

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Treasurer Susie Braseth, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

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

B. **Minutes** from February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Planning/Audit and regular meetings, March 5<sup>th</sup> Birch Point special meeting, and March 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Canvass were read. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The 2025 Annual Meeting minutes were also provided but will be approved by the public at the next annual meeting in 2026. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Craig Holly, Scheels Donation-** Mr. Holly explained that annually Scheels employees are given the opportunity to nominate a worthy person/business for a donation thru the Scheels “Pay It Forward” program. He and his wife utilize the exercise room in the community center on a frequent basis and are so very grateful for being able to use it for free. Mr. Holly nominated Cormorant Township, which was granted an award \$500 thru the Scheels “Pay It Forward” program. These funds are to be used to maintain the exercise equipment which he noted is such an impressive asset to our community to have this space available without any fee to residents. The Board extended a huge thank you to Craig and Scheels for this gift!
- 2) **Lisa Marschall, Township Assessor** – Lisa Marschall provided a recap of 2024 assessments. She expressed concern with Becker County Assessor’s Office as last year’s property tax valuations were not calculated correctly from the prior assessor (who left). The State Of MN required adjustments to some property owner’s estimated market values were not done. She also has not received confirmation of the date of the Board of Review and she stated the property tax forms just sent to the printer last Wednesday. Claudia advised that the Board of Review is scheduled for April 22<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Because of the last county assessor’s errors, the township may have more people questioning their increases in market values and resulting taxes.

- 3) **Pickleball Memorial Bench** – Budd Mermon and other pickleball enthusiasts would like to donate a Trex bench as a memorial to Dave Spangler, who passed away playing pickleball at the Detroit Lakes pickleball court recently. Based upon Mr. Spangler’s love of the game, and his frequent use of the Cormorant township pickleball courts, these individuals have asked if their donated bench can be placed near the pickleball court. The township will not be paying for this bench but the pickleballers wanted approval to have a bench placed near the township courts. Board agreed to placement of this bench.

**D) Old Business**

- 1) **Parallel 46** – Claudia advised that Parallel 46 has decided against selling off-sale liquor from their establishment.
- 2) **Bathroom Fans Getting Worse** – Ila Mae Lindstrom explained the squeaking sound emulating from the fan in the women’s bathroom is getting worse. Steve recollected a \$2,100 estimate to fix the fan in October 2024, which seems high. John will ask for other estimates.
- 3) **Push Pedal Pull Quote** – Claudia advised the recent exercise equipment repairs are estimated at about \$2,000, including both treadmills needing significant repair. Ila noted that each treadmill has put on 1,000 miles since October 2024. Steve supports in keeping the equipment in good working order, as the exercise room is used so much. The Board approved the repairs, with a motion by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. Ila will contact Push Pedal Pull to order parts.
- 4) **New TV in Cormorant Room** – Claudia advised that the Cormorant Lions and Cormorant Lakes Watershed District will share cost to purchase a television to be wall mounted in northeast corner of the Cormorant Room.

**E. Recycling**

- 1) **Opening Date for Brush/Compost Site** – A few calls have been received when the brush/compost site will open in 2025. John indicated that no date can be set yet.

**F. Roads**

- 1) **Curt Smith, Cormorant Road** – Claudia received a call from Curt Smith, a resident on Cormorant Road. Mr. Smith issued a request to have rock added to Cormorant Road from Nash’s property to the end of this road as it has been washing out in past years

Mr. Smith showed Claudia photographs of the washout. Also, class 5 gravel could be added at the beginning of the road from YMCA Lane. John stated that once road restrictions are lifted, the rock and gravel will be applied to Cormorant Road.

- 2) **Swing Away Mailbox Post** – Claudia has received the first request of the year for a swing away mailbox installation on Toston Ericksen Road. John advised this will be installed once the ground thaws.

#### G. Other Business

- 1) **Kitchen Ceiling Repair** – Ila mentioned kitchen ceiling work needed, involving some sheet rock work and paint. Jim Wild, township employee, will complete this.
- 2) **Security System** – Claudia advised that training for the newly installed Arvig security system will be offered for township members who still need training, on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.
- 3) **Safety Meeting** –The annual safety meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Claudia will send out letters to those employees required to attend.
- 4) **Board of Review** – Reminder to all that the Board of Review meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
- 5) **Otis Elevation Update** – Claudia reported that she spoke with Todd, Otis Elevator representative, about the several emails requiring expensive updates and service on our elevator. Todd advised several of these emails are a mass mailing, and some do not apply to our elevator. One particular upgrade of \$2800 certainly does not apply to our elevator. He informed Claudia that he will check the township's service contract further and advise what, if any, updates are needed.
- 6) **Fire Contract Due** – Claudia will send the fire contract and funds to the Lake Park Fire Department this week.
- 7) **Short Course Mahnomen** – Annual short course training is in Mahnomen on Monday, March 31, 2025.

- 8) **LARL Donation Request** – Claudia received an email from LARL asking if the township could purchase four \$13 tickets to the Red River Valley Zoo as a donation for \$52 for the start of their summer reading program. Usually, local businesses will be asked for donations to this program also. The Board decided LARL is an important asset to the community and will consider donation at the reorganization meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> when all donations requests are reviewed.
- 9) **Reorganization Meeting** – Claudia asked if the reorganization meeting can be held with the next township meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and Board agreed to this.
- 10) **Double charge on election ad** - Claudia stated that the Detroit Lakes newspaper accidentally published our election notice four times. We should have been charged for only publishing twice for total cost was \$118. Claudia contacted the paper and they will waive the extra publishing fee.
- 11) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Claudia also mentioned receiving a flier from Corbins and L & M.

H. **Treasurer’s Report** - Susie presented her treasurer’s report for *February 2025*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$190,600.96
Receipts	+ \$ 4,593.07
Disbursements	<u>- \$ 28,024.95</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 173,094.62</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 John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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