

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, June 25th, 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, and Treasurer Susie Braseth. Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser was absent.

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

B. **Minutes** from the June 11th, 2024, regular and variance meetings were read. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Dennis Olsen, Schroeder Variance** –Mr. Olsen and his wife were present to discuss the construction being done across the street by Craig Schroeder who was granted a variance in March 2024 to build a detached garage within the road right of way.

He is concerned about a retaining wall that has been erected (was not in the variance details) and concerned about the shed if he will move it (this was agreed upon to move away from the lake side) John Buhaug stated that once Mr. Schroeder has completed his construction, he will move the shed. Mr. Olsen provided a detailed handout of other concerns, such as Mr. Schroeder moving dirt off of Birch Point Lane (the grade of the road needs correcting, as well as replacing the berm on Birch Point Lane). He claims that Mr. Schroeder plowed off gravel/river rock that now needs to be replaced. Mr. Olsen requested no paving be allowed past the property line as the hill would become too slippery. He would like shrubs planted along the new retaining wall. Lastly, Mr. Olsen would like to ensure all water runoff from the roof and grade changes are directed to Mr. Schroeders' property. Board discussed and advised to contact Becker Cty. Zoning on how to approach and deal with these issues.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **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.
- 2) **Dredging of Bay on Big Cormorant (Across from Swannies)** – Steve advised he had meeting with DNR last week and still working on this, and with CLWD who have a

permit already for dredging. Swannies's owner Brad Olek was denied a 30-slip marina permit from the DNR.

- 3) **Lake Ida Culvert** – Steve advised that the minor dredging work was completed now and the water flow has much improved.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Braseth Bay Site move** – John advised that the area needs to dry up before moving bins. Susie asked regarding the lease due this August and he hopes to have move completed before then. The Lions' can trailer will have to be relocated also.
- 2) **HHW Collection Date** – Retiring Sandy Gunderson has forwarded our request to hold this event again in August, to her replacement.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work Priorities** – Steve stated that he is pending for bids.
- 2) **Dustguard** – This was completed and work was done well.
- 3) **Wermager Beach Rd** – Board discussed, will monitor this if any correction needed for the runoff of soil from the field, into the northeast corner of this road.
- 4) **Ed's Marine** – A reminder letter was sent advising to move items from the road right-of-way. John mentioned items were moved away from the road edge.
- 5) **132nd Avenue** – This was repaired temporarily and will be a priority road.
- 6) **Grading on Nelson Lake Road** – Dean Block, township grader, advised he was told to no longer grade north end (not the end going to the condominiums) of this road by a resident of that part of road. Board agreed.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Property tax increases** – Steve advised that former County Assessor Tony Vigen failed in establishing proper market values for the county, so State of MN stepped in to correct the market values which will cause an increase of property taxes for rural land, and some other properties. Mr. Vigen has been replaced with an interim Assessor until a new county assessor is hired.
- 2) **Brush Site Property Tax Exemption** – Claudia has submitted the necessary paperwork for township tax exemption of the brush/compost site. However, she was notified that the township still needs to pay this years' taxes until the exemption is in effect next year.

- 3) **Zoning Ordinance changes** – Steve asked to have the County Commissioners added to next meeting’s agenda for them to update on zoning ordinance changes.
- 4) **Cormorant Daze Stage (Paint, Skirt)** – Ila and Kathy are painting the stage a dark grey starting evening of Thursday, June 27th, allowing for drying time through Saturday, June 29th. Tasha Erickson will be purchasing new skirting as old skirting did not fit well enough with the stage.
- 5) **Lions Blood Drive** – This event again provided a good turnout on Friday June 21st. Lions Club have booked another blood drive in September and blood drives for similar dates in 2025.
- 6) **Arvig Fiber Optic** - Claudia received update that construction and splicing is done and we will be contacted by customer service to connect into the building and finish installation.
- 7) **Miscellaneous** – No mail received.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 9th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk