

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 14th, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Treasurer Susie Braseth, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

- A. **Call to Order** by Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Minutes** from December 17th, 2024, 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) **Charles Ramstad, Attorney for Greg Anderson** - Charlie Ramstad is representing Greg Anderson in a quiet title boundary action for the JAA Land LLC storage shed development (Turtle Lake Toy Lockers) Mr. Ramstead was actually not present, but his son, Dylan Ramstead-Skoyles, also an attorney for the same firm, presented the quiet title action for his father. This action is to clean up the legal description and title of property previously owned by Marlene Olson. There are over 30 defendants or prior entities listed in the title history. Cormorant Township bought adjoining land next to the storage shed development a couple of years ago for the township brush site. The Quiet title summons includes the amended legal description.
- 2) **Dylan Ramstad-Skoyles, Attorney** – Mr. Ramstad-Skoyles represents Dennis Olsen, who resides on Birch Point. Mr. Olsen has raised concerns about people parking on the Birch Pt. Road to gain fishing access to Upper Cormorant Lake. Mr. Ramstad-Skoyles confirmed that the Becker County Sheriff was called by Mr. Olsen regarding congestion and the neighbor across the street is allowing people to use his driveway to get on the lake. Sheriff then contacted supervisor John of the incident. Board advised attorney that the relationship between Olsen and neighbor across the road (Schroeder) is not very good. Steve advised a property owner can allow people to use their property as access to the lake and that the township does not have its own policing force to address parking issues such as this. Steve added that if the road is accessible and not completely blocked, there should be no issues and no need to contact the police. The Sheriff has been

called before at this location for other issues. Dylan Ramstead-Skoyles believes this is not a township issue unless the township road would be entirely blocked.

- 3) **Cannabis Retail Registration Resolution from Becker County** – Roger Winter, not present, previously spoke at the Becker Cty. Commissioners meeting and he is chairperson of the Becker Cty. Assn of Townships, advising that the county should regulate any cannabis related business, by way of the county issuing permits and regulating compliance checks of such businesses. Board discussed and agreed this would be an advantageous idea to have Becker county regulate any cannabis permits, similar to the current permitting procedure for local liquor related establishments. The attached resolution #2025-1 “Resolution Delegating Cannabis Retail Registration to the County” was motioned by Steve for approval, seconded by John, as written. Motion carried 3-0. No other discussion. All 3 supervisors then voted in favor of resolution. Resolution passed.
- 4) **Lake Park Fire Department** - Fire Protection Meeting is scheduled for January 15th 7:00 p.m. in Lake Park City Center.
- 5) **Heartland Trail Extension (Steve Skoog)** - Steve Skoog is not present but has dialoged with Steve Sorenson if the township would be willing to allow a new Heartland bike trail to extend into the Cormorant area. Initial preliminary thoughts were for the trail to run from Detroit Lakes, by Dunton Locks, through Shoreham, Bucks Mill, north of Pelican Lake to Cormorant, then towards Lake Park. Claudia added this new bike trail could eventually link up to the bike trail in Pelican Rapids. The Board Members expressed an interest in this trail and are willing to consider support in any project study costs.
- 6) **Large TV Request in Cormorant Room, CLWD** – Claudia received an email from Liz Larson with CLWD suggesting the installation of a large television in the Cormorant Room. Board members expressed an interest in this, but not certain the township would “cost share” this expense with CLWD. Ila Lindstrom stated it is possible that the Cormorant Lions may share new television with CLWD.

D) Old Business

- 1) **January Calendar** – Bunco will be played the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 pm. Yoga will now be offered on Tuesday evenings versus Wednesdays. On township meeting dates, yoga will be held in the School Room.
- 2) **Newsletter** – Jesse Chenze was not present but Board reviewed newsletter draft and a few suggestions were brought up. Ila recommended to add a paragraph regarding Storytime and Board wished to add paragraph on not pushing private driveway snow into piles in the road right of way. Any private driveway snow should be pushed back into the owners own lot, not roadway or in someone else's lot.
- 3) **115th Street Lawsuit** – Claudia has not received any additional correspondence.
- 4) **Ida North Shore Addition Proposal** – Steve has not received any additional information.
- 5) **Zoning Building Permits** – Becker Cty Zoning has emailed an Xcel sheet of all 2024 building permits issued for our township. It is not in the best reader-friendly version, but at least we can access this information if a particular site permit needs to be researched.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site** – This is officially closed for the year.

F. Roads

- 1) **Leek Road** – John was asked if this is a township-maintained road and if snowplow should go into to clear snow. There are 3 cabins at end of road.
- 2) **Rossman Erickson Road Right-Away Issue** - John advised items have been moved out of right-of-way. However, there has been some contractor equipment parked on occasion.
- 3) **Royal Oaks Road** – John advised that the road sign for Royal Oaks Road has been installed.
- 4) **Tim Erickson, Corn snow fence** – Tim was present to offer the township to keep some corn rows up along the north side of Big Cormorant Lake Rd to help catch snow and keep off the road. Board discussed and agreed to compensate Tim for his loss of not harvesting this corn. Mark Erickson also kept some corn up to assist as a natural snow fence.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Failed Water Heater** - Still determining if it is worth filing a MATIT claim for this.
- 2) **Candidate Filing Due** – Claudia noted that candidate filing was due today, January 14th, by 5:00 p.m.
- 3) **Summit Protection** – Claudia noted that she is waiting for an onsite meeting with a representative to get options for updating systems and all cameras.
- 4) **Worker’s Compensation Bill/Audit** – Susie reported she has started this.
- 5) **Indebtedness Report** - This indebtedness report (stating that Cormorant Township has no debt) was emailed to Becker County.
- 6) **ARPA** – A reminder from Claudia that the last ARPA report is due April 30th, 2025.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – None.

H. Treasurer’s Report - Susie presented her treasurer’s report for *December 2024*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$23,346.17
Receipts	+ \$173,800.54
Disbursements	- \$78,777.80
Ending checking acct. balance	<u>\$118,368.91</u>
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 Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. Adjournment - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 28th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

