

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

November 25, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, November 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. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the November 12, 2024, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

DISCUSSION: Carter questioned if there has been a response to the zoning questions that Sarah had sent to Sheriff Ramsay to which Sarah said she has not gotten a response yet. Supervisor Juten said he will reach out to Sheriff Ramsay and follow up. Bruce Smith reported that there have been a lot of trees down lately with the high winds and that he anticipates it to be an issue throughout the winter season. Bruce asked if the township could purchase another battery for the chainsaw so that they have a backup. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the expense, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Chair Nelson said he sent a summary to the new attorney and is awaiting a response.

DNR Grant Skating Rink Lighting/Flagpole Lighting – Supervisor Juten said Parsons came back with a verbal quote not to exceed \$4000.00 for the skating rink lighting. Chair Nelson made a motion to approve the verbal offer, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. Two voted in favor with one abstaining. The flagpole lighting will be done separately.

Trees Along Tennis Courts – These have been removed. Supervisor Juten also mentioned that the tennis court fencing has been closed up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pay Rate Adjustment for Sarah – Chair Nelson proposed to give Sarah a \$5.60/hr raise while she covers Hannah’s workload. Chair Nelson made a motion to make the pay rate increase effective November 1, 2024 until Hannah returns to work, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Question Regarding Tower Road – A resident who resides on Tower Road questioned who maintains their road as they would like to have the Township grader grade the road a couple times a year. Supervisor Juten stated the road is privately maintained and the township is not interested in grading any privately maintained roads.

P&Z BOARD MEMBER REPORT: Supervisor Poppenberg reported that the Hidden Falls Plat is done. The FEMA subcommittee is meeting this week to work on ordinance verbiage. Once the new verbiage has been created there will be a recommendation made to remove the current verbiage. Supervisor Poppenberg said this will be a stand alone ordinance and not part of ordinance #10. Carter mentioned the proposed verbiage has to be sent to the DNR for preliminary approval by January 8, 2025. It will also be sent to the Town Board to review at their January 13, 2025 meeting prior to them holding a public hearing. Supervisor Poppenberg said the tower company, Fullerton Co. questioned permits for upgrades that they would like to do to their tower up by Thompson Lake. Supervisor Poppenberg said the Planning Commission has requested a specific list of exactly what they are proposing. Mike said he had a discussion with Nora from Fullerton Co who told him they would not be able to provide a list until sometime in January. Marcia stated on October 15th they met at the federal courthouse with a judge, the tower company, AT&T, and T-Mobile. Marcia said the judge has 90 days to decide as to whether their case would go to court or not. She said that right after that meeting is when this request from the tower company came in and she is concerned with the timing. Marcia said her lawyer told them that the township can request a detailed list of what the tower company is planning, which is what the Planning Commission is doing. A resident attended the last Planning Commission meeting with complaints regarding the Ulland Oscar Pit and their hot mix plant. Carol said she has been working on the CUPs since the last planning meeting and has been successful in finding the original Oscar Pit CUP, the EAW, the original conditions, and supporting documentation. Carol gave a timeline for the pit which was also discussed at the last

Planning Commission meeting. Supervisor Juten asked if Carol saw anything that mentioned Ulland could change from a portable plant to a permanent one. Carol said the plant that is currently in the Oscar Pit is considered to be portable. Chair Nelson said after receiving some guidance from the attorney that is helping the township with this issue, he communicated with the concerned resident who had several requests of the township and informed him of the following:

- The meeting that is scheduled with the attorney on December 6th is not a public meeting as a quorum of board members will not be present.
- Townships are not subject to the Data Practices Act.

Chair Nelson said the next step is to have all the CUP information reviewed by the attorney and then bring his recommendation to the next Planning Commission meeting. Carter mentioned that his recommendation would be to get all documents recorded after the meeting with the attorney and then ask residents with concerns to be put on the agenda for the February Planning Commission meeting for further discussion. Sherri Underthun is inquiring about rezoning the 9 acres Rural Residential half of the township to 4.5 acres. This will be discussed further at the December Planning Commission meeting. A resident who attended tonight's meeting stated they would not like to see the RR Zoned area get rezoned as they purchased their land for the larger lot size and privacy. Chair Nelson stated this concern is exactly what needs to be considered when discussing a possible rezone. Supervisor Poppenberg also mentioned that Stewart Camp was discussed, and the Planning Commission feels that the Stewart family is making no efforts to come into compliance and would like to see the Town Board set a deadline date with a list of expectations. This will be further discussed at the December 9th Town Board meeting.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Rick said the PCA is not willing to help with the water issue at the Hemlock Drive property and that the investigator that was assigned to the issue has been told by his supervisors to back off. Rick was informed that if he wanted reports from the PCA, he would have to submit Freedom of Information Act paperwork. Chair Nelson questioned if a letter from the township would help with this issue and if so, what would Rick be wanting the township to ask. Rick said he would like to know why the initial investigation into the water issue was done so poorly and why they are unwilling to further look into the issue. Rick said before and of the supervisor’s step in he would like to see what the reports say. Mike had no new information to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jay and Marcia Haller, AJ Jensen, Carol Jacobson, Carter Williams, Pete Bergman, Carol Jacobson

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

Employees absent:

Upcoming Meetings:

Town Board Meeting – December 9, 2024 – 7:00pm - Tuesday

P&Z Meeting – December 18, 2024 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – December 23, 2024 – CANCELLED

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____