

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, August 27th, 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 August 15th, 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) **Stacey Feldt, BIO Girls (Beautiful Inside and Out)** – Stacey introduced herself to the Board and is the site director in our area for BIO Girls. This is a nonprofit organization that has locations over the upper Midwest. She would like to start a program in the LPA/Cormorant area and would love to use the community center’s space beginning in January 2025 and continue weekly for about 12 weeks. This program is geared for 2nd – 6th Grade girls to promote self-esteem, confidence, empowerment to self and service to others. They follow a curriculum, have mentors, do service projects such as volunteering in the community, make blankets. Birthday bags, etc. There also is devotion, small and large group meetings, physical activities that are geared toward girls of all abilities and are noncompetitive. There will be seven volunteers consisting of one site director, one market lead, five active volunteers, and about 20 girls. Sundays would be the best day and she is hoping for a time slot from 3:00 – 5:30 pm. Board discussed and were very favorable to having this group in our area. After reviewing calendar for 2025, Board agreed to host this for the times and dates Stacey requested. A rental agreement and user policy will still be needed, along with a damage deposit, which Claudia will send out forms to Stacey. No rental charge will be collected as this is a non-profit organization.

D) **Old Business**

- 1) **Schroeder Variance –Dennis Olsen** – Mr. Olsen was present again regarding the building site for this variance and wants to know what has been done. Steve stated that he met with Kyle Varberg and that Mr. Varberg has turned the matter over to the Becker County Attorney, Brian McDonald, for his opinion. Steve stated he

has not received any decisions yet from Mr. McDonald. Mr. Olson gave each supervisor a copy of MN State Statutes and MAT (MN Assn of Townships) library document numbers that are applicable to this issue. Further debate ensued over the past issues and John reminded Dennis Olsen that the building permit is valid until March/April 2025 which the owner or contractor has time to complete the project and rectify any road issues, such as the concerns he and Mr. Challey have.

John Challey also spoke and mentioned attending a recent Becker Cty.

Commissioners meeting was wondering again if the Board would change how variances are granted.

- 2) **Cormorant Daze Recap, Mayor Inauguration, Car Show, Lions Breakfast** – Steve advised there was a record number of about 2,500 people in attendance at Cormorant Daze this year. About 150 cars were in the car show and vendors noted they had record sales for the day. Cormorant Store experienced triple the customers over last year. The Mayor's inauguration of Khaleesi Sherbrooke, the Dog, was attended by approximately 300 people, and 600 people enjoyed the Lions breakfast. He added at last committee meeting that Bob and Libby Larson may be unable to organize the car show again next year. They have done an excellent job for many years, enrolling numerous cars in the show, and having several tables with door prizes for the participants. Steve noted Kiddie Land also had record breaking numbers, and the Wrestling Show was entertaining for many. The dumpsters available were sufficient according to Ila Lindstrom. The new Mayor Khaleesi Sherbrooke plans to be present at Trunk and Treat and the Easter party. Steve stated it was a perfect day for Cormorant Daze! The only addition to next year is to rope off the neighbor's property to the north to avoid people parking on their private land. Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and help given to make this another huge success for our township and community!
- 3) **Window Replacements CLWD and Township Office** – John will begin working on the installation of the windows very soon once he can gather some help for this project.
- 4) **Framing of Picture** – Board approved the framing of the picture donated by Ruby Erickson's family. Ila gave some frame color options and will also have the old maps of Cormorant that Mary Erickson donated placed in a poster frame.

E. Recycling

- 1) **New Tree Trimming** – This still needs to be done to help new little trees grow.
- 2) **Correct Sign Spelling at Brush Site** – John will take down sign and use white paint to cover the black letters to correct the spelling from “Residences” to “Residents.”
- 3) **Brush site work** – John updated that there is some black dirt being moved over from new storage site location and level out area before recycling site can be relocated.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve stated road work will be initiated after Labor Day. The asphalt companies have been very busy this summer and the township roads will have less traffic on them after Labor Day. John will have the crack crew out to do repairs prior to the contractor doing work on the roads.
- 2) **Tree Trimming** – John advised that trees in the road right away will be trimmed after Labor Day when there are less residents and visitors on the roads.
- 3) **Nelson Lake Road** – Residents have asked for some gravel at the end of road (not the condominium end) to fill in low spots.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 26** – Ila inquired if holding Trunk or Treat from 3:00-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 26th would be okay as the Lions have their district meeting on Sunday, October 27th. The Board approved the proposed Trunk or Treat date and time.
- 2) **Rebate Work LED Light Bulbs** - Kerry Evenson was obtaining the correct information to complete form.
- 4) **Exercise Room** - Ila advised Push/Pedal/Pull serviced the treadmills yesterday by cleaning the rollers on one of the treadmills and the track on another. All equipment was checked and left in working order. Ila asked them to note all the serial numbers of the exercise equipment so she can keep track of when repairs are completed and potential service is needed.
- 5) **Election Judge sharing** – Our township is very fortunate to have many people sign up to be judges, which a few judges end up being used in other precincts. Our township pays

for their training, and the precinct will pay for their wages for time worked. Board discussed if we need to recoup any of the training costs we incurred, even if we did not use them, and the Board agreed to absorb those costs. Majority of the judges will work in our township for the November election.

- 6) **Solar Panel Grant** – Claudia received email about possibility for municipal buildings to install solar panels with potential grant proceeds.
- 7) **Newsletter** – Board agreed to try and have another edition this fall or winter.
- 8) **Propane** – Susie advised that Lakes Community Coop will take leftover propane and give the township credit for that.
- 9) **Miscellaneous mail** - None

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 10th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk
Penny Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk