

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, January 30th, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were: Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug, and Supervisor Tony Hubbard, Treasurer Susie Braseth, Clerk Claudia Hanson, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

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

B. **Minutes** from the December 19th 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) **Liquor Licenses –Brad Olek, Swanie’s Pub** (not present) has applied for a new combined on/off sale liquor license. He is renovating the old Swanie’s resort area and is hoping to operate a new bar/grill establishment. Claudia has advised him of the process via prior phone call, for a new off sale liquor license, which Becker Cty. Auditor & Treasurer’s office will need to notify other surrounding off sale bars and hold a public hearing for any community feedback. Then the county commissioners will decide if to approve the license. John motioned for approval of Swanie’s Pub license request; Tony seconded it. Motion carried 3-0. Claudia mentioned that she spoke with owners at Ella Marie’s and they are currently not interested in applying for an off-sale liquor license. **Mike Levin, owner of Green Valley Golf Course**, was present at the meeting and requested to renew Green Valley’s on-sale liquor license. Tony motioned for approval of Green Valley Golf Course’s on-sale liquor license and John seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. A copy of both licenses approved was made and will be kept in the township office.

2) **Arvig – Fiber Optic & Security** – Claudia met with an Arvig representative today to discuss enhancements and installation of fiber optics and potentially transitioning community center security to Arvig. Arvig may be able to utilize the cameras already in existence at the community center and to service the system would be much closer as they are stationed in Detroit Lakes/Perham versus our current security camera provider is based in Fargo. Arvig will also review installing fiber optics in the garage. Susie mentioned the township should not have to pay for television service, as

many years ago, the township allowed Arvig access to land owned by the township and, Susie thought was agreed upon then the township would not pay for television services. Claudia advised changes have occurred with television services since then, such as Smart TV use, so unlikely that television service would be free from Arvig. Board will review and decide on the next February 27, 2024, township meeting.

- 3) **Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting** – Claudia advised that there will be a virtual Becker County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting held by FEMA on February 20th at 1:00 p.m.
- 4) **Diabetes Prevention, LPA Community Ed.** – Only one person signed up for the diabetes prevention classes offered through LPA Community Education, which were scheduled to begin this Thursday. Claudia further added that Roz Howery, of LPA Community Ed., advised there is a \$600 fee to attend these classes. They were scheduled for every Thursday for six months and then one time per month for six months. Roz will advise if more people have signed up and if the tentative class will be scheduled.
- 5) **New Librarian** – Claudia advised the new LARL librarian is Cindy Lichtsinn and has invited her to attend the Annual Township Meeting on March 12th to introduce herself to the Board.

D. Old Business

- 1) **Ramp Attachment** – Ila Mae Lindstrom advised that the ramp attachment is on backorder and will be installed once it is received.
- 2) **Lake Park Fire Department Meeting** – The township received an invitation to attend the Lake Park Fire Department meeting on January 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss fire protection fees for 2024. No one from the Board was able to attend that meeting.
- 3) **CLWD Bill** – Claudia sent the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District (CLWD) an outline of costs accrued by the township for repairing the water leak outside of the community center as well as the interior flooding work of the affected basement area. The CLWD had previously informed the Board that they would potentially pay half of the costs associated with these repairs. The CLWD portion of the costs is \$8,249.17.

- 4) **Midnite Riders Trails** – Midnite Riders Snowmobile Club had previously asked the township end of August if they could revise their trail onto the township property and off the highway shoulder in Cormorant Village so the trails are safer and away from traffic of the county highways. Board was previously very favorable to this change, agreed to this, and John signed a Landowner Permission Form (permit) with so they can establish and maintain a 20 foot snowmobile trail on township property (parcels 067028001 and 067028000).
- 5) **Winter Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze was present and advised that she will begin work on a winter newsletter to include the March 5th Presidential Nomination Primary and the March 12th Annual Meeting and township election.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Recycling Collection Totals from Becker County** - Claudia received the Becker Cty. Recycling Collection Report for 2023 from Sandy Gunderson. Susie will speak with Sandy about getting totals for each recycling site.

F. Roads

- 1) **Fearing Drive and Loon Lane** – Residents of Fearing Drive and Loon Lane were present, expressing concerns over the condition of these roadways. Residents acknowledged we have not had much snow this winter, but more sanding and plowing is needed as the roads are slow to melt, very icy, and very steep. Melissa Gooselaw mentioned Fed Ex delivery drivers may decide to not travel down those roads due to dangerous conditions, as well as their garbage trucks will often not travel down the icy roads. They are concerned about emergency vehicle and school bus access. John mentioned these roads may need to be checked weekly during winter months. Board expressed gratitude to residents for coming to the meeting and expressing their concerns.
- 2) **Tim Erickson, Snow Fence** – Tim Erickson was present and submitted corn/snow fence bills for this winter on behalf of himself and his brother, Mark Erickson. The board approved the bills and Susie paid the bills during the meeting.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Annual Township Meeting and Elections March 12th & Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) March 5th** – Steve reminded everyone the dates for the Annual Township Meeting and Election and Presidential Nomination Primary Election .
- 2) **Short Course – Mahnomen April 1st** - Short course training is available for township board members on April 1st in Mahnomen.
- 3) **Board of Review and Equalization/Assessor Meeting. May 1st** – Claudia advised Tony Vigen is the new Becker County Assessor who replaced Lisa Will.
- 4) **Appointment of Election Judges** – PNP March 5th Election Judges: Cara Bjerken, Susie Braseth, Claudia Hanson, Ginger Lenzmeier, Tim Lenzmeier, Ila Mae Lindstrom, Barb Maasjo, Warren Meissner, Mark Nielson, LaVonne Selberg, Teri Thorsen, Laurie Wanke, Penny Wickenheiser, and Cindy Wipperling. Township Meeting March 12th Election Judges: Susie Braseth, Ila Mae Lindstrom, Laurie Wanke, and Penny Wickenheiser. Tony motioned to approve election judge lists; John seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- 5) **Township Meetings Schedule** – Claudia and Steve discussed holding township meetings twice per month in November, January, February (except December), versus only meeting once a month for those months. Steve mentioned too much township business needs to be addressed during these months to only hold one meeting per month. John motioned to accept the proposal; Tony seconded. Carried 3-0.
- 6) **Planning and Audit Meeting** – Claudia advised the Planning and Audit Meeting will be held at 6:15 p.m. on February 27th, 2024. She presented the Board with a draft agenda for this meeting.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Claudia received information that Pelican Rapids Community Education will be offering CDL classes. Claudia also responded to the Census Boundary Survey with no changes from the previous census.

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

Beginning Balance	\$60,023.92
Receipts	+ \$274,251.19
Disbursements	- <u>\$63,955.15</u>
Ending	<u>\$270,319.96</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 John and seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 27th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

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