

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 9th, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Treasurer Susie Braseth, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser. Supervisor Tony Hubbard absent.

A. **Call to Order** by Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **Minutes** from the March 26th, 2024, regular meeting; March 26th variance hearings, , and draft Annual meeting from March 12th were read. Motion to approve minutes (other than annual meeting) made by John, seconded by Steve. Annual meeting minutes will be approved by the public at next 2025 annual meeting. Carried 2-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Fall Flu Shot Date** – Claudia advised the tentative date for the flu shot clinic is Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Steve agreed that this clinic was a success last year. Claudia mentioned we have ample time to promote the flu shot clinic this year. It was noted that last year we had 17 participants.
- 2) **May 8th Day of Caring** – Ila Mae Lindstrom indicated that there is not much maintenance or clean up needed at the community center this year so suggesting no need for Lake Park Audubon students to come to the community center on Day of Caring. Ed Chenze noted Larry Boschee could use assistance with clean up at the recycling center located near the YMCA Camp. Susie indicated she will reach out to the person in charge of Day of Caring with LPA and let them know.

D) **Old Business**

- 1) **Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze was present and Claudia did connect with the printer who admitted they completely missed Jesse’s email (with newsletter attached) so it was never printed. She noted she will start on a spring addition that once approved by the Board, will be posted on the township website, but no longer mailed out. Printed copies of the newsletter will also be available at the community center.
- 2) **LPA Community Education Classes** – Claudia advised that the township has not received any recent communication from the LPA Community Ed program.

- 3) **April Calendar** – Claudia distributed the April community center calendar to board members.
- 4) **Window Replacements for the CLWD Office and Township Office** - John indicated he is looking into window replacement options.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Move Braseth Bay Road Recycling Site to Brush/Compost Site** – John noted some ground leveling will be needed before the Braseth Bay Road recycling site can be relocated to the brush/compost site.
- 2) **Brush/Compost Site Tree Planting Date and Opening Date** – John advised the trees will be planted as soon as they are received, around end of April. Ed Chenze advised the brush/compost site is open.
- 3) **Cameras** – John added all but one camera (needs a new solar panel) are working.
- 4) **Bags of Compost, Bag Handling Concerns, Gloves** – Ed Chenze expressed concern with emptying plastic bags left at the compost site. He reminded the Board what John was advised about fentanyl at the most recent noxious weed meeting. He estimates emptying 100-150 bags last year and does not want to encounter any fentanyl contact. The Board acknowledged this concern and agreed to have gloves for him and the recycling site employees as an additional safety measure.

F. Roads

- 1) **First Mailbox Post Request Received (Royal Oaks)** – Claudia received the first 2024 request for a mailbox post installation, which is in the new Royal Oaks development. The Royal Oaks resident spoke to the Postmaster, who is requiring the mailboxes for Royal Oaks to be installed on County Road 4. Claudia will tell them then to contact Becker County for installation of their mailbox post. John received two additional mailbox post installation requests on other roads in the township also.
- 2) **Road Inspection** – Claudia advised the annual road inspection should be scheduled soon; within the next week or two. Board will check schedules for an available date.

- 3) **Lawyer Inquiry – 115th Street** – Claudia relayed that township attorney, Sam Rufer, advised to report this single vehicle accident to MATIT (township insurance provider). Deb Provence will be handling this case for the township from MATIT and has asked for certain documentation such as a completed Gopher One locate from 8/30/23 and a tar crew employee's timecard confirming signs were installed 8/31/23. This accident, however, occurred on 9/1/23. Photographs of the area where accident took place were also provided to Deb for assistance in defending our township for this accident. The attorney who is representing the injured person, is claiming there was a missing "stop ahead" sign, whereas our documentation shows that all signs were installed the day before this accident happened. No police report has been provided yet by the attorney.
- 4) **Orange Snowplow** – John relayed that the orange snowplow (aka Garfield) is taking up space in the garage and questioning where to park "Garfield" for the summer. Ila mentioned it fit in the garage last year and John and crew will reorganize the garage to accommodate "Garfield" for the summer.
- 5) **LRIP Grant -We received it!** – Claudia advised we received the Minnesota DOT LRIP road grant of \$302,264.00 that she applied for. As specifically defined in the LRIP grant application, the township and Becker Cty Engineer had to identify a route of regional significance which was agreed East Lake Ida Lane could meet those specifications outlined in the grant application. These funds will be used for overlay improvements on the road. The amount of traffic this road endures, especially in the lake country summer months, is one of the requirements of the grant application.

Steve thanked Claudia for doing an "awesome job" with this grant process. Claudia noted there are 1,780 townships in Minnesota and only 17 townships were awarded a grant. Steve suggested when the road construction begins, we should take the tar from East Lake Ida Lane and reuse it on other roadways.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Board of Review and Equalization/Assessor Meeting** – This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2024. Township Assessor Lisa Marschall will be present at this meeting.

- 2) **Short Course Ideas** –At the short course training on April 1st, MAT trainers highlighted potential security concerns for townhalls. The Board decided to implement a community center rule that the building must be vacated by 9:00 p.m. unless the building has been reserved for an approved event. Additionally, John noted a two-minute public comment rule will also be enforced during meetings.
- 3) **CLWD Tree Giveaway** – Cormorant Lakes Watershed District employee, Colton, contacted Ila and Claudia about giving away free trees on April 25th, 2024, 9 am – 4 pm (or as long as there are trees) at the community center. If weather permits, CLWD will use the shelter to distribute the trees. Colton will email a flyer for posting.
- 4) **Miscellaneous** – Claudia read a thank you card from Ryan and Stacy Feldt expressing gratitude for the Easter party.

H. **Treasurer’s Report** - Susie presented her treasurer’s report for *March 2024*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$250,428.32
Receipts	+ \$ 44,246.70
Disbursements	- \$ 78,215.59
Ending	<u>\$ 216,459.43</u>
checking acct. balance	
Investment beginning balance	-0-
Investment purchased	-0-
Investment transferred/sold	-0-
Investment interest	<u>-0-</u>
Ending Investment value	<u>-0-</u>

The Treasurer’s Report was approved by Steve, seconded by John. Carried 2-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, and carried 2-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 30th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk and
Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk

