

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

January 27, 2025

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, January 27, 2025. 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 was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Juten. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the January 13, 2025, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, seconded by Supervisor Juten.

DISCUSSION: Sherri, who is part of the proposed cannabis ordinance subcommittee, asked for guidance from the Town Board regarding the cannabis ordinance. After some discussion Sherri was told to use the St. Louis County ordinance as a guide and the subcommittee can create something and then present it to the Planning Commission for discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – No update at this time.

Stewart Camp 4524 Berg Road – Mike spoke with members of the Stewart family to request them to attend the March Planning Commission meeting. The Stewart family asked if they could push back the meeting until May when they would be in town. Carter reminded Mike that the Planning Commission had specifically asked they attend the March meeting so that there could be a discussion and then they would have time to work on cleaning up their property prior to the August 31st deadline for clean up that was specified in their inventory letter. Chair Nelson asked Mike to let the family know that he did present their request for a later meeting but that the Planning Commission is still requesting them to attend the March meeting. Supervisor Juten questioned if Mike had contacted Tyler from St. Louis County again regarding the septic. Mike said he did not. Chair Nelson asked that Mike contact Tyler and let him know Gnesen's stance on the campers located on the Stewart property and whether they are classified as permanent or seasonal.

Response from MAT regarding dedicating an attorney at the Annual Meeting – According to MAT there is no rule stating that the Township needs to do this so it will be removed from the Annual Meeting agenda.

Clarification regarding P&Z Commission size – The supervisors questioned how board member attendance has been to which Carter said it has been better. Sherri stated she believes a 9-member board is a good number when attendance is good as it allows better discussion when there is a disagreement. After discussion, all three Supervisors agreed to continue as a 9-member board at this time. Chair Nelson said that the Commission could propose an ordinance change that would allow flexibility to the number of commission members by indicating it could be a 7 or 9 member board.

NEW BUSINESS:

GCC Flooring Quote – Per a request from the last town board meeting, Sarah provided the supervisors with the quote she got from Tony Flooring last year. After some discussion the Supervisors asked if Sarah could get an updated quote from Tonys Flooring and then also get a second quote.

P&Z BOARD SUPERVISORS REPORT: Nancy gave a brief summary of what was talked about at the last DAT meeting. Nancy also reported that the discussion on lowering the Rural Residential lot size was brought up again at the last Planning Commission meeting. Sherri explained that she has been contacted by several residents who are in favor of this change and is looking for a compromise to the 9-acre minimum so that people with smaller lot sizes have options to be able to build. Chair Nelson said he feels like lowering the lot sizes would be unfair to residents who bought properties for larger lot sizes and privacy and then that suddenly decreases. A

resident in attendance agreed and said larger lot sizes for preserving wildlife is another reason to leave it as is. Supervisor Poppenberg reminded everyone that a lot of residents bought lots based on lot size and privacy and there have been many people in the past who have been told they couldn't build on smaller lots. She also said that she believes decreasing the buildable lot size now would cause troubles. Mike asked when the 9-acre lot size for RR District was created to which nobody could answer. Sarah will look this up and also look up the boundary where the SR and RR Districts meet. Chair Nelson questioned the other two board members if decreasing the RR District lot size was a topic that should have more discussion and at this time it was unanimously decided that no it is not something they want to consider.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Mike had nothing more to add.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm 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: Carol Jacobson, Sherri Underthun, AJ Jensen, Jay and Marcia Haller, Pete Bergman, Carter Williams

Employees present: Darrin Franckowiak, Mike Polzin

Employees absent: Rick Hogenson

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Audit Meeting – February 10, 2025 – 6:00pm

Town Board Meeting – February 10, 2025 – 7:00pm

P&Z Meeting – February 19, 2025 - 7:00pm

Proposed Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing – February 24, 2025 – 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – February 24, 2025 – 7:00pm

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____