

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, October 10th, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were: Chairperson Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug, and Supervisor Tony Hubbard, Treasurer Susie Braseth, Clerk Claudia Hanson, and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

- A. **Call to Order** by Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Minutes** from the September 26th 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) **Kyle Vareberg, Becker County Zoning and Planning** – Kyle Vareberg was present and advised that he received complaints from Ideal Beach Road residents in July 2023. The most recent complaint was that standing water in the ditch of one resident’s property. Mr. Vareberg and Supervisor John Buhaug visited the area on September 29, 2023, after one inch rainfall. They saw no standing water in the area of complaint. In turn, Mr. Vareberg asked Ed Clem of Becker County Soil and Water to accompany him to check the elevation. Mr. Vareberg noted that Mr. Clem is an unbiased, third-party professional and he determined that the drop in topography in the area of concern would not make the area flood. Mr. Vareberg reported that Mr. Clem advised of the importance of landowners keeping the culvert (or pipe) in that area clean of debris, as any obstruction in the culvert will hold the water back. Mr. Vareberg also consulted another neighbor on Ideal Beach Road and that neighbor stated, after three inches of rain fell, there was not much standing water. The Board recognized that there are many areas throughout Cormorant Township that have pooling water in ditches in the spring and after a very heavy rain, but neighbors need to work together to watch and clear culverts or pipes.
- 2) **Eric Guler, Cormorant Pub and Boathouse re: Greater MN Gas** – Mr. Guler was not present at the meeting. However, Chairman Steve Sorenson spoke with individuals, such as Eric Guler, who would like natural gas option (through Greater MN Gas), throughout Cormorant Village. Steve noted businesses in the Village such as Parallel 46, Cormorant Pub and Boathouse, Cormorant Store, and the Bottle Shop would welcome natural gas availability in the village.

D. Old Business

- 1) **Carpet Tile, add Hallway?** – Ila Mae Lindstrom showed the carpet tile to Ellis Peterson, Jeff Moritz, and Lyle Hanson of the CLWD and would like to have the same installed in their office space. Claudia wondered if the hallway carpet should be replaced at the same time as the library and CLWD so all the flooring would match. The Board agreed and approved new carpet in hallway. Ila will ask Mark Erickson to measure the area and present an updated estimate. Ramsey Flooring last estimate was \$3,400 and they are requesting a 50% down payment (normally Ramsey Flooring requests a 90% down payment). Ila also noted the carpet could be installed in the library area as early as the week of Thanksgiving. Claudia sent an email to Liz at CLWD on October 3, 2023, with an update about the carpet and asked if someone from the CLWD would like to be present at today’s meeting, but no response has been received about attending meeting.
- 2) **Ramp Rebuild Update** – John stated the cement for the new ramp has been installed and the materials for the ramp have been purchased. Construction on the new ramp is scheduled to begin tomorrow, October 11, 2023.
- 3) **Fall Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze was present at the meeting and she emailed the Board a draft of the fall newsletter yesterday. Members read draft and that it looks excellent. Ms. Chenze will submit the newsletter for printing.

E. Recycling

- 1) **Trex Bench Update** – Claudia updated the Board that plastic now being collected, at the township, will be used to make a bench for the township. She noted that Rick Julian used the previous collection to round off the amount of plastic needed for the Cormorant Sportsman’s Club bench. Ila cleans out the plastic donation bin once per week.
- 2) **Brush/Compost Site** – Steve advised that the deed for the brush/compost site is now in the Township’s name. Ila informed the Board that if trees are to be purchased for the perimeter of the site, a valuable resource is the Becker Soil and Conservation Office.

F. Roads

- 1) **Chip Sealing** – Steve reported no update regarding chip sealing and could be done next year.

- 2) **Shouldering Update** – John advised that Ryan Olson would like to do the shouldering work on township roads but he does not have the equipment needed and is looking into purchasing equipment.
- 3) **Mailbox Post Requests** – Claudia noted that we currently have three additional mailbox post requests pending. Susie mentioned bill paid this month to the Becker County Highway Department, was expensive, including 20 more mailbox supports at \$85/each and new solar speed signs that totaled \$9,449.00. Claudia noted we have received numerous requests for swing-away mailbox posts this past year.
- 4) **Solar Speed Signs** - Steve discussed the impact the new solar speed signs will have on the township. Each sign can be programmed to project a message also (as “Slow Down”) to people traveling into Cormorant Village. He highlighted many people tend to not slow to the required 30 mph when driving through the Village.
- 5) **Bus Route Information** – Claudia received a detailed email of bus routes from the Lake Park Audubon Transportation Director. Steve noted the Pelican Rapids School District will also be providing the township with a bus route list. These routes were solicited, by the township, to assist with snow removal this coming winter season.
- 6) **Mileage Certification** – Claudia is working on mileage certification for Cormorant Township, which two new roads may need to be included in the certification. John will drive and mark mileage for Creek View Drive. At present time, Royal Oak cannot officially be counted (not accepted by township yet). John reaffirmed that Golden Lane cannot be maintained by the township as the roadway is too narrow, merely a two-track path in some parts of the road.
- 7) **LRIP Grant** – Claudia has begun applying for this grant for roadway expenditure. Board will need to decide on what road will be the designated project, based on how many people the road project would affect, and then estimates, possibly an engineering plan and road usage information will be needed. This is due in December, and notification of grant awardees will be next March.
- 8) **New snowplow driver** - John mentioned a new snowplow driver, Kevin Wickenheiser, spent time with him driving plowing routes.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Flu Shot Clinic Reminder** – Claudia reminded everyone that the flu shot clinic will be held tomorrow at the community center from 9:30-10:30 a.m. A senior flu dose will be available.
- 2) **PAM Information Meeting Update** – Ila reviewed video surveillance footage and it does not appear that anyone attended the PAM information meeting on October 2, 2023. Steve noted he currently has a family member residing at PAM and it is a wonderful, clean rehabilitation place for patients.
- 3) **Short Course of Clerks and Treasurers Update** – Claudia, Susie, and Penny agreed the most recent short course training was beneficial. Both Claudia and Susie need to update their CTAS software to the latest version.
- 4) **LPA Community Ed Programming** - Claudia will be meeting with Roz Howery with LPA Community Ed on October 18, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. to coordinate efforts of this programming to be held at the community center.
- 5) **Becker County Association of Townships Meeting** – Claudia is reminded of this meeting on October 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker County Courthouse.
- 6) **Volunteer** – Claudia noted she received an email from an individual about volunteer options at the township.
- 7) **Plaque on Bench** - John advised that the plaque is in the office and will be installed as soon as possible.
- 8) **Lawn care** - Ila noted Valley Green South Lawn Service sprayed and maintained the township lawn as requested last week.
- 9) **Ladies Night Out** – Claudia reminded everyone of Ladies Night Out on November 3, 2023. Posters are up throughout the community center and on the township website.
- 10) **Trunk or Treat** – This is coming up Sunday October 29th and Ila mentioned about 14 people, or trunks, are attending.
- 11) **Miscellaneous mail** – None.

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

Beginning Balance	\$553,763.45
Receipts	+ \$ 690.29
Disbursements	- <u>\$399,887.76</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 154,565.98</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>

Susie advised that the checks approved at tonight's meeting totaled \$17,631.92. She noted roads and the brush/compost site purchase were the big investments of 2023.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by John and seconded by Tony.

Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 31st (Halloween) at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk and
Claudia Hanson, Clerk