

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, September 24th, 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 September 10th, 2024, variance and regular meetings 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) **Chris Larson – Property Line** - Chris Larson, neighbor, and property owner to the north of the township/community center acreage, was present at the meeting, to discuss location of the property line. He questioned the township planted pine trees, which are marked with stakes, if they are on his property or township property. John thought they were planted on township property. Discussion ensued regarding when line was surveyed and the use of Becker County GIS for property boundaries and an official survey is most accurate means to determine property line. Mr. Larson did not have a new survey completed when he purchased the property; the last survey completed was in the early 1980's. Tony asked Mr. Larson if he would like the township to move the pine trees from his property and Mr. Larson indicated that would not be necessary. John offered to mark the property line and could meet Mr. Larson to confirm the line. Ila asked about the old fence on the property line and it is probable the previous owners accurately marked the property line with the old fence. LREC (electric provider) also contacted Mr. Larson regarding cleaning up some tree branches on the property line.
- 2) **LARL Library** – Cindy Lichtsinn was present and advised that the Moorhead Library is being rebuilt. She stated that old Moorhead Library furniture is available for LARL Link sites to utilize. She would like to revamp the Internet area of the community center, make it a more user-friendly area, by adding a small oak table, 3 chairs, and a couple of lamps from the old Moorhead site. Ms. Lichtsinn does not need any assistance with

moving the furniture but would like permission of the Board to allow her to bring this furniture into the community center. The Board approved this request, as well as Ila.

D) Old Business

- 1) **Dennis Olsen/John Challey – Schroeder Variance** - Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey were present at the meeting. Steve informed Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey that Becker County Attorney Brian McDonald suggested that the township has authority of the road under common law. Mr. Olsen expressed concern about the grade of the road and whether it will be brought to its original level, especially before winter. Steve assured Mr. Olsen that Mr. Schroeder, or the township, would grade the road to its original condition once construction is completed. Much discussion ensued regarding the retaining wall, Mr. Olsen questioning the Board's judgement in allowing this variance 0 feet from the right-of-way (ROW) and township is doing nothing to correct items mentioned in previous meetings. Steve mentioned one option Kyle Vareberg (Becker Cty. Planning Administrator) offered is the township abandon 4-5 feet of the road, where these variance concerns stem from. Mr. Olsen asked the Board if they are planning to give him 5 feet of the ROW. He also expressed concern that there is a door on the upper level of the building. John added the Board has never seen the building permit as Becker Cty. Zoning issues that. More discussion continued regarding a survey, which John Challey did add he talked to surveyor who was hired by another neighbor's (Bitterman) attorney. Steve added that he assumed Becker Cty. Zoning would check footing measurements and inspect the site more often. More argumentative comments were made as far as progress on this conflict, and no clear resolution to Mr. Olsen and Mr. Challey's concerns until Schroeders have completed their construction and if then, the road issues are done.
- 2) **Trunk or Treat** – Ila reminded everyone that the Trunk or Treat event will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Ila mentioned she received a \$400 donation from the Cormorant Lakes Sportsman's Club and another donation from the Cormorant Lions. She intends to buy full size candy bars to distribute to the children that attend the event.

- 3) **Flu Shot Clinic** – Claudia reminded everyone that the Flu Shot Clinic will be held on October 9, 2024, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. She stated that there are appointments still if any meeting attendees would like to schedule an appointment.
- 4) **October Calendar** – Claudia distributed the October calendar.
- 5) **Comprehensive Land Use Plan Meeting** – The Comprehensive Land Use Plan meeting at the Becker County Courthouse is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.
- 6) **Newsletter** – Jesse Chenze completed a draft newsletter and just needs a few additions and corrections.

E. Recycling

- 1) **New Tree Weed Trimming** – John stated weed trimming of the new trees at the brush/compost site, is done.
- 2) **Move Site Next Year** –John updated the recycling center site area will be leveled off with gravel on Friday. The recycling center off County Road 1 will be relocated to the brush/compost location next year.
- 3) **Rewrite Sign** – This task has been completed by Ila Lindstrom.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Work** – Steve advised that Anderson Brothers will start road work next week for new asphalt on North Beach Road and overlay repair on Rosman-Erickson road and 132nd Avenue for a cost of \$134,598. Steve asked for approval by the Board which Tony motioned to accept estimate, John seconded. Carried 3-0.
- 2) **Grant Road (East Lake Ida Lane)** – Claudia is awaiting a response from Jim Olson, Becker County Engineer on update for this project.
- 3) **Tosten Erickson Road Comment** – An email was received from resident on Tosten Erickson Road that road is very bumpy. Board noted this and other township roads are bumpy but will have to be considered for next years' road projects.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Replace Fan for Upstairs Bathroom** – John received an estimate for \$2,100 to replace the bearings in the bathroom fan. Steve felt this was expensive for a fan repair. Steve will check if another opinion could be gotten on this. Ila asked if the kitchen fan is still in good working order, which John mentioned it is.

- 2) **High Electrical Rate for Cormorant Daze** - Claudia contacted Lake Region Electric regarding the excessive bill the township received following Cormorant Daze. The township's normal electrical usage is charged at 6.85 cents per kilowatt. However, it was explained that during the time period from 10:00 – 11:00 am on Cormorant Daze, the electrical usage was extremely high, which placed the township into large commercial usage fee of \$20 per kilowatt for that hour. The LREC representative suggested to spread out electrical demand to other businesses so the township does not fall into the large commercial demand category. Historically, this is the first time the township ever reached this high amount of electrical usage, even though last year was close. Susie asked if Wild Rice Electric would be an option and John stated the township not in the Wild Rice Electric coverage area. Steve advised he will mention this at next Cormorant Daze committee and may have to charge extra for those vendors that will need electrical services, or as suggested, some of the items could be plugged into the Cormorant Store or other business also.
- 3) **LED Bulb Rebate** – Ila indicated she has not received any information from Kerry Evenson yet regarding the rebate.
- 4) **Revamp of Website** – Claudia has been revamping the township website, with help from GovOffice service representative.
- 5) **Elevator Sign** – Susie ordered the sign for the wall next to elevator and Ila will hang it up once received.
- 6) **Becker County Association of Townships** – The Becker County Association of Townships meeting will be held at the Becker County Courthouse on October 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
- 7) **Tammy Odegaard** – Steve advised that the township should pay a thank you donation of \$1,000 to Tammy for leading volunteers, organizing meetings, managing vendors, scheduling all the events and all the other work involved that Tammy exerts into a successful Cormorant Daze every year. The Board approved the donation.

- 8) **Solar Panel Grant** – Claudia researched a State of MN Solar Panel Grant and found that our township does not qualify because we are not covered by Excel Energy services.
- 9) **Miscellaneous** – There was no miscellaneous mail to discuss.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 8th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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