

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser and Treasurer Susie Braseth. Supervisor Tony Hubbard was absent.

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

B. **Minutes** from the June 14<sup>th</sup> regular and variance meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Steve. Carried 2-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Vicki Bouschee, Nelson Lake Road** – She and her husband, Mark, own property on both sides of the road, and had questions regarding road right-of-way. They recently had rip rap delivered which was dropped off temporarily in the road right-of-way. They also have boat trailers in the right-of-way and John explained that if someone hits a trailer in right-of-way, the township is not liable. He added they should be moved out of the road right-of-way. Mr. and Mrs. Bouchee acknowledged the township would not be liable if trailer damage occurred while parked in road right-of-way. Mr. Bouchee asked if he could plant anything in the right-of-way which John advised nothing should be planted in the right-of-way. A discussion ensued about trees and bushes in township right-of-way and Steve explained nothing new should be planted in right-of-ways. The Township has right to trim existing trees and bushes in the right-of-way. The Bouschee’s asked about putting a snow fence in the right-of way. Board informed them that no snow fences are allowed in right-of-way. Board also explained to Bouschee’s that county road easement is 95’ which the township’s road right-of-way is a total of 66 feet. The Bouschee’s mentioned they have a real estate lawyer who disagrees with the right-of-way premise. The Bouschee’s expressed concern about the speed of vehicles traveling on Nelson Lake Road as children are present and requested a 20-mph speed limit sign. Steve indicated a sign can be considered and John added that he will look where to place sign. The Bouschee’s also asked if their road can be tarred, and Steve indicated that road is not under consideration for tarring at this time. Another neighbor, Nancy Bloom, stated there

are 12 stakes in front of her house and John again stated no stakes should be in the road right of way. Mr., Bouchee stated he would take out stakes.

- 2) **Paint New Picnic Tables** – Becky Sorenson has agreed to paint/label the new township picnic tables. Ila Mae Lindstrom reiterated this would alert the public as to who owns the picnic tables.
- 3) **Blinds/Shades for School Room Quote** – A quote from West Blind was received for the four windows facing west in the School Room. Claudia explained it will be 3-4 weeks after the order is placed for the installation to occur. Ila added that the new blinds will reduce the air conditioning in that room. Board approved monies to be allocated for the purchase of the blinds. Steve added that if it would be beneficial to have blinds on the east side of the room, those blinds should also be purchased.
- 4) **Pickleball Court** – Ila mentioned she was approached by pickleball players about painting the pickleball court with a “bubbled-up” paint that another township has used. The cost of this new paint would be approximately \$10,000. The Board discussed the fact that that our pickleball court has been sealed and should remain painted with white lines for now.

#### D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Jo Downs Newsletter Update** - Jo Downs emailed Claudia that she is retiring from her employment and also wishes to retire from being township newsletter editor. A new editor will need to be hired.
- 2) **Air Conditioners Update** – Ila updated Glen Smith has installed a new air conditioner in the kitchen.
- 3) **FEMA & Water in Basement Update** – Claudia stated Sheriff Todd Glander advised to collect bills for water cleanup in basement. We still need bill for the drainage work done outside of School Room. Ila Mae mentioned cleaning of carpet. Susie noted we should not wait for FEMA money to clean carpet to avoid mold growth. Decision made to have basement carpet cleaned.

#### E. **Recycling**

- 1) **New Signs Update** – The new compost/brush site signs have been received. John mentioned holes for the signs will be drilled tomorrow and new signs will be installed this week. Cameras will be up and operational at the compost/brush site also.
- 2) **Compost/Brush Site Lease Agreement Update** – The draft lease agreement was presented to the Board via email from Attorney Sam Rufer. Steve and John reviewed the agreement. One amendment was made to the draft to reflect the start date of the agreement as June 1, 2022. This is a 25-year lease agreement and payment terms will remain the same for the duration of the lease. Discussion ensued about charging non-township patrons (not residents in the township) for use of our township's brush/compost site. However, it would be difficult if not impossible to enforce as the site is not staffed.

#### F. Roads

- 1) **Dustguard Update** – Claudia spoke to Darrell Corbin, and they have been exceptionally busy. They hope to dustguard in our township by July 4, but it is unlikely. Dean Block was present, and he stated gravel roads slated for dustguard are ready for application.
- 2) **Signs by West Lake Ida Lane/E. Lake Ida Lane** - A sign has been ordered for the dip located on East Lake Ida Lane. Another sign that was blown down, on West Lake Ida Lane, needs to be re-installed.
- 3) **Patching/Tar Work Hole on 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave** – John indicated he would make sure the tar crew knows about this location as it may require a cold patch.
- 4) **Mowing of Ditches** – Lloyd Ness has been actively mowing the ditches and it looks very good. Claudia mentioned there is leafy spurge growing in ditch on Oak Ridge Rd. and she will check Thunderbolt Ranch Rd. if any recurrence in those ditches.

#### G. Other Business

- 1) **July and August Calendars** – Claudia distributed copy of the July calendar to Board members. Claudia mentioned there is a new person working at GovOffice (the township website service) so there has been a delay in getting some things uploaded onto the website.

- 2) **Arvig Discount** - Susie received a call from someone with Arvig regarding a discount for the township. Claudia mentioned the township has to reapply for the discount and she is working through this process.
- 3) **State Primary August 9<sup>th</sup> - Township Meeting August 10<sup>th</sup>** – Due to the State Primary Election being held on August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Township meeting will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Election judge training is underway, and Claudia mentioned statistics reviewed at Becker County election training. State of MN has second highest voter turnout and also noted for excellence in Election result accuracy.
- 4) **Miscellaneous Mail** – No other pertinent mail received.

H. **Treasurer’s Report**- Susie presented her treasurer’s report for May 2022. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data are available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$595,715.28
Receipts	+ \$1894.70
Disbursements	- \$24,693.22
Ending	<u>\$ 572,916.76</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 Steve. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Steve, and carried 2-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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