

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 11th, 2024**, 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 the May 28th, 2024, 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) **Cormorant Daze Stage (Paint, Skirt)** –Tasha Erickson, pageant director for Cormorant Daze, contacted the township to ask if the stage (used for the Little Miss Sunshine & Mr. Moonbeam pageant) could be painted and if skirting could be added. Board supported this event and Ila researched this request. She and Kathy Ness will paint the stage a dark grey starting evening of Thursday, June 27th, allowing for drying time through Saturday, June 29th. No one has rented space during that time. Ila also secured dark green skirting.
- 2) **Lake Ida Culvert** – This topic came up last year at the Lake Ida Lake association to have the back side of culvert (on the east side of E. Lake Ida Lane) dredged out, to increase water flow. This was never done as last summer was too dry. Steve met with DNR and since the township owns the culvert, the township is responsible for cleaning it out. He added he has received a couple of bids for the dredging work.
- 3) **Keys Found on South Cormorant Lake Road** - Susie was given a set of small keys found by township workers on S. Big Cormorant Lake Road. Susie suggested posting the keys on the township website.
- 4) **White Trash Bags left** – Tim Erickson, who helps clean the recycling site off S. Big Cormorant Lake road, noted that someone left several white bags with the black bags from the Lions ditch clean up day.

D) **Old Business**

- 1) **Dredging of Bay on Big Cormorant (Across from Swanies)** – Steve advised that he and Kyle Varberg, Becker County Planning & Zoning Administrator, have a meeting scheduled with DNR next week to discuss this matter. Steve has received four to five

inquiries from people who have a residence on Big Cormorant that are in support of the dredging. The township owns property (road right of way) adjacent to the area that is in question. Steve noted that the township may have to apply for a permit to allow the dredging.

- 2) **Lawncare with Valley Green** – Claudia was contacted by Valley Green about lawncare for community center grounds. Ila advised weeds are growing so weed spraying would be timely, and to remind applicators to spray only to the tree line on north side. Ila stated a second application should be planned for the fall also. Claudia will advise Valley Green.
- 3) **Windows for CLWD and Township Offices**– John is still waiting for soil to dry out and also for the crack crew to help dig out the window wells.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Nell has a companion** – Ila mentioned that someone added a troll like figure next to Nell at the brush/compost site. Additionally, she has not received any updates when the sign for the site is done.
- 2) **Braseth Bay Site move** – John reported Ryan Olson has been working to pack down the gravel before the recycling site is relocated.
- 3) **Sandy Gunderson , Becker Cty Environmental Services**– Claudia advised Sandy Gunderson is retiring, as of June 20, 2024. The Board is saddened to hear this and thanks Sandy for all her work for our township. Claudia will inquire about a date for HHW Day before Ms. Gunderson’s retirement.
- 4) **Black Bear** – John shared a photo captured at the Brush/Compost site of a black bear.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Road Work Priorities** – Steve stated that he has reached out to contractors again to bid on roadwork. However, he added that the township has not set road priorities yet as we are awaiting property tax funds from the state to assist with the payment of such work.
- 2) **Dustguard** –No new information yet when this is scheduled. .
- 3) **Tar Crew** – John reported the tar crew has approximately two and one-half to three days left of taring to complete.

- 4) **Ed's Marine** – Board members discussed that Ed's Marine has docks, lifts, etc. situated on the road right-of-way off Dahlgren Beach Road. John mentioned one dock is almost covering a road sign which could be a potential liability to the township. Steve added he has spoken to Ed about this issue in the past. Board recommended a reminder letter to be sent advising him to move these items from the road right-of-way.
- 5) **Tar Order** – John indicated that the township currently has enough tar but may need to reorder this fall.
- 6) **132nd Avenue** - Steve received a call from a township resident advising her daughter popped her tire in the large rut on 132nd Avenue. Penny confirmed the rut is deep, but hole was filled with gravel today at John's request. Penny also mentioned that the pavement of the curve on Birch Road is cracking and the gravel is washing away. Steve asked John to put that road on the list to be looked at.

G. **Other Business**

- 1) **Yoga and Line Dancing in June** – Claudia advised that line dancing classes have begun on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. There were about 5-6 women at the last class. Yoga will be held Wednesday nights in June at 6:00 pm. The community center has become very busy, which is great to have so much community use.
- 2) **PNP Reimbursement Report** – Susie advised the PNP Reimbursement has been completed and submitted again.
- 3) **Clerk in WY** – Claudia will be in Wyoming for a few days in July. Penny will check mail, and messages. Steve also advised office hours were not necessary on Wednesday of the 4th of July holiday week.
- 4) **Brush Site Property Tax Exemption** – Claudia has submitted the necessary paperwork for township tax exemption of the brush/compost site. She also added Tony Vigen, the new Becker County Assessor, has resigned.
- 5) **Population Estimates** – The MN State Demographer's office shared the 2023 population estimate of 1,389 for population in our township as of April 1, 2023, and also the household estimate of 610 as of April 1, 2023.

- 6) **Cormorant Park Place Sewer permit** – An updated and final permit copy was emailed from the MPCA (MN Pollution Control Agency), outlining conditions for the permit. No comments were received from the public during the 30-day public comment period.
- 7) **Miscellaneous** – Claudia advised receiving a very nice ‘thank you’ email from the Cormorant County School, for using our space.

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

Beginning Balance	\$155,794.86
Receipts	+ \$ 2,274.45
Disbursements	- \$ 27,563.71
Ending checking acct. balance	<u>\$ 130,505.60</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 7:24 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 25th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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