

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 13th, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Treasurer Susie Braseth, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser. Absent Clerk Claudia Hanson.

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

B. **Minutes** from the May 30th regular meeting 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) **Games Galore Quote Email** – An email was received from Tammy Odegaard regarding the pricing of Games Galore for Cormorant Daze. Penny provided Steve a copy of the email for his use as he will discuss this with Tammy. Susie mentioned that Games Galore typically requests a partial payment in the spring, but we have not received a request from them yet.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Halliday/Giere Family Bench** – Ila Mae Lindstrom updated the Board that she met with Si Giere and they came to a decision on the type of bench to be donated to the township. The bench will be located on the front porch of the School Room. Si donated \$1,500 and Patricia Hall donated \$50 towards the purchase of the bench and plaque. They also provided suggested language for the plaque in memory of Shirley Ann Halliday Giere. Ms. Halliday Giere was a long-standing member of the Cormorant Township community and attended Cormorant Country School. Mr. Giere advised if more money needs to be donated by the family for this project, they will provide the extra money.
- 2) **Book Sale – Continue?** – Ila mentioned Trisha Maloney contacted her recently to donate books that did not sell at her rummage sale. Ila advised Trish that we are not currently taking rummage sale donations but will get back to her if we will in the future. Discussion ensued regarding fact that a majority of our book donations stem from books that fail to sell at church or private rummage sales. The books take up a lot of room in the community center for storage and add extra work for Ila and others to organize. Steve will talk to Kelli Atchison, as for all the work that this sale entails, what the

final profit is, after paying for set up, sale, and tear down, the book sale may not be worth the tying up of the School Room for several days.

- 3) **Newsletter Ideas** – Jessie Chenze was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. No additional newsletter ideas were discussed. Ed Chenze advised meeting attendees to email any ideas to Jessie.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site Land Update** – John Buhaug presented two potential plans for the site. Plan number 1 was chosen as the best plan for the township. Steve indicated he will call Marlene Olson’s realtor and discuss the purchase of the land comprised in Plan number 1 for \$100,000.
- 2) **Mobile HHW Day** – The posters announcing the 2023 Mobile HHW Day are posted in the community center. It was noted that local lake associations appreciated the posting of the day for HHW prior to their lake association meetings.

Ila reminded people attending the Middle Cormorant Lake Association meeting to crush cardboard boxes before placing them in the recycling bins. John advised the cameras at the recycling sites are all operational. Susie received a call from Larry Boschee that two mattresses and an Army bed were left at a recycling site. Larry had to haul the items to Becker County recycling.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Roadwork Bid Update** - Steve advised that he has been in communication with a potential vendor, Anderson Brothers Construction Company out of Brainerd, Minnesota, and they submitted an estimate to complete township roadwork. Steve noted we have used Anderson in the past for road work. A second company was asked for an estimate however, he did not receive a response. Township roads determined to be in major need of various repair/overlay/tack/milling are as follows: Birch Road, 132nd Avenue, East Lake Ida Lane, Globstad Beach Road, Ideal Beach Road, Loon Lane, Maple Road, Rosman-Erickson Road, Sherbrooke Beach Road, and West Lake Ida Road. Steve highlighted that Birch Road will be a new paved road as this gravel road has been in existence for over 50 years with several year-round residences on this roadway.

No significant roadwork has been done in the past two to three years, and this is a large project. Susie noted, in June, the township receives a large sum of property tax proceeds therefore, the township can afford these necessary road repairs and/or upgrades. Steve added that no roadwork should be completed on Fridays since we have many weekend residents and travelers in the area. As the estimated amount of roadwork is so high, the Board will have Claudia advertise for bids when she returns next week.

- 2) **Patching in Trouble Spots** – John noted patching is holding up well.
- 3) **Dust Guard** – John noted Corbin will be applying dust guard to gravel roads tomorrow. He advised it should be completed by Thursday, June 15th. Birch Road was removed from dust guard list as it will be paved.
- 4) **Swing-Away Mailbox Posts** – John and Penny plan to meet tomorrow to complete two more Gopher One requests prior to the installation of the swing-away mailbox posts.
- 5) **Victory Lane Post Office Requirement** – John noted the Postmaster in Lake Park has advised mailboxes on Victory Lane need to be relocated to County Road 5. This requirement was issued by the Postmaster because the mailboxes on Victory Lane were not being shoveled out during the winter months to allow the mail carrier easier access to the mailboxes. Tony advised that if people have issues with mail delivery or requirements they should be communicating with their congressperson.
- 6) **Proposed Signage for Bishop Road** – Penny explained to the Board that a fire truck and other various emergency vehicles recently traveled down Birch Road in search of a reported fire on Bishop Road. The fireman advised he was following GPS which made it appear that he could access Bishop Road from Birch Road. John will order a sign to be posted on 132nd that will hopefully direct people to continue on 132nd to locate Bishop Road.

G. Other Business

- 1) **DOT Compliance Report** – The DOT Compliance Report is due in July. Claudia will complete this report as required.
- 2) **Payroll Automation** – Susie reported she is working on this project.

- 3) **Autopayments for Utilities** – Susie has set a few utilities up for monthly autopayments and is working on others. Lake Region Electric Coop autopayment will be initiated when the payment is sent in tomorrow as Susie filled out the paperwork at the meeting.
- 4) **Population Estimate from MN State Demographer** – If the township wishes to challenge the population estimate from the Minnesota State Demographic Center, that challenge is due on June 24, 2023. As of April 1, 2022, our population estimate was 1,424 and the household estimate was 615.
- 3) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Penny advised she posted a Becker County news release from the Becker County Sheriff’s Department regarding public input wanted as county updates hazard mitigation plan. Penny noted we received a solicitation from Detroit Lakes Pest Control for spider control and a thank you from Marc Pederson for the scholarship. Short discussion about possibly approaching the Lions Club to install a new ramp on the community center.

H. **Treasurer’s Report** Susie presented her treasurer’s report for *May 2023*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$596,086.90
Receipts	+ \$ 1,923.06
Disbursements	- \$ 41,639.53
Ending	<u>\$ 556,370.43</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>

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

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Penny G. Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk