

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, August 29th, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were: Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and 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 August 8th 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) **Ron Lass Bishop Road Paving Request** – Ron Lass was present at the meeting and requested the township consider paving Bishop Road next year. Steve explained to Mr. Lass that the township supervisors conduct a road inspection every spring, typically in April, to determine the needs of township roads. Steve noted that the township has approximately 50 miles of roads to maintain. Steve advised Mr. Lass that during the road inspection, the supervisors see firsthand how damaged roadways are. In order to pave a gravel road, significant damage has to be determined as well as taking into consideration how long the road has been established and how many year-round homes exist on the road. Mr. Lass also asked the Board about further repairs to 132nd Ave. Steve stated 132nd was repaired as much as the road budget was able to do this year, but that road will be reviewed again next year for additional repairs.
- 2) **Snowmobile Trail Potential Changes** – Steve indicated the Midnite Rider Snowmobile Club reached out to him with a proposal to reroute a snowmobile trail behind the township sheds and around pond. He presented a map of the proposed route to the Board members. Steve noted that the new route would make it easier for the grooming machine to groom the trail. Susie added it will make it safer for the snowmobilers than previous trail which was located on the other side of the road where there are now flag poles installed. Ila mentioned that the walking bridge will have a rope installed across it to remind snowmobilers not to cross the bridge. Tony added to have the sledders avoid the riprap around the township electronic sign also.

- 3) **Cha-Lisa Road Proposed Culvert** – Warren Eide contacted Steve and mentioned that during heavy rain his yard floods as does the public access. John indicated he would look at the area.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Cormorant Daze Review** – Steve noted that Cormorant Daze was a huge success again this year. There were 130 cars in the car show, 60+ vendors compared to 30 vendors in 2022, and a gorgeous day for the event. Steve advised he heard from many that the Cormorant Daze car show is one of the best, as the location provides shade for vehicles as well as restrooms, food, and beverages for the participants. Steve stated the Lions Club pancake breakfast had outstanding numbers, around 650 attendees. He commended Tasha Erickson for having everything set up for the Lions breakfast after the Little Miss Sunshine and Mr. Moonbeam pageant Friday night. Steve added to consider having two waterslides next year as there was a long line of children at the one waterslide this year. Overall, a lot of positive feedback was received. Ila noted that two large dumpsters, versus just one large dumpster like this year, should be ordered next year, for Cormorant Daze.
- 2) **Ramp Rebuild by Kitchen Door Update** – John noted he will meet with Mr. Brian Raftveold (Rafty's Concrete) on Saturday to discuss pouring concrete and when to schedule this. All attempts will be made to have concrete poured and a new ramp built before the Lions Stag scheduled for September 29, 2023.
- 3) **September Calendar** – Claudia disseminated the September calendar to board members.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site Land Update; Closing of Property Date** - Steve advised from Kyle Vareberg, Becker County Planning and Zoning manager that the new brush and compost site was re-zoned as tax exempt because it will be owned by the township. The title company is working on all documents to prepare for closing. Steve noted Opal Rogstad, realtor, will deliver documents to Marlene Olson to sign, if she is unable to sign in person on the closing date, once date is determined. Board agreed to this process.
- 2) **Trex Plastic Challenge** – Claudia advised the Trex plastic collection boxes are installed and ready for use.

- 3) **HHW Mobile Waste Day Review** – Steve noted all went well on HHW Day. Township residents commented to him how thankful they are that the township offers this event. Two roll offs were ordered this year; however, they were not filled as full as predicted. Discussion to continue if one or two roll-offs will be ordered next year. Susie noted she took photographs during the event and will forward them to the County. Also discussed was shortening the hours of disposal of HHW, having it 2:00-5:00 pm versus 2:00-6:00 pm. The time of year, before Labor Day, was discussed and appears to be the perfect time to hold this event. It was noted that more used oil was dropped off this year than ever before. One individual dropped off about 6 gallons of used oil.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work Projects Review**– Claudia noted no bill has been received from Anderson Brothers. Steve noted that all roadwork was completed across the bad areas within the township. Tony further noted that at the Annual Meeting, the township levy could be increased to accommodate more money needed for road repairs.
- 2) **Chip Sealing** – John stated he will communicate with Asphalt Preservation Co. to start on chip sealing roads. Tony noted that Wermager and South Turtle Lake Road could use seal.
- 3) **Swing Away Mailbox Post Requests** – Claudia noted the township is still receiving swing away mailbox post requests.
- 4) **Shouldering** – John advised that Olson Excavating will start shouldering soon, especially on roads which have new asphalt top on them.
- 5) **Name of Snowplows** – The names chosen for our snowplows from the Cormorant Daze survey are Clifford (red snowplow) and Garfield (orange snowplow).
- 6) **Gravel** - Dean Block was present at the meeting and noted gravel will be applied in the next few weeks on Buffalo Lane and Thunderbolt Ranch Rd due to wash outs. The southwest corner of the township was up for re-graveling on the gravel roads. He also suggested a snowplow blade be acquired and installed on the tractor along with LED wing lights in the front, to assist in the snowplowing efforts in the winter.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Flu Shot Clinic** – Claudia advised the flu shot clinic is scheduled for October 11th, 2023, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Participants will need to schedule an appointment, so the flyer will advise people to contact the township office for an appointment slot. Jessie will add information and make the flyer more “eye catching” than it current is. This event will also be advertised in Lakes Country Connection, once Jesse finishes her editing.
- 2) **Book Exchange Ideas** – Claudia mentioned generating ideas on how to disseminate the donated books we currently have in the township’s possession. She also received a note from a patron who suggested having a little neighborhood library, like other little libraries mounted in different communities, where books can be borrowed, exchanged, or donated to. The challenge is having someone to monitor books, so they are rotated out and how to manage if a lot of books are dumped at a time, and to remove books that are never being used.
- 3) **Mileage Certification** – Claudia noted the annual mileage certification needs to be completed before November.
- 4) **PAM (Patient Activation Measures) Rehabilitation Clinic Informational Meeting** – Claudia noted a representative from this clinic/hospital will be at the community center on October 2, 2023, at 1:00 pm to give a presentation about PAM. A flyer will be displayed at the community center and Claudia will have it included in the Lakes Country Connection.
- 5) **New Weight Bench Request** – Ila Mae Lindstrom mentioned a note was left in the exercise room for a new weight bench. Tony researched pricing of a heavier duty bench and indicated it would be approximately \$200-\$300. Tony stated he thinks the current bench should be replaced. Board asked Ila to order a new bench.
- 6) **District 9 meeting** - Steve mentioned he attended the District 9 meeting in Hawley, and meeting was not very productive or informative for townships, but rather became a political dispute.
- 7) **Short Course for Clerks/Treasurers** - Claudia and Susie indicated there is CTAS training in October. The dates are as follows: October 2 in Fergus Falls, October 3 in

Staples, and October 4 in Mahanomen. Susie mentioned Cindy Wipperling, her deputy treasurer, to be attending this training. Claudia and Penny can also consider attending.

8) **Lawn care for town hall grounds** - Claudia advised she contacted Valley Green Lawn Service to schedule lawn care services at the end of September.

9) **Miscellaneous mail/items** - Claudia stated the township received a thank you note for the Becker County Historical Society for the townships donation. Tony advised that he will not be present at the next township meeting as he will be out of town for work purposes.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by John, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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