

## Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

June 9, 2025

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, June 9, 2025. 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 was moved by Chair Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

The minutes of the May 27, 2025 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg.

### Treasurer's report:

Balance for May 2025	\$120,094.39
Receipts for June 2025	+\$4,706.21
	\$124,800.60
Disbursements for June 2025	-\$26,715.57
Balance for June 2025	\$98,085.03

There were seven outstanding checks for the month. Motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg to accept the Treasurer's report. All vote in favor.

### **DISCUSSION:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Hemlock Drive Hearing – Several residents were in attendance for tonight's hearing. Chair Nelson started by giving some history on the property. Mike said there was an aerial view of the property attached to the hearing packet that clearly showed a large accumulation of junk. Mike said on County Land Explorer, he was able to go back as far as 2016 and although there is junk visible then, the amount has grown considerably. Mike also said there have been a lot of complaints from neighbors of after dark noise. Mike said he did visit the property prior to tonight's hearing and spoke with Scott. Scott was not in attendance at the hearing. Mike said seven vehicles have been removed from the property so far along with three dumpsters filled with junk. Residents questioned what the township believed "finished" will look like. Chair Nelson said the township can enforce up to five unlicensed vehicles remaining. Residents said there is so much more than just junk vehicles. Noise (specifically backhoe noise) starts at 9pm or later and continues way into the early morning hours and there is so much garbage everywhere. Chair Nelson said the township is addressing vehicles, garbage, noise and burning. Chair Nelson reminded everyone that the Sheriff's Department has told them to have residents call with complaints, so they become part of the public record. Mike asked if anyone knew how long Scott has resided at that property to which one resident responded with at least 30 years. Chair Nelson read the Order to Remediate Hazardous Property for the audience. Supervisor Juten made a motion to proceed with the order, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor.

Stewart Camp – There was discussion about the cease and desist letter that was hand delivered to Mike by Brenda Stewart at the last P&Z meeting. Chair Nelson said at this point the township will ignore the letter as we are not harassing the family, simply enforcing our ordinance. Mike said he has spoken with Loren Stewart since being handed the cease and desist letter and Loren let him know that one camper has been removed from the property and a second one will hopefully be removed later this summer. Mike also reported that he was told the septic bladders are going to be removed too and that Loren has been in contact with Mitch Johnson about designing a new septic. Loren told Mike that once the bladders are gone, they will be using the holding tanks in the campers and have them pumped regularly.

Needle Lane Turnaround – Supervisor Juten said he spoke with the new landowner, Jason Lambright about the township's turnaround and Jason said he has no issue with the township continuing to use the turnaround.

DNR Grant – A progress update was given. Projects that need to be completed are the following:

- Pathway to the front entry
- Basketball hoop installation
- Installing center divider net between tennis courts

Chair Nelson said he forgot to contact the Duluth Area Pickleball Association about pickleball nets but will reach out to see if they will help purchase some portable nets. Sarah purchased three handicap parking signs, they cost \$90 for all three, as they were required in order to make the handicapped parking spots legal.

Beaver Issue on Schultz Lake – Darin said there are several residents who have been doing a great job keeping the culvert on Turner Road cleaned out. Supervisor Juten suggested the township have Northern Welding construct two cages to fit over the culverts similar to the one on Lawnwood Road to remedy the problem.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Road Report – Darin reported most of the roads are in good condition. Mower is prepped and ready to start mowing ditches. Supervisor Juten questioned what residents do when a tree falls on township roads. Darin said most will either call Darin or the office and report it or else there are many residents who take it upon themselves to move it. Chair Nelson suggested putting a note in the newsletter letting residents know that they can either call Darin or the office in the event of a tree down on township roads. Supervisor Juten said they are planning on putting down gravel June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Darin will contact Maki Trucking and let them know so that we can be on their list for calcium chloride.

Gnesen Community Center Report – National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 5pm to 7pm. Sarah said plans are in the works. There will be dinner and a blood drive again this year.

P&Z Training – Tabled until June 23, 2025 Town Board Meeting.

**ZONING REPORT:** Mike had nothing new to report. Rick said there is still a question about short term rentals and how the rules relate to them when they are in shoreland commercial zones. Chair Nelson said he believed that from the public hearing all short-term rentals are treated the same and need to follow the STR Ordinance regardless of what they are zoned. Rick said Ulland's Oscar Pit hot mix plant citizen complaint will be discussed at the June 23, 2025 Town Board meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

Disbursement #16640 through #16665 and 4 EFTs were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$67,606.63 with a motion by Supervisor Juten, seconded by Supervisor Poppenberg. All vote in favor of paying the disbursements.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09pm with a motion by Superior Juten, second by Supervisor Poppenberg. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Carter Williams, Pete Bergman, Kathy Buran, Sherri Underthun, Jean Pekkala, Cara Weber, AJ Nvebel, Dawn Jensen, Brian Stelmaszewski, Stacy Spicer, Jay and Marcia Haller, Jill Scharold, AJ Jensen

Employees present: Mike Polzin, Rick Hogenson, Darin Franckowiak

Employees absent: Beau Halvorson, Sara Rowe

### **Upcoming meetings:**

P&Z Meeting – June 18, 2025 - 7:00pm

Town Board Meeting – June 23, 2025 – 7:00pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Blix, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bjorklund, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Nelson, Chair

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_