

## Regular Town Board Meeting Town of Gnesen

The bi-monthly meeting of the Town of Gnesen was held on Monday, August 9, 2021, in person. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Nelson. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Supervisor Franckowiak, second by Supervisor Opack. All voted in favor.

Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Town Board Meeting and July 26, 2021 cancelled Meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack.

Treasurer's report was read. There were no outstanding checks. Motion by Supervisor Opack, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, all voted in favor to accept the Treasurer's report.

Motion to suspend the agenda to hear from a resident in the audience. Mr. Dave Lynas introduced himself and stated to the Town Board they have done a wonderful job with the Community Center. He also stated that he would like to give back to the community.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Needle Lane-Supervisor Opack stated that he had met with another logger and that logger does not want the job either. So, Dave suggested that we just go in with our brush mower and do the best we can and then we will haul in gravel this month. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, and Board approved to approve spending up to \$12,000.00 for the total project. Supervisor Opack requested Jody Cooke go with Tom to spot the mowing because of the drought conditions in case a spark started a fire. Clerk will send an email to notify the residents she has an email address for when we will be applying the gravel.

American Towers about the cell tower by Jay and Marcia Haller's home-Chair Nelson stated that American Towers told our lawyer that they have done everything that they need to do and our lawyer feels we are not going to get any further with them. Corey Stewart spoke for Jay and Marcia and asked the Town Board to send a letter to our two Senators and to Pete Stauber's Office. Supervisor Opack asked what would be the liability to the Township. Chair Nelson stated that he will check with our lawyer, Nate LaCoursiere, to see if we can do this. If it is a non-issue with liability, Chair Nelson will write a letter.

Striping and crack sealing-The crack sealing on Island Lake Drive and West Pioneer Road is done. We did not find anyone to do the striping, so this will wait until next year.

Snowplowing-Clerk Haller put an ad in the newsletter with a deadline of August 23<sup>rd</sup> for companies to give us a quote on plowing the lanes, Berg Road and Needle Lane.

Gutters or insulation for Community Center-Supervisor Opack invited Stacey Harter, Architect, to the meeting and asked her for her suggestions as to what we should do about whether to go with gutters or insulation. Jody Cooke, will talk to Dave Joice, Carpentry Works to have him reiterate what his suggestions were. Jody will keep Stacey in the loop as to what Mr. Joice suggested.

Broadband-Supervisor Nelson gave an update on where the Broadband Grant is at. CTC has been reviewing the requirements of the NTIA Broadband Grant, which has a submittal deadline of August 17<sup>th</sup>. This grant requires a public-private partnership with the public entity serving as the official applicant. Northeast Service Cooperative has agreed to be our public partner. Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Supervisor Opack and Board approved to use our American Rescue Plan Act money for broadband. Chair Nelson will send in our Resolution.

Blacktop West Pioneer Road-Supervisor Franckowiak made a motion, second by Chair Nelson to hire Cedar Drive Excavating to remove 600 feet of blacktop on the end of our portion of West Pioneer Road, put in 2" minus in the dip and then Class 5 over that and to spend up to \$8,500.00 on the project.

Gate at the end of West Pioneer Road-Clerk sent an email to the MAT Lawyer and he advised the Board not to do that.

National Night Out-We had 114 adults and 48 children. We took in \$386.00 in donations. Sarah spent \$160.29 plus a \$100.00 gift certificate from Walmart on prizes, ice cream, and punch. The food from Island Lake Inn cost \$1,600.00. Beth Canete donated 300 egg rolls from her Nanay's Kitchen. Total cost for NNO is \$1,760.29 minus the \$386.00 donations = \$1,374.29. Special thanks to the Gnesen Volunteer Fire Department and St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Tony McTavish for their part in NNO. And an extra special thank you to Sarah Blix for all the work she did organizing, setting up, decorating and purchasing the prizes and running the games. A fun time was had by all.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Electrical issues in the kitchen-Deputy Clerk Blix will contact Johnson Wilson to see if they will come back out and see why we are having these issues in the new kitchen.

Hood over the stove-Sarah Blix mentioned that she had asked Summit Fire Protection to be trained on how to take care of the hood and they never did. So, she had Peyton, from Fire-X come out and he trained her and Jody on the proper maintenance of the hood. We never received a Class K fire extinguisher from Summit or Johnson Wilson when they installed the hood, so she will ask Johnson Wilson when she talks to them about the electrical issues in the kitchen for the fire extinguisher that we should have received when they installed it. The hood needs to be thoroughly cleaned after each use and have a stamp of approval. We will discuss this further at our August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Gnesen Community Center-Jody mentioned that the roof between the gym and the old school has some water pooling up in the corner and doing some damage. Jody will have someone come out and give us an estimate of what it will cost to repair it. We will check our insurance and see if we can collect on this. Jody stated that the cupola needs some repair. Sarah will contact Randy Larson to see what he suggests we do to repair it. Sarah stated that the parking lot getting paved is something that is eligible to apply for with the DNR Grant but that wouldn't be until 2022 when we could apply. Supervisor Opack suggested that we contact Asphalt of Duluth, KTM and Sinnott to come out and give us a quote to patch it for now. The Boy Scouts were sent a letter stating that they owe the township for one hour of cleaning. Chair Nelson made a motion, second by Supervisor Franckowiak, Board approved to have Sarah purchase two Dog Waste Stations for the Community Center.

Making the kitchen a commercial kitchen-The Board decided that we will not make it a commercial kitchen at this time.

Grader operator's road report-Tom Haller reported that the roads were mostly in very good condition, some wash boarding in spots. Tom stated that he will do some grading as rain permits. He was told he can now start mowing the township roads now that we have gotten some rain. Tom will be retiring at the end of October as the grader operator, so the Clerk will put an ad in the newsletter for a part-time grader operator, janitor and snow plowing.

Letter from the Minnesota Department of Health-The recent annual sample analysis from the Town Hall came back-No coliform bacteria detected and nitrate +nitrite nitrogen total less than .05mg/l.

Crime report-The crime reports from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office were reviewed for the months of June and July. There were 15 crime activity records printed for June and 12 for July.

St. Louis County Maintenance Program for 2022 for aggregate crushing, striping, crack sealing and chip/scrub sealing program-Was received. The Town Board decided to not participate in the program.

Old town hall-Supervisor Opack asked the Board what are the plans for the old town hall. There was some discussion on a few ideas and it was decided to get some public input on what the taxpayers would like, so it was tabled for now.

Zoning Officers Report-Nathan Horyza was at work and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

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

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Lakewood Town Crier

Duluth Township Newsletter  
Fredenberg Township Newsletter  
2021 Minnesota election Laws

Disbursement #15251 thru #15276 and 4 EFT's were read, approved, and signed for payment for a total of \$40,480.08 with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Opack, all in favor to pay the disbursement.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m. with a motion by Chair Nelson, second by Supervisor Franckowiak. No objections, meeting adjourned. (This meeting is taped for transcribing purposes only.)

Visitors attending the meeting: Jay and Marcia Haller, Corey Stewart, Janis Andler, Dave Nynas, Diana Brainard and Stacey Harter. Employees present Tom Haller and Jody Cooke. Employees absent Nathan Horyza.

Upcoming meetings: (These meetings will be conducted in person)

Planning Commission Meeting-August 18, 2021-7:30 p.m

DAT Picnic and Meeting-August 19, 2021

Town Board Meeting-August 23, 2021-8:00 p.m.

District 10 Meeting-August 26, 2021-information on a zoom link was in the Supervisors packet