

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 October 10<sup>th</sup> 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) No new business to discuss.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Ramp Rebuild Update** – John reported ramp is completed other than little trim left to be installed. He has received many positive comments. Ila Lindstrom noted a suggestion to add strips (like sandpaper) on the steps and ramp to make them less slippery.

2) **Fan Repair** - Ila advised the fan, located in the lower-level men’s room, was fixed so it is now working properly. The fan had previously been very noisy and not pulling out air.

3) **Trunk and Treat Outcome 10/29** – Ila noted that 110-115 children were present at this year’s Trunk or Treat celebration. The number of children was down from 140 in 2022. There were three trunks inside the community center and 12 decorated trunks outside. It was a chilly night, so Ila mentioned the hot cider was a hit this year.

4) **Ladies Night Out 11/13** – Ladies Night Out is scheduled for November 13 in Cormorant Village. Claudia has not heard how many vendors will be stationed at the community center.

E. **Recycling**

1) **Brush/Compost Site** – Ed Chenze noted the brush/compost site will not close on November 12 as previously planned, due to the unseasonably nice weather, and will stay open to township residents until Sunday, November 26, 2023.

**F. Roads**

- 1) **Chip Sealing** – Steve advised that chip sealing will be postponed in 2024.
- 2) **Mailbox Post Requests** – Claudia advised one mailbox post was redone and there are presently three more requests pending completion.
- 4) **Shouldering** - John noted some of the shouldering has been completed thru Ryan Olson and Driveway Services (for using the equipment required).
- 5) **Grant LRIP** - Claudia and John advised that they are working with Jim Olson, Becker County Engineer. The Board had decided on East Lake Ida Lane as the road to apply for, versus other township road, due to how much this road is used seasonally, connects to several other roads and is a short cut to Cty. Hwy. 5 from Pelican Lake. It also connects to a campground. John mentioned one culvert needs repair, the other needs repositioning, and the entire road needs to be resurfaced. The amount of traffic this road endures, especially in the lake country summer months, is one of the requirements of the grant application. Jim Olson agreed this is a route of regional significance as defined in the LRIP grant definition.
- 6) **Speed Signs** - Claudia received a solicitation from Grant Graham as a provider for road signs. Steve noted the new speed signs are working well and that there is software available to program different messages on the sign.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **Fuel Tank** – John advised the fuel tank has arrived and can be positioned on the cured concrete pad. Fuel will be filled up next week. John noted the switch to turn the tank on or off will be located in the shop. Claudia will add insurance coverage for the tank. Ila mentioned a monitor was installed on the propane tank today.
- 2) **Flooring** –The township has already paid half of the replacement carpet in the library, hallway, and CLWD. The CLWD will be responsible for payment of the remaining half. Ila noted the flooring has been ordered.
- 3) **Becker County Association of Townships Meeting Recap** – Claudia attended meeting. Items discussed: Lisa Will, Becker County Assessor, has left this position, relocating to a State position. Clerk training is on December 7 at the Becker County Courthouse.

E Poll books will be utilized for the Presidential Nomination Primary on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Kyle Varberg, Becker Cty. Zoning Administrator would like Cormorant Township to participate in the comprehensive land use and zoning plan. Claudia reminded that the County Environmental Services dump had a “store” available where you can purchase gently used objects.

- 4) **Community Education** – Claudia noted the first community education event will be held on November 18. Roz Howery, the coordinator, is inquiring about the fee to rent the community center. Since community education programs serve all of the community, the Board agreed no fee will be charged. Claudia suggested classes in CPR and AED and cooking classes may be offered in the future.
- 5) **Healthcare class** – Claudia added Jo Hanson has rented the School room for three Wednesday nights in November to give lecture “The Good, Bad, and Ugly” about healthcare. Susie added that Ms. Hanson was a nurse. These programs begin tomorrow, November 1, and flyers have been posted.
- 6) **Shoes** – Claudia advised an individual donated a pair of tennis shoes to anyone in need.
- 7) **Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze reported Precision Printing in Detroit Lakes delayed in printing the newsletter, so it will not be mailed until after the Girls Night Out event. Jessie stated this has happened before and Precision Printing had a four week lead to print the newsletter so it could be mailed before Girls Night Out. Jessie has discussed this with Tammy Odegaard and considering other printing providers.
- 8) **Security System** – The community center security system is not working properly and is outdated equipment. The Board decided to invest in a new security mainframe/monitor. The cameras the center currently uses are compatible with the new system.
- 9) **Natural Gas** – Greater MN Gas will be running natural gas through the village. Claudia will set up a meeting with them and John to review costs, where lines should be laid, and to convert the furnaces to use natural gas versus propane.
- 10) **PERA** – Susie advised changes regarding eligibility for PERA, the state of MN retirement fund. One of the changes is if an employee earns \$425 per month, they are eligible for PERA. Ed Chenze, Dean Block, and Steve Mattson will be added to PERA,

possibly more employees. She added ineligible employees for PERA are seasonal employees such as snowplow operators or contract workers.

11) **Miscellaneous mail** – there was none.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk and  
Claudia Hanson, Clerk