

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 31st, 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, Treasurer Susie Braseth and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

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

B. **Minutes** from the December 20th regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

1) **Nancy Bloom, Nelson Lake Road** – Mr. and Mrs. Bloom present at the meeting. Nancy Bloom requested permission for her husband to mow the east side of Nelson Lake Road near property owned by Mark Bouchee. Discussion ensued regarding township right-of-way and easement. Township right-of-way is thirty-three feet from the center of township roadway on either side of the road. Board members reviewed maps of parcels of land owned by the Bloom's and the Bouchee's. Blooms' added they would like to mow this area as the Bouchee's don't maintain it very well. Nancy Bloom indicated they spoke with an attorney and the attorney advised to obtain permission from the township to mow the right-of-way. Steve reiterated that township cannot give specific permission to a certain someone to mow it, that all township road right of ways, or easement, is for township's use, public essentially, and no one can use it to build on, etc. and that the township will maintain road right-of-ways. Tim Erickson (former supervisor) was present, confirmed "Use of township road surface" and agreed with Steve.

2) **Mona Kuehl, Toenail Clinic** - Ms. Kuehl was introduced herself as a retired Registered Nurse for 45 years and she believes there is a need for elderly footcare such as nail clipping, soaking, cleaning and moisturizing of feet, especially for those who have difficulty doing such tasks. She passed out information about her proposed footcare clinics and would provide each client with a half-hour time slot. She confirmed her service would not be a substitute for podiatry. She added she would complete a medical card for each client along with an emergency contact. Sanitary precautions would be taken such as a new plastic bag for each client's foot and proper disposal of bag after

each use. To cover some expenses associated with this care, she suggested a \$15 donation, and if individuals cannot afford that amount, they can donate what they are able. She would like to promote this service via word of mouth and signs posted at the community center. Possible dates were discussed and the first Wednesday of every month works with the community center schedule for use of the School Room and Ms. Kuehl would start the first Wednesday of March. Her contact number will be listed on her flyer and the clinic will be run by appointments only. The Board determined that no charge will be collected by the township for her use of the School Room.

- 3) **CLWD (Cormorant Lakes Watershed District)** - Jeff Moritz, along with Lyle Hanson and Ellis Peterson, expressed their appreciation of the office space in the community center. He brought up the office water leak from last summer and would like to have an engineer locate where leak originated from. Ila believes the water is coming in by the west wall. John suggested digging out a gutter in the tar by parking area and outside wall. Jeff added CLWD would share the expenses associated with the repairs to fix leak.

Jeff added the old Swannie's resort area, now under new ownership, is planning to add a large dock in Bullfrog Bay, so patrons can boat up through the Bay to the business's dock. They are coordinating the permitting with the DNR. Ellis Peterson indicated they can only dig so low in the channel between the Bay and Big Cormorant Lake to keep boat traffic moving, which Steve agreed, if there is a very dry year with low lake levels, then docking systems will be landlocked. CLWD members are all happy to help Township in any water/lake issues.

D) Old Business

- 1) **Elevator Compliance** – Claudia advised proposal from Otis Elevator was received on cost of State compliance items. The total costs for repairs is \$3,800 and a \$1,900 deposit needs to be issued to Otis Elevator before repairs can begin. Board discussed that compliance is a necessity, and that we have no choice but to pay fee. John motioned to pay compliance items, seconded by Tony, carried 3-0. Penny will initiate the contract with Otis Elevator and will inform the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry of our compliance status.

- 2) **February Calendar** – Claudia distributed the February calendar to the Board. Steve reviewed it and acknowledged the community center is busy every day.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Brush/Compost Update** – Ed stated he burned the brush piles. Discussion ensued that our township recycling centers are the third busiest in the area.

F. Roads

- 1) **Snowplows** – John updated all going well with snowplowing apart from hitting a few mailboxes; some of which were not breakaway mailboxes. New insurance cards have been placed in the snowplows. John added a tow rope is needed as it broke very easily recently, possibly flawed.
- 2) **Snow Fences** - Tim Erickson noted the rows of unharvested corn worked well as a snow fence for the nearby township road and ditch. He is contemplating installation of a permanent snow fence and could lease the land to the township. Steve thanked Tim for not harvesting all of his corn, acting as a natural snow fence, and offered compensation his unharvested corn. Tim suggested a fee of \$1,500, based on current prices and amount of crops left on the field. John motioned approval of the \$1,500 payment to Mr. Erickson, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Board of Appeal & Equalization Hearing** – This hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
- 2) **Appointment of Election Judges** – The township election is scheduled for March 14, 2023. Tony motioned to appoint Claudia Hanson, Ila Mae Lindstrom, Penny Wickenheiser, and Laurie Wanke as election judges, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.
- 3) **Planning and Audit Meeting** – Claudia noted the Planning and Audit Meeting will take place on February 28, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. This meeting will occur just prior to the township's regular meeting.
- 4) **Deputy Clerk Training** - Penny will be attending Deputy Clerk Training in St. Michael on February 9, 2023.

- 5) **Short Course Training** - Short Course training is available on April 3, 2023, at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. Steve, John, Tony, Claudia, Susie, and Penny will attend this training. No pre-registration is required to attend.
- 6) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Claudia received an email from MAT that there is someone distributing emails that are impersonating MAT. MAT advised to disregard these false emails.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Information** – Claudia posted the annual meeting/election notice, and this will also be published in the DL newspaper. The annual meeting minutes are completed, and she has sent reminders to liquor license holders in the township to bring license renewal requests at the next township meeting on February 28, 2023. Claudia mentioned two people informed her of address changes and forwarded those changes to Jessie for newsletter distribution purposes. Steve concluded by indicating how happy we are to have Susie at the meeting, after her recent hospitalization.

H. **Treasurer's Report** – No presentation of the Treasurer's Report as Susie was recently hospitalized and unable to prepare the report for this meeting.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by John, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 28th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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