle plan as instructed by the Supervisors. Sarah will also inquire about phone plans and provide information at the April 8, 2024 meeting.

2024 Awair Training – Awair training packets were handed out to all employees to read, sign, and return to the office by April 8, 2024. There was discussion about the different chemicals in the maintenance garage. Beau was asked to look into the cost of a metal storage cabinet and provide that information at the April 8, 2024 meeting.

DAT Meeting Update – Supervisor Juten, who attended the meeting, said Kevin Comnick was strongly urging Supervisors to attend this years Short Courses and pay attention as to what is happening right now with MAT and proposed changes to their voting process. Also discussed at the DAT Meeting was that earned sick and safe time must be paid out of the general fund, Board of Appeals and how some townships are moving to open book rather than holding the meeting themselves. Chair Nelson stated that he believes it is good for Gnesen to continue holding the Board of Appeals meetings as they have been successful with helping residents in the past and feel like residents are more likely to appeal locally rather than taking it to the St. Louis County board meeting. Supervisor Juten also mentioned the CWDG (Community Wildfire Defense Grant) that was discussed at the DAT meeting. Supervisor Juten said he thinks it is something the township should look into, and he will reach out for more information. Chair Nelson said he will speak with the GVFD and make them aware of the grant.

**P&Z BOARD MEMBER REPORT:** Supervisor Poppenberg said she was contacted by a resident who had concerns with an oil collection container at the end of David Humes driveway on Rice Lake Road. Supervisor Poppenberg said there is no collection pad under the collection tank in case a spill occurs. Rick will contact the MPCA to see what their requirements are. Supervisor Poppenberg said the P&Z Commission had questions at their last meeting regarding the potential mineral mining by Boulder Lake and were wondering if there was someone from the company who would be willing to come and speak at one of their meetings. Chair Nelson will contact both the DNR and the mining company for more information.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:** Mike said he spoke with Brenda Stewart and plans to meet with the family in May to discuss their property on Berg Road. To deal with this situation because there was only ever a verbal agreement made, Mike proposed drafting a document, taking inventory on what is on the property currently and grandfathering them in as is meaning what they currently have on their property can remain but not be replaced and that any new structures require a building permit. Mike will bring a draft of the letter to the April P&Z meeting and will contact Jack Singler and see if he could also attend the meeting as he was the zoning officer who made the verbal agreement with the Stewarts. The Board said some questions needing answers are as follows:

1. Why there are no building permits for structures?
2. Are there permits for septic holding tanks?
3. Have trailers/campers been replaced with newer models post verbal agreement?

Mike also reported that there was a citizen complaint made about a storage container on a parcel by Mirror Lake that is very close to the lake. Per our ordinance storage containers are not allowed on waterfront properties.

Rick reported that Peter Salyards withdrew his variance as after a lot of discussion at his public hearing it was decided that he would work within the rules and regulations of the ordinance and is now only required to get a building permit.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter from Representative Natalie Zeleznikar

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53pm 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, Matt Thibodeau

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

Employees absent: None

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Town Board Meeting – April 8, 2024 – 7:00pm

Board of Appeals – April 16, 2024 – 10:00am

P&Z Meeting – April 17, 2024 - 7:00pm

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

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

 Sarah Blix, Clerk Jon Nelson, Chair

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