

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, September 10th, 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 27th, 2024, regular meeting and variance meetings were read.

Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business** – none.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Dennis Olsen/John Challey – Schroeder Variance** - Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey were present at the meeting. Mr. Olson provided the board members with MN Association of Townships Notice of Right of Violation, Alteration of Grade, Damage to the Right-of-Way and Headwall information and thinks the township needs to send this violation to Mr. Schroeder. He also claimed the postmaster told him the retaining wall is a nuisance. Tony did mention that this case has been given to Brian McDonald, County Attorney, by Kyle Varberg, County Zoning Administrator, and that we have not received an opinion yet from the attorney. Steve provided dates of when Kyle emailed Brian this.

John explained that garage and work around garage is not done yet, and the permit is good until April 2025 to have the dirt and road drainage issues completed.

In a prior conversation, Mr. Schroeder agreed to remove part of retaining wall (August 15th minutes) if it interferes with road runoff.

John asked if stakes are present from any recent survey, which Mr. Olsen advised that Mr. Bitterman, another neighbor of Mr. Schroeder, had a survey of his property completed and stated Mr. Schroeder has “a bad habit of moving stakes.” Alex from Becker County Zoning and Planning was at the site, inspected boat position in the water and wrote a letter to Mr. Schroeder. Mr. Challey stated Mr. Schroeder has pushed gravel and moved snow into Mr. Bitterman’s yard. Mr. Challey added that Mr. Schroeder “is a bully.”

Steve has been staying connected Kyle Varberg (Becker Cty. Zoning and Planning) and awaiting input from Becker Cty. Attorney Brian McDonald. Both Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey will attend next township meeting for any updates.

- 2) **Arvig Install Complete** – Claudia stated that the Arvig upgrade installation is complete. The Internet speed is now greatly improved.
- 3) **Window Replacements CLWD and Township Office** – John stated his goal was to begin installation of the windows on September 12th or 13th.

E. Recycling

- 1) **New Tree Weed Trimming** – John updated the crew is working on the weed trimming around newly planted trees at the compost/brush site.
- 2) **Correct Sign Spelling at Brush Site** – Ila Lindstrom corrected the spelling on the sign with fresh paint, located at the compost/brush site entrance.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve stated he spoke with Anderson Brothers and will be meeting with them on Thursday, September 12th at 1:30 p.m. to review potential projects. This is the only asphalt contractor Steve has heard from who is available in working on our roads.
- 2) **Tree Trimming in Right-of-Way** – John advised trees in the road right-of-away are being trimmed.
- 3) **Nelson Lake Road** – John reported a load of gravel will be placed on Nelson Lake Road and will be graded soon. Residents of Nelson Lake Road had indicated a continued concern regarding Mr. Boushee's actions, stating he has already moved some of the gravel to the lakeside. He may be building a new structure on his property and advised that he has no building permit. Mr. Boushee is also continuing his harassing actions towards his neighbors. Claudia dropped off a copy of the township letter addressing Mr. Boushee's actions at Becker Cty. Sheriff's office.
- 4) **Road Ditch Mowing** – John mentioned Lloyd Ness will be mowing ditches within the next few weeks. One area that needs attention is on West Lake Ida Lane, close to the Ottertail County line.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Newsletter** – Jesse Chenze was present and she will start the newsletter, to be posted on the township website within few weeks. She will highlight reminders about Election Day and Ladies Night Out.
- 2) **Framing of Picture** – Ila has framing of old oil painting and maps of Cormorant Village Set to be completed soon. Cost associated with the framing is \$408.00.
- 3) **LED Bulb Rebate** – Ila stated Kerry Evenson was working on this and he has not heard back from an inquiry with Lake Region Electric.
- 4) **Mileage Certification** - Claudia advised that mileage certification is due in November.
- 5) **Elevator Sign Compliance** –Ila and Claudia are obtaining the correct signage needed for elevator compliance.
- 6) **Trunk or Treat** – Ila stated Trunk or Treat will now be held on Sunday, October 20th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Last year, there were about 120 kids in attendance.
- 6) **Miscellaneous** –A thank you note was received from Cormorant Lion, Willis Frazee, for allowing the Lions to host a blood drive at the community center.

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

Beginning Balance	\$301,784.81
Receipts	+ \$ 1,169.10
Disbursements	- <u>\$ 48,092.86</u>
Ending checking acct. balance	<u>\$ 254,861.05</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 7:30 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 24th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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