

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 24, 2025

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 24, 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 with the additions of Roads and Letter of Support for City of Rice Lake under New Business was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Minutes of the February 10, 2025 Board of Audit Meeting were approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, seconded by Chair Nelson. Two voted in favor with one abstaining due to not being present at the Board of Audit meeting.

Minutes of the February 10, 2025, Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Poppenberg, seconded by Supervisor Juten.

DISCUSSION: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Hemlock Drive Issue – Chair Nelson said he has been in communication with the townships attorney, Andrew on this issue. Andrew has explained that the St. Louis County Sheriffs Dept misplaced the letter that was supposed to be hand delivered to the property owner at 4108 Hemlock Drive last week informing them of the abatement actions. There will be a new letter being hand delivered; however, it may push back the timeline into April. Andrew is looking into this issue and will inform the township if the timeline will need to change a little. Mike said he feels like more garbage and vehicles have shown up on the property since last fall. Rick questioned if Chair Nelson could ask Andrew if a Administrative Search Warrant is good for more than just the day it is served to which Chair Nelson said he will do so.

GCC Flooring – Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve the Tony’s Flooring proposal for \$43,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Basketball Hoop Post at GCC – Supervisor Juten said he reached out to Tennis West, and they quoted \$2000.00 to install the basketball post in the tennis court. Supervisor Juten said for that price the township will just install the post ourselves.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of new Deputy Clerk, Sara Rowe – Sara introduced herself to everyone who attended tonight’s meeting.

Roads – Supervisor Juten said he gat a call from Scott Olson and was informed that more tree branch trimming needed to be done on township roads. Darin will be riding around tomorrow with a few members of the St. Louis County Road crew so that they can point out the problem areas.

Letters of Support for City of Rice Lake – Chair Nelson explained that the City of Rice Lake is seeking bonding in the amount of 8.5 million dollars to construct a new Public Safety Center. They are asking for neighboring townships to help them by sending letters of support. Supervisor Juten made a motion to approve sending a letter of support, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

P&Z BOARD SUPERVISORS REPORT:

- Regarding the cell tower upgrades – the Planning Commission would like the Town Board to contact the company requesting the upgrades and ask them if it is possible to reposition the antenna to direct away from neighboring homes. Mike will contact Nora from Fullerton Co. with the request.
- Stewart Camp – the Planning Commission would like the family to provide a full list of changes they intend to do prior to August 31, 2025 to come into compliance with the ordinance.
- Ulland’s Oscar Pit – several residents from the Sunshine Lake area attended the last P&Z meeting to discuss the Ulland hot mix plant. It is believed that Ulland is not in violation of their CUP conditions. The water testing that the township thought Ulland’s had to provide was in fact being provided and it was monitoring the water level not water quality.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT: Mike said he has been trying to reach the Stewart family, but they have not responded to his calls or emails. Supervisor Poppenberg suggested sending a certified letter so that way the family cannot say they were not informed of the township requests for them to attend the March 19, 2025 P&Z meeting. Mike will get a second letter drafted and send it certified mail. Rick said he has not heard from MPCA and asked if he could send a letter to our MN State Representatives informing them of this issue to which the Supervisors said yes. Rick said he recently had contact with David Humes regarding his property on both Normanna Road and Rice Lake Road.

CORRESPONDENCE: MAT Spring Short Courses

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43pm 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: AJ Jensen, Jay and Marcia Haller, Carter Williams
Employees present: Darrin Franckowiak, Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson, Sara Rowe
Employees absent:

Upcoming Meetings:

- Town Board Meeting – March 10, 2025 – 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting – March 11, 2025 – 8:30pm
- P&Z Meeting – March 19, 2025 - 7:00pm
- Reorganization Meeting – March 24, 2025 – 5:45pm
- Hemlock Drive Abatement Public Hearing – March 24, 2025 – 6:30pm
- Town Board Meeting – March 24, 2025 – 7:00pm

Signed: _____
Sarah Blix, Clerk

Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: _____