

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 29<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 Cindy Wipperling, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

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

B. **Minutes** from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular meeting were read. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The presented claims/bills were signed.

C. **New Business**

1) **Jim Herman, Swanies Pub** – Mr. Herman is the new proprietor of Swanies Pub and will be operating a revised restaurant. He is requesting an updated on/off sale liquor license under the name of LaBella Restaurant LLC, dba Sauced at Swanies. Board reviewed application and Tony motioned to accept license, seconded by John, carried 3-0.

2) **Birch Point dispute – Dylan Ramstad Skoyles**, attorney for Dennis Olsen, began discussion in which he points out issues with the road vacation petition submitted by Craig Schroeder. Only one person, from the 9 property owners, signed the petition, and other signatures are within 3-mile radius from Birch Point. He also notes only the southern portion of the road is listed to vacate, which would cut off the remaining property owners from public access. Craig Schroeder clarified that actually 2 property owners of Birch Pt. signed the petition and he was under the impression the road would become an easement, such as North Beach Rd, Bishop Road, etc. and everyone would still have access. Board inserted that North Beach Rd is a township road, not vacated. John added that Craig needs to edit petition on what to vacate. Craig asked a question about who maintains the road if township does not vacate the road. Board advised the township never has maintained this road, but it is still a public road. Dylan added that residents that live on the road have maintained the road and this is the cause for the ongoing feud amongst the neighbors.

Discussion ensued on how snow removal is done, issues with others parking on road shoulder, and water run off issues mentioned by neighbor John Challey. It was suggested by John that a ditch should be dug, on both sides of the road, to improve water

flow, which Craig added historically rain and water run-off has always gone through his lot and his driveway. He is favorable to improving this from erosion.

Kyle Varberg, Becker Cty Zoning Administrator, addressed this dispute and begin by confirming that no one here would force Mr. Schroeder to tear down his garage. He highlighted that all involved need to come to an agreement without more potential complications such as vacating the road. Kyle asked Dylan if there are two primary issues to be addressed; the first is the water runoff issue and the second is the condition of the road. Dylan seemed to agree those are also his client's primary concerns. Kyle then turned to Ed Clem, Becker Soil & Water Conservation District manager, for his input. Ed acknowledged that he could familiarize himself with the situation and inspect the site. Regarding the road condition, Craig has an estimate of \$894 from Ryan Olson for improving the road with gravel, and he is willing to pay for this gravel. Kyle suggested Craig could attach gutters to his garage to which Craig indicated the intent to do so. Additionally, Kyle stated Jim Olson, Becker Cty. Highway Department could also provide insight on the road condition and the flow of water.

After continued conversation, all parties agreed to have Ed Clem and Jim Olson review the site for their suggestions. Dylan indicated he will coordinate this venture and Steve mentioned one of the township supervisors will meet at the site as well. Craig Schroeder requested to table the road vacation petition until the next meeting when recommendations to solve these issues can be reviewed.

- 3) **Becker County Planning Commission Public Hearing** – Claudia distributed copies, to the Board, regarding tomorrow's meeting at the Becker Cty. Courthouse to review requirements regulating cannabis, regulating retaining walls, and review conditional use permitting for alterations to public water source. Primary concern is regarding cannabis and how much regulation will fall into the township's authority. (We had previously passed a resolution #2025 - 1 to designate Becker County to regulate cannabis permitting).

**D. Old Business**

- 1) **SAIL Exercise Program** – Ila and Claudia have coordinated on dates available to hold this next exercise class which will start Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The schedule for this class will alternate from Monday/Wednesday one week to Tuesday/Thursday the following week with a few exceptions during the summer. Claudia has posted a separate calendar for just the SAIL dates set. Several inquiries have been made, so anticipating good attendance.
- 2) **Arvig - Add Recycling and Brush Sites** – John met with Arvig to check out these sites to see if it is feasible to add security camera coverage for these areas to our current system. John will advise once he receives their proposal.
- 3) **Kitchen Ceiling Repair** – This is in process.
- 4) **Bathroom Fans Getting Worse** - John awaiting other estimates.

**E. Recycling**

- 1) **Opening Date for Brush/Compost Site** – Site is officially open. Claudia has updated the website.
- 2) **Mobile HHW Day** – Board discussed which date would be best in August to have this event. The Board decided it will be scheduled for Friday afternoon, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**F. Roads**

- 1) **Cormorant Road** – John stated that once road restrictions are lifted rock and gravel will be applied to Cormorant Road.
- 2) **Swing Away Mailbox Posts** – Claudia has completed Gopher One locates on the two requests received.
- 3) **LRIP Grant E. Lake Ida Lane Road** - We have received a start date of May 12<sup>th</sup>. Staking is done and road construction signs have already been placed. Steve will contact Jim Olson, Becker Cty. Engineer, to advise on position of the lake outlet culvert.
- 4) **Crack Fill/Tar** – John noted crack tar has been received.
- 5) **Road inspection** – Board agreed to tentatively schedule this for Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **Amazon Township/Government Business card** - Claudia will work on this.
- 2) **Host MAT District 9 meeting**– Our township has been asked to host the District 9 meeting at our facility on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, which we have agreed to do. However, our regularly scheduled township meeting will need to be rescheduled. Board decided to have meeting on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Claudia will notify Becker County Zoning of the meeting date change.
- 3) **Mirror Request for Exercise room**- An exerciser requested a full-length mirror to be mounted on the wall in the exercise room. After discussion, Board not certain if necessary, how expensive, where to mount and if all exercisers would appreciate this. Board will consider further.
- 4) **LBAE (Local Board of Appeal & Equalization) Training** – All supervisors need to complete this training before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, with the MN Dept. of Revenue online for next year’s LBAE meeting.
- 5) **Minnkota Recycling Services** – Claudia advised this service is available for shredding old documents, will come directly to our site, on Thursdays when needed.
- 6) **APRA Report** – The 4<sup>th</sup> report was completed on April 19<sup>th</sup> by Claudia, before the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- 7) **CLWD Rent Donation** – The Board acknowledged and thanks the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District for the \$3,000 donation.
- 8) **Push Pedal Pull Exercise Room Repairs** – Ila reported repairs were started but need to come back with another part to finish the repairs.
- 9) **Day of Caring** – Ila advised we will not be needing any help this year, which was the same as last year. This also allows LPA students to help others that may have more needs than the township.

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

Beginning Balance	\$173,094.62
Receipts	+ \$ 51,726.26
Disbursements	- \$ 91,628.84
Ending checking acct. balance	<u>\$ 133,192.04</u>
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 Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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