

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, July 9th, 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 June 25th, 2024, regular meeting were read. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

1) **Becker County Commissioners, New Zoning Ordinance Update** – Commissioner Barry Nelson and Kyle Varberg, Becker County Planning & Zoning Administrator, were present at the meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued about new zoning ordinances that would impact Cormorant Township. Main point of discussion was regarding moving from residential lot sizes from the current 2.5 acres to 1 or 2 acre lots. Commissioner Nelson estimated that 40-50% of Cormorant Township is residential as compared to Lake Eunice Township which is at 80% residential, and new development in these 2 townships has been substantial in last few years. Commissioner Nelson and Mr. Varberg showed the board members two large maps; one which showed the current layout of the township and the other the proposed. There was discussion about mixed use property meaning commercial and residential combined. Commissioner Nelson indicated the county commissioners will be deciding this fall on final ordinances changes and are reaching out to all townships within Becker County to get their input. The issue of nuisance residences was brought up and was noted that most of those residences require the involvement of MPCA and health & human services professionals. More research is to be done on the proposed ordinances.

2) **Donated Painting of Old Cormorant Village (Ila)** - Ila received a donated painting of an old photograph of Cormorant Township from Mona Erickson. Board decided to hang the painting in the School Room near the newspaper article about the village. It might need re-framing or matting first. A small plaque, citing the painting was donated by Ruby and Clifford Erickson, should be installed near the painting.

- 3) **Bridge (Ila)** – Ila advised that bridge is unsafe and has been closed. The bridge needs to be raised up and the railing needs repair. This must be completed before Cormorant Daze on August 17, 2024.
- 4) **Rebate in LED light bulbs** – Ila mentioned there is a rebate offer for the used light bulbs from light fixtures in the center. Claudia will apply for rebate thru LREC.

D) Old Business

- 1) **Window replacement in CLWD and Township Office** – John indicated that he would get them installed. The township office window well needs to be dug out.
- 2) **Dredging Bullfrog Bay** – Steve indicated no new updates regarding this matter.
- 3) **Schroeder Variance 3/26/2024 Follow Up** – John Challey was present at the meeting. Mr. Challey indicated concerns about a retaining wall being installed. John informed Mr. Challey that it is not a retaining wall, but part of the garage wall foundation. Mr. Challey stated that Mr. Schroeder has been nonchalant about where he builds on other people's property. He added that Mr. Schroeder moved his dock on his property. Steve indicated he received a call from Zoning and someone from Zoning plans to go look at the garage Mr. Schroeder is having built. John also mentioned water mitigation if included in their building permit. Mr. Challey added that silt is washing on his land.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Braseth Site to Brush/Compost Site** – John stated waiting for sand to pack down. Sand is too soft yet.
- 2) **Pending August Date for HHW from County** – Claudia advised that with Sandy Gunderson's retirement, she is scheduling the HHW day with her replacement at Environmental Services.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve mentioned that he has had contact with CSI and Anderson Brothers for bids to complete roadwork.
- 2) **Culvert on Sherbrooke Road** - Steve advised the culvert on Sherbrooke Road had to be opened as beavers had plugged it, overflowing the road.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Cormorant Daze** – Claudia will order extra dumpsters, Ila mentioned that the ground is still very wet near the bridge area, so she is uncertain how many cars will be able to park down there for the car show.
- 2) **Stage Skirt and Paint** – Ila reported the stage is ready for the Little Miss Sunshine/Mr. Moonbeam pageant with new paint and new skirting.
- 3) **District 9 (MAT Director Vance Bachmann) Wednesday, August 21** – Claudia advised this meeting will take place at Thumper Pond, 300 Thumper Pond Road, Ottertail, MN
- 4) **New Trex Bench, Plaque from CLSC** – Board decided the new Trex bench will be placed in the shelter near the playground. Ila will purchase a bike lock for it.
- 5) **115th Street Incident Update** – Claudia received an 82-page demand document via MATIT adjuster Deb Provence from attorney representing a client who drove through 115th Street. Claudia will delve into this matter more and awaiting deputy sheriff's information.
- 6) **Calendar** – Claudia said she received a request to change the time for yoga classes to 7:00-8:00 p.m. The Board approved the time change. Claudia indicated that there was a double booking of the community center for July 19. She has resolved the issue as one of the parties will hold their event the following week.
- 7) **Election Judge Appointment** – Claudia shared a tentative list of judges to appoint as of today but has not received complete list of trained judges, they are still in process of training judges. Board reviewed list and agreed with list to appoint.
- 8) **PNP reimbursement** – Susie reported she received the Presidential Nomination Primary expense reimbursement from the State of MN.
- 9) **Miscellaneous** –No other mail to review.

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

Beginning Balance	\$130,505.60
Receipts	+ \$267,467.24
Disbursements	- <u>\$ 31,132.72</u>
Ending checking acct. balance	<u><u>\$ 366,840.12</u></u>
Investment beginning balance	-0-
Investment purchased	-0-
Investment transferred/sold	-0-
Investment interest	<u>-0-</u>
Ending Investment value	<u><u>-0-</u></u>

The Treasurer's Report was approved by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 30th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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