

Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

February 8, 2021. (This meeting was held during a peacetime state of emergency/declared pandemic and was conducted via zoom.) The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, February 8, 2021, via zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved.

Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Town Board Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Chair Nelson.

Treasurer's report was read. There were two outstanding checks for a total of \$354.88. There is a corrected balance from the December 2020 meeting minutes because we voided the Check #14983 which was issued in September 2020 to Audio Systems because they said they never received it. We re-issued a new check in January 2021. So total for January will be \$402,734.04. Motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water heater for GCC-Jody will get a seventy-five (75) gallon electric water heater this week from Home Depot and he will install it by next week.

Ceiling in the hallway-Jody has covered up the old sky light hole and put up new ceiling tiles and installed new lighting which really brightened up the hallway.

Reconvened Rezone Public Hearing-Chair Nelson updated Supervisor Franckowiak who was unable to attend the other rezone meetings. Chair Nelson stated that we were able to create a lot of confusion because we had two different start times for the first meeting 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. We used the wrong map because it has an incorrect marking for what was currently zoned highway commercial. And then we had confusion between whether it was a recommendation to go with a 900 foot zoned area on the west side of the highway or 600 feet. And then we noted that the current zoning that starts a little further North is already a 400 foot. So, when we reconvened tonight, we noted that on top of those questions, there is a new, and I know this property line question doesn't necessarily affect the zoning, but it may affect what the Planning Commission would do. So, we got a concern over the property line because when they moved Rice Lake Road slightly to the east, when they rebuilt it, the people on the East side, their property ended up on both sides of Rice Lake Road. So there is a person who owns property that goes right up to, literally it looks like it is right up to the building. So, there is that question that came up and since we only had two Board Members tonight, Chair Nelson thought it made sense for us just to pull back, resend this back to the Planning Commission with some questions. Because number 1, Chair Nelson wanted to give Supervisor Franckowiak a chance to weigh in and he wanted to talk about some questions that we could send back to Planning Commission and it is essentially, looking at testimony that has been sent in, now they have the benefit of looking at testimony we heard. A property owner, is listening in to tonight Board Meeting and has testified both in person and in writing. We have some other testimony in writing that we received and we also have the minutes from our first meeting where we received the testimonies. Chair Nelson stated that he would tell you the consensus among the neighbors is, there is a lot of concern over that particular area being rezoned, both in terms of noise, traffic and lights. But also with the wetlands that is there. Chair Nelson was hoping we could come up with some questions we would like the Planning Commission to look at and determine if they want to continue to move forward with their recommendation. After some discussion these are the questions:

- 1.) What is the recommended setback? 900 feet, 600 feet or 400 feet.

2.) Look at the property line question and see if that matters and makes a difference to the Planning Commission.

3.) Make sure you are looking at the data from the Comp Plan and make sure we have the current data and that we are looking at it right and seeing if that would impact the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

4.) Make sure Planning Commission is looking at the right maps.

5.) Take a look and share the feedback that we have gotten from the public, which summarized is-wetlands, and is it the best place for commercial.

So just look at those comments and have the Board revisit and make sure that we have in front of us a common understanding between the Planning Commission and the Town Board on what they are asking for and if they are making this recommendation. Nathan Horyza will bring these questions to the Planning Commission Meeting on the 17th and contact the current land owner to discuss the property line issue.

Light to shine on the flag pole-Sarah has not purchased it yet, but she did see Home Depot has one and she will purchase it locally and if it doesn't work the way we need it to, she will return it.

Security-There was discussion on the two different security cameras Sarah presented and Chair Nelson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Franckowiak to go with the eight camera system with Jody Cooke and Randy Blix installing it for up to \$2,500.00 for the cameras, cable and wages. All voted in favor.

Membership letter-We have received several membership applications back already and have \$2,085.00 in memberships and \$3,565.00 in donations so far.

Memorial Blood Drive-Clerk Haller contacted Michele and they would be open to schedule a blood drive any time and would probably use their bloodmobile unless it is a big group and then use the gym for registration and snacks. Clerk will contact them and get this set up.

Broadband-Chair Nelson stated that we did not get the grant money and he will write up an article for the newsletter explaining all of this.

DNR Grant for the skating rink-Supervisor Franckowiak and Chair Nelson will look into this.

West Pioneer Road-Chair Nelson will look over the grant application for funds made available through the Local Road Improvement Program that is funded by the Minnesota Legislature. We would have to contact our county road engineer for sponsorship. Supervisor Opack stated that we will get by another year by doing some patching if we don't get the grant application funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grader operator's road report-The report was in the Supervisor's packet. Tom stated on the report that the roads were plowed and open with some areas being compacted and icy and some were bare to partly bare. The county has done a great job. There were no water issues.

Gnesen Community Center Building Manager Report-Sarah reported she had nothing new to add.

Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting-April 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. All Supervisors stated that they could be there.

Resolution #21-01-Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to appoint the absentee ballot board presented.

Resolution #21-02- Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all in favor to appoint election judges presented for the March 9, 2021 Township election.

Township Election and Annual Meeting-March 9, 2021. Polls open 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for in-person voting. Annual Meeting will start at 8:30 p.m. via zoom.

Crime Report for January-The report is in the Supervisors packet. Supervisor Franckowiak suggested having the Sheriff's Department have a squad car sitting in our parking lot for a while when they are out in the area and he will talk to some of the Deputies, he knows, about this and Clerk Haller will email Sheriff Ross Litman to ask if they could do this.

Zoning Officers Report-Nathan has not heard anything back from Jay and Marcia Haller on the cell tower issue. The cell tower people were going to do another survey. A property owner's attorney is requesting that if they move the boathouse 100' back from the lake could they get approval, basically a variance, to rent it out for up to ten years. The Supervisors are recommending that the Planning Commission say no. Nathan will bring this recommendation to the Planning Commission Meeting. Comments from the Planning Commission were sent to Minnesota Power on issues that they see need to be addressed before setting the Public Hearing and when they are addressed, the Planning Commission will set up the public hearing. St Louis County has put up for auction, a lot on Island Lake that is non-conforming and Nathan found that it was platted without going to the township for approval in 2015 and he has asked them to take it off the auction and fix the lot size because, as it is now, that lot would require a variance to meet 100' setback, side yard setback and road setback. Supervisor Opack suggests that Nathan talk to our attorney.

Feedback from the Supervisors to the Planning Commission-Nothing tonight.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

Disbursement #15105 thru #15131 and 4 EFT's were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$50,475.10 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack all in favor to pay the disbursement. (We made payment Number 3 on the loan for the remodeling of the gym & kitchen.)

No further business, the zoom meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with a motion by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting via zoom: Diana Brainerd. Employees present via zoom were Jody Cooke, and Nathan Horyza. Employees absent Tom Haller.

Upcoming meetings: (These meetings will be conducted via Zoom)

Planning Commission-February 17, 2021-7:30 p.m.-Zoom

Board of Audit Meeting-February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (changed from the 7:00 p.m. time)-Zoom

Public Hearing on a Rezone Reconvened Meeting-February 22, 2021-7:00 p.m.-Zoom

Town Board Meeting-February, 22, 2021-8:00 p.m.-Zoom

Town Board Meeting-March 8, 2021-8:00 p.m.-Zoom

Town election-March 9, 2021 Polls open 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.-in person

Town Annual Meeting-March 9, 2021-8:30 p.m. Zoom