

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, July 11th, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairperson 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 Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **Minutes** from the June 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) **CLWD Water Drainage Information** – Representatives from CLWD unable to attend meeting. This issue will be discussed at a later date.
- 2) **Ramp – Needs to be Repaired** – John will approach the Cormorant Lions and inquire if they would be willing and able to repair the current ramp or build a new ramp at the township. John mentioned cement will need to be poured under the new/repared ramp as there is gravel under the current ramp. Ila discussed water leaking into that corner of the building and she catches many mice in the school closet.
- 3) **Walking Bridge** – John said he talked to Lloyd Ness and Joe Crabtree about the issues with the walking bridge. John stated it will have to be jacked up in the middle, pulled north, and brace it with X braces in order to keep it upward. Steve mentioned that it is such a beautiful site in Cormorant and it gets utilized by many. Steve noted repairs to the bridge, at a minimum the bracing, should be completed by Cormorant Daze.
- 4) **Cormorant Daze – Game Galore Contract** – Susie sent in the contract with the downpayment to Games Galore as per approved by the Board. Steve added that 10 foldable picnic tables have been purchased by the Cormorant Daze Committee. Steve informed the Committee that the township would be able to store the picnic tables.
- 5) **Revisit Wedding Reception Rental Policy** – Steve asked what board members recall about having wedding ceremonies and receptions at the community center. Susie indicated she thought anything relating to weddings was not allowed. Steve advised that he recently allowed a neighbor to have their small wedding reception at the community

center. The Board confirmed that no wedding ceremonies or wedding receptions are allowed at the community center.

- 6) **Board Member Rental Privileges** – Steve indicated he was under the impression that board members were able to utilize the community center for free. He inquired of other board members their thoughts on the subject. Susie indicated that every time she has used the community center, she has paid the rental fee. Tony stated that he thinks board members should have to pay the same rental fee as everyone else. Final decision was made that all persons renting the community center pay the same fee regardless of their position on the township board or in the community.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Line Dancing Classes** – Line dancing classes are scheduled to begin tomorrow, Wednesday, July 12, 2023, from 7-8 pm at the community center. These classes will be recurring every Wednesday until September 27.
- 2) **Halliday Bench** – Ila reported the memorial Halliday bench has been received by the township and will be put together soon. She will take photos of the bench and send them to Si Giere. Ila mentioned we are still awaiting receipt of the plaque.
- 3) **Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze was present and indicated the newsletter is presently in with the printers.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site Land Update** – Steve reported that he met with Meadowland Surveying and they will be surveying the brush/compost site land for the township. Steve received a copy of the old deed. It was noted that beans have already been planted in a field adjacent to the land being surveyed. Tony made a motion to accept the surveying of this land and John seconded. Carried 3-0.
- 2) **Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge** - Rick Julian, Cormorant Sportsman's Cub, contacted the township about this program and asked if we would consider joining. This is to collect and recycle plastic film, bags, etc., and once a certain amount of plastic has been collected, Trex will construct a recycled bench, made of plastic, and given to the township. Board discussed and agreed this is a good program to get involved in.

F. Roads

- 1) **Ideal Beach Road – Watershed** – John indicated that Mr. Heitkamp and Mr. Garberg have been putting dirt in the ditch between their homes on Upper Cormorant Lake. This dirt is diverting rainwater in a manner that is not conducive to zoning requirements. John and Steve will be consulting with Becker County Planning and Zoning and the CLWD regarding this issue. A letter will be drafted to address this issue, reviewed by township board supervisors, CLWD and Becker County Planning and Zoning and then delivered to Mr. Heitkamp and Mr. Garberg. John surmised that the best course of action would be for Mr. Heitkamp and Mr. Garberg to put in a culvert that would attach to the current township culvert and end at the berm closest to the lake.
- 2) **Ideal Beach Road – Tar?** – John indicated he has received inquiries from Dave Johnson and another neighbor about tarring Ideal Beach Road. Steve noted the township will review that road again next year, but emphasized it is such a narrow road. Board discussed that roads need to be up to certain specifications in order to be tarred.
- 3) **Road Work – Open Bids** – Penny reported that only one bid was received pursuant to the Advertisement for Bids posted by Clerk Claudia Hanson on June 27, 2023. Penny opened the sealed envelope and reported the bid was received from Anderson Brothers Construction Company located in Brainerd, Minnesota. The bid for roadwork issued by Anderson was \$375,967.03. Steve noted he reached out to three additional companies and did not receive any responses. This sealed proposal process was initiated in accordance with Minnesota Statute 365.37 subdivision 3. Steve noted that Anderson will be starting township roadwork in July. John noted that Dean Block applied dust guard to the condominiums on Nelson Lake. Dean will submit his hours to John for payment from the condominium residents. John and Ed Chenze inquired if Anderson would allow the township road crew to take asphalt from their trucks to apply to curves that are breaking up along the township roadways. Ed noted that asphalt would have a longer lasting effect than their current use of crack fill. Steve indicated he would ask Anderson about the possibility of this.
- 4) **Bishop Road Sign** – John is still waiting for a sign to be posted on 132nd to direct people to continue on 132nd to locate Bishop Road more easily.

- 5) **One New Mailbox Post Request – Redman Beach Road** – No additional mailbox post requests have been received.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Summit Fire Protection** – Ila explained that the jump drive she and the Becker County Sheriff were initially attempting to use to download footage from our cameras/DVR were too big. They were able to utilize a smaller one (8-16g). Ila mentioned the possibility of upgrading our hard drive. She noted that Summit Fire Protection indicated our community center cameras are in good working order.
- 2) **DOT Compliance Report** – Penny and Steve noted the pin that Claudia was awaiting (in order to complete the required compliance report) has been received. Penny advised Claudia will complete the report when she returns.
- 3) **Payroll Automation** – Tony confirmed that CTAS appears to be the best option to complete automated payroll. Penny reported the Lake Region Electric Cooperative will automatically begin withdrawals as of July 25, 2023.
- 4) **Books** – Steve reported he spoke with Kelli Atchison and she was fine with the fact that there will no longer be book sales on opening fishing or Cormorant Daze. Ila confirmed that no more books have been donated to the township since she posted a sign announcing that they are no longer going to be accepted. Discussion about potentially setting out all the books in storage at Cormorant Daze and allowing the community to just grab what books they want for free or going through the books and donating them to Story Time or other school programs. Ila confirmed that LARL is unable to accept these donated books into their library system.
- 5) **D.L. Forest School help** - John mentioned that the Detroit Lakes Forest School has offered to help at Cormorant Daze. Ila suggested they help with garbage clean up and cleaning tables after the event has concluded. Steve will mention their willingness to assist the Cormorant Daze Committee.
- 6) **Blood Drive** - Penny also advised Board that Vitalant sent a letter thanking the community for donating 40 units of blood during their blood drive on June 3. They noted 35 individuals volunteered to donate blood, of which 27 individuals were able to

successfully donate. They were especially grateful to Carmen Lynnes, who coordinated the drive, and the Cormorant Lions for sponsoring it.

- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – A thank you card was received from Cormorant Area Art Club for the use of the community center for their art show. A second thank you was received from Sam Bestge for his scholarship. An invitation to the grand opening of the Becker County Museum which occurred on July 7, 2023, was also received.

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

Beginning Balance	\$556,370.43
Receipts	+ \$265,940.91
Disbursements	- \$ 69,610.95
Ending	<u>\$ 752,700.39</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>

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report made by Tony and seconded by John. Carried 3-0.

I. Adjournment - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk