

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, August 15<sup>h</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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) **John Challey, Schroeder Variance on Birch Point** – Mr. Challey expressed his continued concern about the Schroeder variance, advised he dialoged with Alex, Becker County Zoning Technician of his concerns during a site visit. John added he visited the site also and spoke to Mr. Schroeder. John relayed the runoff concern with Mr. Schroeder about the retaining wall/foundation issue, and if the foundation/extending wall interferes with the road right of way water runoff, Mr. Schroeder agreed to cut down that portion of the wall.

Mr. Challey stated a porch has been added to the building plans, which Steve replied that the Board was not made aware of that, and only item pertinent to the township, is the distance the detached garage would be from the township road right of way. Steve reaffirmed with Mr. Challey that the township only grants the variance (to construct a detached garage zero feet from the road right of way) and then Zoning and Planning outlines the stipulations of the building permit. The township never sees the permit being issued. It is the duty of Zoning and Planning to monitor the structure being built according to the permit set requirements. Further discussion ensued and Mr. Challey asked if the township board has learned anything from this, if the Board would change anything with this variance, to which Steve explained the township has granted variances for many years and would not change the process. A color-coded utility flag sheet was mailed to the Board members from neighbor, Dennis Olsen. John addressed the concern regarding road run off and advised Mr. Challey that Mr. Schroeder's contractors will build the road back up to its original level so it does not slant.

- 2) **Nancy Bloom, Nelson Lake Road** – Ms. Bloom spoke on behalf several residents present (Shelly & Todd Maesse, Phillip Bloom, LuAnn & Ole Larson, Mike Young), providing the Board with a list of concerns of another neighbor's, Mark Boushee, actions on the road. Concerns include Mr. Boushee's removal of gravel from the township road to Mr. Boushee's driveway with his box blade; Mr. Boushee stopping the township grader from grading the township road; Mr. Boushee continuing to have stakes and trailers in the road right of way; and past snowplowing issues.

Ms. Bloom noted in the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes the Board agreed to not grade the northside of the Nelson Lake Road, due to Dean Block, township road grader, reporting he was stopped by Mark Boushee and told grading this road was not necessary. Board discussed and that notation *was in error*. John mentioned there were other road grading discussions at the same time. These minutes will rectify that error: Nelson Lake Road is a township road and, as such, will be graded and maintained like all other township roads.

One resident noted that no gravel has been added to this roadway since 2008. These residents stated that approximately 30 years ago, they personally paid for gravel to be placed on Nelson Lake Road. Now, after rainfall, water is puddling up in the road.

Ms. Bloom stated Mr. Boushee has building supplies on his property as if he intends to build another building.

Another concern Ms. Bloom addressed, with upcoming winter, is that Mr. Boushee pushes the snow from his property, across the road and has buried the Arvig box in the past. The piles are purposely very high to obscure their sight to enter the road.

Ms. Bloom noted that she and many neighbors are concerned for their safety as Mr. Boushee has been seen walking down the road swinging a bat. The Board indicated that if safety is a concern, then the Sheriff should be notified. Ms. Bloom advised that they have contacted the Sheriff in the past, and they were told to get a restraining order. Another resident added that restraining orders are not that easy to obtain, given the situation.

It was decided that the Township Board will mail a letter to Mr. Boushee outlining what actions he needs to cease, to respect township road and its right of way. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the Becker County Sheriff's Office.

- 3) **Lisa Marschall, Assessor** – Lisa Marschall was present, provided update on her work in our township, stating she has had a very busy year. She noted there are many new property plats being developed. She expressed concerns when Zoning and Planning issue permits, they are dated as of the date issued, not the date when the actual buildings are being erected. Therefore, she may be missing the assessment of some buildings. Ms. Marschall was paid half of her contracted fee at the meeting. She will be assessing Sect. 8, 15-17, 22-23 next year. There was some discussion regarding per parcel cost of assessing.

#### D) **Old Business**

- 1) **Projects due before Cormorant Daze** – Ila Lindstrom noted that many of the projects due before Cormorant Daze have been completed.

#### E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Braseth Site to Brush/Compost Site** – John advised that the packing of the ground was going well until the recent four inches of rain. The recycling site will not be relocated until next year.
- 2) **Mobile HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) Day** – Claudia reported that she updated the website to advise township residents the annual HHW day will not be held this year, but where residents can drop off hazardous waste at Becker Cty. Environmental Services.
- 3) **Rewrite Sign at Brush Site** – Jo Downs, resident in area, mentioned there is a typographic error on the sign by the brush/compost site. The word “Residences” should be “Residents.” The sign will be corrected.

#### F. **Roads**

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve is still waiting for bids.
- 2) **Dust guard on Buffalo Lane, Snowshoe Beach Lane** – A resident on Buffalo Lane noted the dustguard has worn off and wondering about reapplication. John explained the dustguard has not stuck as well as previous years due to so much rain this summer.

He added Snowshoe Beach only has dustguard applied every other year and it was missed this year, so that road definitely needs to be on next year's list.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **Add Another Handicap Parking Spot** – The additional handicap parking spot has been added to the community center parking lot.
- 2) **115<sup>th</sup> Incident Update** – Claudia is still awaiting the Becker County Sheriff's report.
- 3) **Rebate Work LED Light Bulbs** - Kerry Evenson is helping with this, will contact Lake Region Electric, and find out when LED light bulbs were installed, for the rebate.
- 4) **Convert Furnace to Natural Gas** – Glen Smith has converted the community center furnace to burn natural gas. Susie will call Lakes Community Cooperative and have them remove the propane the township previously purchased and receive a credit.
- 5) **MPCA Information Session** – Claudia advised that a MPCA Informational Session regarding solid waste will be held on August 28, 2024, at the Becker County Courthouse.
- 6) **Arvig Updates** –Arvig installed new equipment, but not sure if all their work is completed. Claudia will send a follow up email to Arvig.
- 7) **Nardini Fire Extinguisher Inspection** –Nardini has inspected the fire extinguishers located in the community center and the township vehicles.
- 8) **Elevator Upgrades** – Otis Elevator serviceman advised that the center operating unit of the elevator needs to be upgraded within five years, which is a significant expense. The township was also notified on correct “in case of fire” signage and label the elevator equipment room. Ila inquired if an example of this signage could be requested.
- 9) **Mini Art Show** – Jo Downs, with the Cormorant Area Art Club, inquired about having a mini art show featuring themed art during Cormorant Daze next year, potentially downstairs along the walking track of the community center. Steve stated he will mention this request to the Cormorant Daze planning committee.
- 10) **Miscellaneous** – Board received a thank you card from Sue Hambleton regarding the death of her father and former township supervisor, Fred Kraft.

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

Beginning Balance	\$366,840.12
Receipts	+ \$ 9,038.90
Disbursements	- \$ 74,274.21
Ending checking acct. balance	<u>\$ 301,604.80</u>
Investment beginning balance	-0-
Investment purchased	-0-
Investment transferred/sold	-0-
Investment interest	<u>-0-</u>
Ending Investment value	<u>-0-</u>

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

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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