

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, July 30th, 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 July 9th, 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) **Dennis Olsen, John Challey, Schroeder Variance** – Dennis Olsen and John Challey were present again to express concern if Mr. Schroeder is abiding by the variance stipulations. Mr. Challey has asked Becker County Zoning and Planning for a copy of the permit and he was redirected back to the township (which does not issue building permits). Mr. Olsen requested a copy of variance outcome which Claudia provided a copy of the letter she sent to Zoning and Planning stating what was approved for this variance request. Steve explained to Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey that once the township approves a variance, the building permit is issued by Becker Cty. Zoning and Planning. Mr. Olsen stated Kyle Varberg, Zoning and Planning Administrator was to contact Steve about the variance and permit, however, Steve advised that he has not received a call from him. Mr. Olsen informed Steve that everyone is “passing the buck,” and is frustrated over the same items as mentioned during June 25th township meeting (retaining wall, road sinking, dirt run off, lost berm). Mr. Challey advised a county commissioner told him “he has a bad neighbor” when the commissioner heard Mr. Challey’s version of events. Mr. Challey noted he has clay runoff onto his property and someone drove on the sewer line in the back of his property. Steve informed Mr. Challey that if someone is deliberately driving on your property and sewer lines, the Sheriff should be contacted to report the incident. Several confrontational conversations were occurring at the same time, at which point Steve attempted to be empathetic to the situation, however advised again the township has no enforcement capacity. Steve continued stating that ultimately

Becker Cty, Zoning needs to inspect the construction area and road at the Schroeder site and determine if/what has been done that is not in the scope of the variance stipulations.

- 2) **Lake Region Tree Trimming , North End of Tree Line** – Claudia mentioned Lake Region has contracted with Carr’s Tree Service to trim the trees behind the township sheds to avoid interference with the power lines.
- 3) **Fiber Optic Permission 110th Avenue** – Board approved Arvig’s request to dig and bury fiber optics in the right of way on 110th Avenue.

D) Old Business

- 1) **Dredging Bullfrog Bay** – Steve indicated no new updates regarding this matter.
- 2) **Projects due before Cormorant Daze** – Claudia and Ila Lindstrom provided a list of items that should be completed before Cormorant Daze on August 17, 2024. The items include the following: window installation, bridge repair, striping for parking lot, trees trimmed so their branches do not hit car-show vehicles, and dumpsters ordered. Ila advised that garbage cans and tables will be set up on Friday, August 16th. It was decided that striping on the pickleball court will be completed after Cormorant Daze.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Brush/Compost Site** – John indicated that trimming will be completed around the newly planted trees. He also mentioned that some of the recycling area will have to be dug up to mix and compact the soil and gravel.
- 2) **HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) Day**– Claudia was informed with Sandy Gunderson’s retirement, Becker Cty. Environmental Services is too short staffed to provide a HHW Day for Cormorant this fall, however they hope to accommodate us again next year. Claudia will update the township website.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve mentioned that he is still waiting to hear back from CSI and Anderson Brothers.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Add Handicap Parking Spot** – John will be painting strips in the parking lot. He will add a second handicap spot in time for the Primary Election for curbside voting.

- 2) **115th Incident Update** – Claudia mentioned we are awaiting the Becker County Sheriff's report with a transcription and more photos.
 - 3) **Reschedule township meeting** – Claudia requested Board permission to move the regular August 13th meeting date, due to the Primary Election being held on that date. (Initially Board agreed to rescheduled date of Wednesday, August 14, 2024, however, there is another conflict for that date also) The Board approved the change for regular meeting to be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
 - 4) **Summer Fill** – Steve advised that because the community center is going to natural gas it is unnecessary to purchase propane at the summer fill cost.
 - 5) **Convert Furnace to Natural Gas** - Discussion ensued about converting the current furnaces from propane to natural gas. Ila reminded the Board that the township pays for the propane meter, so when that is no longer needed that will be a cost savings for the township. Claudia will call on who can be available to work on this.
 - 6) **Election Judge Appointments** – Claudia provided a list of individuals that have completed the required election judge training. The Board approved the following individuals to serve as election judges in both the Primary and General Election. (see attached list p. 67a)
 - 7) **Arvig Updates** – Claudia is meeting with a representative from Arvig on Monday for installation of fiber optics inside the community center. Additionally, Claudia will call Arvig regarding long distance services as there will be a change after September 30, 2024.
 - 7) **Miscellaneous** - District 9 Notice: Wed., August 21st, 6:00 pm Thumper Pond, Ottertail.
- H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 15th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Election Judges appointed:

Bjerken, Cara
Braseth, Susie
Downs, Julette
Duval, Sandra
Hanson, Claudia (head Judge)
Hoyes, Megan
Lenzmeier, Ginger
Lenzmeier, Tim
Lindstrom, Ila
Lutz, Donna
Maasjo, Barb
Meissner, Warren
Nielsen, Mark
Olson, Sharon
Selberg, Lavonne
Thorsen, Teri
Wanke, Laurel
Wickenheiser, Penny (head Judge)
Wipperling, Cindy