Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

December 9, 2024

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday December 9, 2024. The following officers were present:

Jon Nelson Chair

Gary Juten Supervisor

Nancy Poppenberg Supervisor

Sarah Blix Clerk

Mary Bjorklund Treasurer

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 additions of Sinnott payment and skating rink update under Old Business was moved by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten. All vote in favor.

The minutes of the November 25, 2024 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, second by Supervisor Juten.

Treasurer’s report:

Balance for November 2024 $224,909.15

Receipts for November 2024 +$7,083.83

$231,992.98

Disbursements for November 2024 -$32,731.44

Balance for December 2024 $199,261.54

There were two outstanding checks for the month. Motion by Supervisor Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg to accept the Treasurer’s report. All vote in favor.

**DISCUSSION**: Supervisor Poppenberg reported that the Q&A session with the attorney regarding the CUP’s was very beneficial.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Chair Nelson stated that he and Mike met with the attorney, Andrew, who will be assisting Gnesen with the abatement on Hemlock Drive. Chair Nelson said they discussed civil vs. criminal abatement, the pros and cons of each and what the township can expect from each. Chair Nelson said Andrew suggested proceeding with the criminal route for this issue. Mike said he would rather see the township use the civil route as he feels there has been a lot of time invested already, and the civil route would allow the township to have more control with likely a better outcome. Andrew said he would abate anything that is visible, not just junk vehicles. Supervisor Poppenberg questioned if there was any discussion about the water issue. Chair Nelson reported that Andrew said to continue treating it as two separate issues. Rick asked if they had discussed the amount of time that is allowed to complete the abatement to which Mike said they hadn’t. Supervisor Juten stated he would like to proceed with the civil route as it would allow the township more control. Supervisor Poppenberg agreed. Chair Nelson will reach out to Andrew and inform him of the township’s decision to proceed with the civil route. Chair Nelson will let Andrew know when the township would like the abatement to happen and ask him to create a timeline.

Using Drones for Zoning Issues – A representative from St. Louis County Sheriffs Department will be attending the January 13, 2025 town board meeting to discuss this further.

Stewart Camp – Mike said he sent Jon Otterbein from St. Louis County Septic another email in hopes to spark some conversation but has not heard back yet.

Sinnott Payment – The township held back 10% of the payment for the parking lot due to several low spots that needed to be addressed by Sinnott. Those spots have been looked at and at least one section was fixed.

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Supervisor Juten made a motion to pay Sinnott the remaining 10% minus the finance charge they added, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Skating Rink – The LED lights around the skating rink have been installed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported that the roads are snow covered but in good condition. Darin said he has not heard any complaints from St. Louis County regarding the tree limbs they requested to be trimmed prior to snowfall. Supervisor Juten mentioned that Bruce Smith quit and questioned the process for dealing with personnel issues. This was discussed and Supervisor Juten was given permission by the other two supervisors to proceed with dealing with this situation.

Gnesen Community Center Report – Sarah said she had nothing new to add other than open pickleball has really taken off. Sarah said with open pickleball, open homeschool gym, exercise classes, and open walking the gym has been busy with activity during the day.

Resolution 24-13 Accepting Donations for 2024 – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve Resolution 24-13, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Filing for Town Office – Filing begins December 31, 2024 and will run through 5pm Tuesday January 14, 2025.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**: Rick discussed the progress he is making with the water issue at Hemlock Drive. Rick also mentioned he was looking through a file on the Humes property and found a signed agreement from 2017 to bring Humes into compliance with the Gnesen Ordinance. Another documentation he found from the zoning office at that time mentioned that Humes was in compliance. Carter said he feels that in 2017 they were just dealing with unlicensed vehicles. Mike spoke more about Stewart Camp and how they need to come into compliance with both their septics and their buildings. Chair Nelson said that a timeline needs to be developed but to wait and see what happens with the septic first. Carter asked if the family should be informed what they are allowed to have on each parcel so they don’t make changes to each camper septic and then find out all the campers cannot remain. Supervisor Juten said he will reach out to Jon Otterbein again.

**CORRESPONDENCE**:

* Email from FEMA and FEMA insurance study and flood maps
* Letter from Mark Knutson, Poll Challenger, regarding how well Gnesen conducted the 2024 General Election

Disbursement #16436 through #16458 and 3 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of $32,731.44 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 8:04pm with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

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

Employees present: Darin Franckowiak, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson

Employees absent: Hannah Jurek, Beau Halvorson

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**Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – January 13, 2025 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – January 27, 2025 – 7:00pm

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

Sarah Blix, Clerk Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

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Jon Nelson, Chair