

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, September 12th, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were: Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug, Treasurer Susie Braseth, Clerk Claudia Hanson, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser. Absent Supervisor Tony Hubbard.

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

B. **Minutes** from the August 29th regular meeting were read. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Steve. Carried 2-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Brian Korf, Pelican Rapids School Update** – Brian Korf, Superintendent of the Pelican Rapids School District was present at the meeting. Mr. Korf distributed a pamphlet outlining the Pelican Rapids School District. He highlighted the following: their 3–4-year-old pre-kindergarten program is free; they try to keep their elementary class sizes to 18 students per class; high school students can acquire up to 40 college credits; and Pelican Rapids High School students can earn credit and certifications in driver education, CNA and EMT certification. Mr. Korf mentioned they are exploring option to offer CDL certification, during the spring semester, for students that are 18 years old. He advised that Pelican Rapids has a lot to offer community members and visitors as they have a bike trail route that eventually connects to Perham, will provide bathrooms (that are open during daytime hours), and a bike repair station is currently being built. Mr. Korf stated the school district’s current budget is healthy and that they have three months of payroll saved if there happens to be a freeze on salaries for teachers, The school district is now operating a 5-day school week. He clarified that the 4-day school day was implemented 10-11 years ago because of budget restraints. However, now the budget is more robust and the “big picture” is that schedule structure, and the inclusion of breakfast and lunch for students is of utmost importance. Mr. Korf noted that State-implemented free breakfast and lunch is going well and good for local families. He advised that 50% of Pelican Rapids students qualified for free or reduced breakfast and lunch.
- 2) **Lake Park Post Office, Postmaster** – Andrea Koczur, postmaster, due to scheduling conflicts, was unable to attend. However, she will be present at the next township meeting on September 26, 2023. Claudia mentioned some residents received notices

from the post office to change the height of their mailbox. Claudia spoke with Andrea Koczur and she advised the township should not have to help residents comply with the height requirements of their mailboxes; it should be done by the owner of the mailbox. Ms. Koczur stated our township provides a great service to the community by providing swing away posts, but maintenance should still be done by each resident. Ed Chenze was present and noted that if a person pushes or pulls too hard on a swing-away mailbox post, the post can be broken.

D. Old Business

- 1) **Ramp Rebuild by Kitchen Door Update** –John is awaiting an estimate from Brian Raftevoid to install cement under the ramp prior to its rebuilding. John advised this will be completed at the end of September.
- 2) **October Calendar** – Claudia distributed the October calendar to the board members.
- 3) **Trunk or Treat** –Trunk or Treat event was discussed and based on last year, it was recommended to schedule it for October 29th from 3:00-5:00 pm. Set-up for the event will be at 2:00 pm that day.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site Land Update** – Steve advised the purchase of the brush/compost site has been completed for the previously agreed amount of \$100,00 plus closing costs and fees. The parcel will be rezoned from private owner to township ownership for tax purposes. Steve mentioned Meadowland Surveying, and the Title Company, were very professional to work with during this process. Susie inquired if a fence would be installed around the acreage. John stated that trees will likely be planted as a border. He and Ila mentioned consultation with Becker Soil & Conservation District and CLWD regarding sources for trees.
- 2) **HHW Mobile Collection Day August 25th, 2023** – Susie reported Becker Cty. Environmental Services charged \$700 for removal of hazardous waste we collected that day.

F. Roads

- 1) **Chip Sealing** – John mentioned chip sealing is needed on Wermager Beach and South Turtle Lake Roads. It is unknown if this will occur yet this year.

- 2) **Mailbox Post Requests** – Claudia advised she received a request from a resident on Church Drive to relocate his swing-away mailbox post that he mistakenly had asked us to install it in the wrong area. Another Gopher One locate will need to be ordered to reinstall the mailbox post to the other side of the resident’s driveway.
- 3) **Shouldering** – John advised that Ryan Olson has been contacted to provide shouldering services in the township. John noted that he learned Sherbrooke Turf no longer owns a shouldering machine.
- 4) **Golden Lane** – John stated that Tony texted him if the township maintains Golden Lane. John drove down Golden Lane and noted that no snowplow could get down this very narrow, unmaintained road, as it would get stuck between the trees and the telephone pole. John informed Tony of this information and Tony noted he would advise the resident that made the inquiry.
- 5) **Mow** – Claudia advised that she received an email from Duane Olson inquiring if the township was going to mow the ditches again this fall. John noted that Lloyd Ness will make a third pass mowing all township ditches in October.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Flu Shot Clinic October 11, 2023** – Claudia reported the flu shot clinic will be or has been advertised in the Lakes Country Connection newspaper, township website, flier posted in community center, and on the township electronic sign.
- 2) **PAM Informational Meeting October 2, 2023** – Claudia noted this event has also been advertised in the Lakes Country Connection newspaper, township website, flier posted in community center, and on the township electronic sign.
- 3) **Short Course for Clerks and Treasurers** – Claudia advised that township clerks and treasurers need to preregister to attend short course training at the following locations: October 2 in Fergus Falls; October 3 in Staples; and October 4 in Mahnomen. Claudia mentioned she plans to attend the October 2 training session. Susie noted she has not discussed this training with her deputy treasurer.
- 4) **Mileage Certification** – Claudia stated township mileage certification is not due until November.

- 5) **Flooring Option for Basement** – Ila brought floor samples, from Ramsey Flooring to the meeting and board members reviewed the options. Discussion involving the benefits of laminate or carpet squares versus tile ensued. Susie noted children sitting on the floor of the library would be more comfortable on carpet. Decision to install carpet squares was made as carpet squares can be swapped out if become stained or destroyed. Ila will communicate the decision to Ellis Peterson of CLWD. Ila mentioned Ramsey Flooring will come to the community center to measure, but township will need to remove current flooring as well as baseboards. Ila also noted that a window in the Watershed Office is cracked. Susie stated it is possible that insurance will cover the replacement window.
- 6) **CLWD Meeting** – Claudia advised that the CLWD will hold a meeting on September 21 at 7:00 pm in the community center. She also noted that the Pelican Lake Improvement District meeting may also be held at the community center.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Becker County issued a press release regarding a childcare grant for \$1,500-\$2,000. Claudia advised that she post this press release at the community center.

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

Beginning Balance	\$722,331.07
Receipts	+ \$ 1,225.81
Disbursements	- \$169,793.43
Ending	<u>\$ 553,763.45</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 Steve.

Carried 2-0. Susie advised that last winter’s expenses were higher than normal. She stated the township will receive the second distribution of taxes in December. Due to purchase of compost/brush site from Marlene Olson, monthly checks to Ms. Olson are no longer required.

- I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, carried 2-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk and
Claudia Hanson, Clerk