Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

June 10, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, June 10, 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 was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for April 2024 $356,331.02

Receipts for May 2024 +$3,182.98

$359,514.00

Disbursements for May 2024 -$18,437.68

Balance for May 2024 $341,076.32

There were seven 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 said he will be working with the landowners to establish a date to which after that Corey will no longer be allowed on their property to assist with clean up or remove any items that may be his. Rick has set up a meeting with a demo contractor to get pricing to finalize the cleanup.

Hemlock Drive Issue – Mike said he has noticed some progress. Scott’s 30-day deadline is approaching; however he still has not made contact or paid his fine and Mike stated he has not gotten a response from any of his recent site visits or phone calls. There have still been complaints of various late-night noises including sawing metal, pounding, equipment running, and welding.

Transfer Pump for Township Truck– Tabled until the June 24, 2024 Town Board meeting.

Broken window at GCC – Sarah received a quote from St. Germain’s for $1500.00 to replace the broken window. Superior Glass’s quote was for $870.00 however Sarah reminded the Supervisors that they did not come on site so their quote may change. Chair Nelson made a motion to accept the quote from Superior Glass, however if it changes once they come on site to more than $1000.00 they asked to not move forward and to revisit, second by Superior Juten. All vote in favor.

Timeline for Parking Lot/Tennis Court Improvements – Supervisor Juten asked to table the timeline until the June 24, 2024 Town Board meeting. Sinnott resubmitted their quote which was reduced to $86,985.00 to reflect that they will not be completing the demo of the existing parking lot, rather it will be done by Cedar Drive Excavating. Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept the adjusted quote from

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Sinnott which is dated 6/3/24, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor. Supervisor Juten asked Sarah to check with Sinnott to make sure that their work included resetting the tennis net poles which was discussed and agreed to at the spring planning meeting.

Update from second Firewise meeting – Supervisor Poppenberg gave an update from the second Firewise meeting. Gloria, who organizes the program, is working on a mitigation plan for the township from all the information she received from the meeting. Sarah will add this to the June 24, 2024 Town Board meeting agenda to discuss at that time. Carter said the Andler Road association discussed and would like Gloria to do a demonstration on their road. He will reach out to Gloria to set that up.

Victory Fund Contact – Supervisor Juten did reach out to Toni at the City of Rice Lake and got a contact but has not reached out as of tonight.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – The curvy road sign on W. Pioneer Road has been replaced. Darin said the roads are wet and most seem to be in good to fair condition.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Beau reported that the GCC roof was leaking this spring right above his office space. Beau will get some quotes to fix the leak. Sarah had MATIT give a price to include the new playground on our insurance. Chair Nelson accepted the addition of the playground to the insurance for $277.00/month, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor. Sarah presented a quote from Nepsis Cleaning Solutions to clean the GCC. The quote was $1,014.22/month which would include cleaning twice per week. Sarah said she thinks if they came once per week to start that would be adequate. The company supplies all their own cleaning supplies, included a large list of cleaning that will get done weekly, and will also stock toilet paper, paper towel, etc. Sarah said that with Beau’s changing work schedule he would like to reduce his workload from cleaning and maintenance to just maintenance. Supervisor Juten questioned the length of the contract, whether it was month to month or for a year. Sarah will look into that and bring it back to the June 24, 2024 Town Board meeting. Sarah reported that she met with Mike Franckowiak to discuss the skating rink and flagpole lighting. Mike will provide Sarah with a quote for the June 24, 2024 Town Board meeting.

Town Law Review Training – Supervisor Poppenberg attended this training. Supervisor Poppenberg gave a summary of what was discussed at the training, specifically MN Statute 462.362 regarding civil suits which could be another way to deal with nuisance properties in the township. Supervisor Poppenberg said the training was very beneficial for her.

2024 Como Contract – Como offered a price for propane of $1.249/gallon for the 6-1-24 through 4-30-26 heating season. Supervisor Juten made a motion to accept the contract, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Posting Speed Limits on Pioneer Road – Dave Opack questioned if the township could post speed limit signs on Pioneer Road between Howard Gnesen and Arnold Roads. He said there have been complaints of vehicles traveling the road at high speeds and is concerned someone is going to get hurt. He said currently the road is not posted at all. There was discussion and questions about whether the township could post speed limits on their roads, liability, and enforcement. Chair Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase of two 30MPH signs pending approval form MAT, second by Supervisor Juten. Bruce Smith said he has noticed the same thing on the other portion of Pioneer Road between Howard Gnesen and Church Roads. He also said that kids on 4 wheelers is another problem and that cars like to speed through the curvy portions of the road. Sarah was asked to check with MAT to see if posting speed limits is something the township can do. Supervisor Juten asked if the township wants to install signs on both portions of Pioneer Road. Chair Nelson made a motion to amend his motion to purchase four 30MPH signs, two for the portion between Howard Gnesen and Arnold Road and two for the portion between Howard Gnesen and Church Road pending approval from MAT, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

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**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Mike said he is scheduled to do a walk about with the Stewart family on Berg Road June 15, 2024. Chair Nelson questioned if Mike could document what was there prior to 2008 and what has been added/replaced post 2008. Mike said he intends to do just that and that his goal is to get the property into compliance with the ordinance. Follow up at the June 24, 2024 meeting. Rick had nothing new to add.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

Disbursement #16235 through #16267 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $125,251.21 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor of paying the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, 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, Kathy Buran, Dave Opack, AJ and Kyle Jensen, Jill Scharold

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

Employees absent: None

**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – June 19, 2024 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – June 24, 2024 – 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair