

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Clerk Claudia Hanson, and Treasurer Susie Braseth.

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

B. **Minutes** from the May 9<sup>th</sup> variance and regular meetings were read. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

1) **Book Sales** – This topic was brought up after the Book Sale was just held on Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Board compared the proceeds from the sale versus the cost of setting up the sale, hauling and sorting the books and having the School Room occupied for several days (about 6 days). Considering the cost of paying employees and how much work, Board is questioning if this sale is prudent to continue. Steve will talk over with Kelli Atchison, who has done an excellent job organizing and setting up this event. Kelli has also advised that Carmen Huseby, who has helped Kelli for many years, is retiring from her position. Ila also had to spend time to haul books from a local church donating boxes of books. Steve will advise at next meeting if Book Sale should continue to be held for upcoming Cormorant Daze.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Flags** – At the last meeting, Dennis Mortenson presented a plan on behalf of the Patriot Flag Committee (Lions) to install five more flags in front of the community center. The Board agrees with the flags that have already been mounted in Cormorant Village as a great addition. Board reviewed where Dennis was suggesting to have these flags set up and it is in an area where the septic is buried, along with numerous electrical lines. John and Ila added that the existing flagpole has already been an issue with people backing into it, and in the winter, the poles would be in the way of snow removal. Also, there is a concern of more people, children, running into poles during high traffic events such as Cormorant Daze. Considering these concerns, the Board decided against having more flags mounted in front of the community center.

- 2) **Halliday/Giere Family Bench** - Claudia left a phone message with Si Giere as Ila, Penny and Claudia have narrowed down some good options for a memorial bench. We want to include Si and his family in the final decision for the bench.
- 3) **Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze would like to have another edition before July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board mentioned that cardboard has been a big issue in the recycling bins in which people are not flattening them, causing the bins to overflow. Jessie will add this issue to the newsletter to remind everyone to flatten boxes so more room is left in the bins. Ed mentioned he has found fish guts left as well, which is an annoyance to the employees maintaining the recycling sites.

#### E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Brush/Compost Land** –Steve Sorenson advised he has been in contact with Marlene Olson’s realtor who has mentioned there was other potential buyers for the land which our brush/compost site is located on. These other buyers have offered a higher price than originally discussed. As Steve expressed concern that this new price is too high for our taxpayers for 20 acres, the realtor countered with the option of the township only buying 10 acres at a total price of \$100,000. As the township has already invested in a new road and time to prepare an area for the site, plus signage, the Board agreed this may be a good solution. John added township residents could still use same approach then, but need to measure exact square footage and have the new 10 acres surveyed. Board agreed to further consider this option and after measuring square footage, to have realtor draft a Letter of Intent.
- 2) **Mobile HHW Day** – Claudia updated HHW Day is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Friday) and will pick up posters from Sandy Gunderson.

#### F. **Roads**

- 1) **Bids for Road Work** – Steve has been in contact with two asphalt providers and will meet with them on estimates for township road work.
- 2) **Trouble spots in roads** – John has been getting the road crew to temporarily patch troubling frost boils on 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Loon Lane, as well as a few other areas.

- 3) **Dust guard** – Claudia mentioned that Dust control should be ordered, and Board discussed with Dean Block, township road grader, affirming gravel roads which need to have dust control, are ready for application. John and Claudia will go over gravel road list to update if any changes.
- 4) **Swing-Away Mailbox Posts** – John mentioned there have been numerous requests for swing-away mailbox posts and the road crew has gotten the majority of them installed. Claudia updated a couple more requests have been received.
- 5) **Birch Road** – A call was received that the cul de sac on the end of this road is very soft (gravel) and a Dewey’s Septic truck and a garbage truck got stuck in the soft spots. John knew about this and will inspect to see if more gravel needed to fill in soft areas.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **June calendar** – Claudia disbursed the June calendar, which is very busy with lake association meetings and other events
- 2) **Updated payroll processes** – As this topic came up this winter, Tony is researching options for automating payroll, as our township has grown with many more employees and currently payroll has been done manually.
- 3) **Autopayments for utilities** – Claudia also reminded to continue working on having State Bank of Lake Park start doing automatic withdrawals for recurring utility billings.
- 4) **Lawn care** – Ila expressed a big thank you to the township employees who helped with reseeded the lawn and working on the yard.
- 3) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Claudia advised thank you cards were received from Lake Park Alert, (donation)and LPA Post prom committee (donation)and from Kaitlyn Kleven (scholarship).

**H. Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Tony, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 13th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk

