

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, July 29th, 2025**, 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, and Treasurer Cindy Wipperling. Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser was absent.

- A. **Call to Order** by Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Minutes** from July 8th, 2025, regular meeting was 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) **Tyler Lage, Dustguard & Grading** – Mr. Lage was present to talk about grading on his gravel road on 130th Avenue, adjacent to 100th Street. He has observed these roads being graded about once a week, are getting soft and wondering if it is necessary to have roads graded that often. He also does not understand why the road grader is going over dust guarded areas which seem to then take off the dust guard? He also pointed out the entire road of 130th Avenue was dust guarded and questioning if that was necessary as well. John explained that the dust guard contractor erroneously applied too far on 130th Avenue and was not to apply on the entire road. Dean Block, the township road grader, argued that the hills on those roads need to be graded that often. Mr. Lage stated there is only he, his parents and eventually his sister who live on 130th Avenue and wonders if weekly grading is a logical township expense, considering how few people live on the road.

Mr. Block defended the need for this, claiming road would become a 2-track gravel road but he would cease grading if that is what the Board wants. Board discussed that once a month during the spring would be reasonable and if the road condition deteriorates during the rest of the non-winter months, then have Mr. Block grade the road on those occasions when needed.

- 2) **Jay Carlson, Heartland Trail** – Attorney Carlson was present to seek approval from the Board for extension of the Heartland Trail. This is a multi-use trail already in place in Detroit Lakes, thru Park Rapids going towards Walker. The idea is to extend the trail west from Detroit Lakes. He presented a resolution (copy attached) which Houston

Engineering has been commissioned to conduct a route study for the westward route, and Mr. Carlson seeks the township board's approval to support the extension thru the Cormorant lakes area. This does not include financial support but rather help assist in finding a good route through the area. This probable route would be located by Lake Sallie and Lake Melissa and then heading to Cormorant.

Steve added that Steve Skoog, Becker County Environmental Services, had already approached the township about this, and the Board is in favor of it.

Mitch Lundeen is the Becker County contact person in regard to the Heartland Trail extension.

Tony motioned, seconded by John to approve the resolution (#2025-____) in support of a Heartland Trail extension in our area. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor then voted separately in favor of resolution.

- 3) **Line Dancing Class** – This has been cancelled for this year, as the instructor, Kimberely Mathews, has broken her leg. She hopes to have the class again next year.

D) **Old Business**

- 1) **115th Street Deposition** – Claudia updated this was postponed due to scheduling conflicts and is now set for Monday, August 25th in St. Cloud, MN. They will meet with the township attorney on Thursday, August 21st in preparation for their depositions.
- 2) **District 9 MAT meeting** – This was rescheduled to Thursday, August 21st, 5:30 p.m. registration, 6:00 p.m. meeting.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **YMCA Site Dumping Issue** – Claudia sent to North Shore Park a letter about dumping issues at the YMCA recycling bins, and John mentioned that there was little dumping the last week.
- 2) **Trex Bench** - It is assembled and located by the elevator downstairs. Collection bins are still at the front door to start collecting for another bench.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Stacey Rick, Sherbrooke Road** – Stacey had contacted Claudia, mentioning she has

almost gotten rearended as she drives out of her storage building as people are driving too fast over the hill before her approach. She emailed photos of signage for a blind approach and to have a reduced speed limit. John has already ordered a sign as such. Board agreed to have a sign posted before hill for blind approach and 30 mph speed limit.

- 2) **Rock for Cormorant Road** – John reported this is finally done, and actually a little too much product was applied to road, but it is in much better condition.
- 3) **Stacy Palmer Scott, Viking Bay Road Issue, Zoning Help** - Steve has been talking to Stacey for a solution, such as that road having only restricted usage, possibly.
- 4) **Dustguard**– John will drive roads which were not to have been dustguarded and figure out miles that the township should not owe for application.
- 5) **Rick Julian – Lake Ida Easement** – Steve advised that he will contact Mr. Julian, that this easement goes over private land and could suggest having a sign placed where the township road ends, to help keep people off the private easement by Mr. Julian’s lot.
- 6) **Sherbrooke Road culvert** – Stacey Rick stated that her and a neighbor feel they should be filled better, getting worse, and suggested have cones marking the dips.
- 7) **Road Grader** – John added that Dean Block experienced major issues with the brakes on the grader, not working correctly. Just from a rough overview, Mr. Block advised this may not be worth fixing as grader is a 1990 model, and newer model could be bought to replace the old grader. Cost for a 1994/1995 model is about \$20,000, or \$15,000 with trade in.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Playground work** – Ila supplied costs for playground work which the Lions are happy to help contribute to the costs. They will pay \$500 towards the metal car work and pay another \$500 towards new poles for the swing sets. They will also provide labor.
- 2) **LBAE Supervisor Training** –John stated his deadline for completion is before February 1st, 2026.
- 3) **Fix air conditioner for building** – Ila stated Scott Nelson, Nelson Plumbing & Heating, found a 3 phase AC unit, but wouldn’t recommend installing that particular one. Board asked Ila to contact Scott for a quote on a single phase.

- 4) **PPP – Exercise Machine part** – Ila noted that Casey from Push Pedal Pull emailed new estimate of approximately \$500 for additional new board.
- 5) **Electricity Use – Cormorant Daze** – Steve mentioned he would try to contact Lake Region Electric for possible donation.
- 6) **Bathroom Fan** – Ila and John mentioned a new switch was installed which fixed the issue.
- 7) **Cancel Fall Lawn Spraying** - Claudia will call Valley Green South to cancel fall application,
- 8) **Propane PreBuy Offer** – No longer needed in the hall, as have natural gas.
- 9) **Ameripride Class Action suit** – The township was part of this suit for prior Ameripride services, in which we received a check of \$26.01.
- 10) **Budget** – Cindy provided an estimate of what was spent last year August – December to give Board an understanding of what money would still be needed before our next tax distribution that is anticipated mid-December. Board agreed to have special meeting before next regular meeting to look at the township finances in greater detail.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 12th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., with special Budget meeting at 6:15 p.m. same day.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk

