

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Treasurer Susie Braseth and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

A. **Call to Order** by Chairman Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **Minutes** from the October 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Flu Shot Information from Becker County Human Services** - Board members acknowledged all received email regarding flu shot clinic information. Board discussed since it is late in the flu shot season and most people have already received their flu shot, it would be difficult to guarantee 20 people for the one-hour flu shot clinic yet this fall. Penny mentioned because we are now on the list with Homeland Health Specialists as interested parties to conduct a flu shot clinic, Homeland Health Specialists will notify the Clerk's Office in February 2023 to schedule a flu shot clinic next fall.
- 2) **Thunderbolt Ranch Storage** – Lori Scheving, resident on Thunderbolt Ranch Road, expressed concern about the storage buildings proposed to be built across from her driveway. She has spoken with Kyle Vareberg and Jim with Becker County Planning & Zoning. They advised to contact State of Minnesota to petition against having the storage buildings built. Ms. Scheving stated that it is frustrating who is the authority on this, Becker County Planning & Zoning or Becker County Commissioners, and that the contractor has already unnecessarily cleared 300-year-old oak trees and leveled off hills on the site. She continued that this road is not built for heavy traffic and the project developer is “not being a good neighbor.” She is concerned about the landscape and the depreciation of her property value. Steve validated Ms. Scheving's concerns, but advised that, although difficult to witness, property owners are allowed to clear their property of trees and make changes to the landscape. Steve said that the builder only has a conditional use permit, and this project will be finalized at the November meeting for the County Commissioner's. Ms. Scheving will advocate for opposing the proposed storage buildings. The Board gave some other suggestions but empathized with the situation.

**D) Old Business**

- 1) **Ida Beach Road, Vacate Portion**– Dale Larson was present regarding his request to vacate a small portion of Ida Beach Road. Claudia noted that the other small portion, at the end of the road, was vacated on May 8, 2018. Tony mentioned that MAT (MN Association of Townships) advised Boards to not vacate roads, if possible. Steve added this lot should not be vacated, in the scenario if the present owner sold lot to another person, this lot would become landlocked and there is no public access to the property. Mr. Larson understood the Board’s position and would like more space to eventually build a garage on his backlot. Tony advised Mr. Larson the variance procedure, which is easier than vacating part of road, and to connect with a supervisor for guidance on garage dimensions, before seeking a variance.
- 2) **Winter Newsletter** – Jessie Chenze mentioned starting a winter newsletter and will include a recap of Trunk & Treat and Ladies Night Out. The issue will likely be disseminated before January. Steve indicated everyone liked the fall newsletter. Susie mentioned 20 extra copies were paid for and need to be picked up to be available at the community center. Jessie was unaware of the extra copies. Susie will call the printer and Claudia will pick up the extra copies. Jessie will have the extra copies of forthcoming newsletters mailed to the township office instead of having to retrieve them.
- 3) **Piano – Working!** - The player piano, donated by Claudia, has been repaired for \$120.00. Steve was very impressed with how inexpensive the repairs cost. Claudia also donated two boxes of music.
- 4) **Outlet in Internet Space, Wi-Fi Boosters** – Tony brought in a better extension for the exercise room. It is working very well. There is no longer a need for an extension in the kitchen area as the School Room television is working better also.

**E. Recycling**

- 1) **Gate** – Gates and padlocks are installed at the compost site. The compost site will be closed as of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Claudia will put notice of closure on the township website, voicemail, and electronic sign.

**F. Roads**

- 1) **Snowplow** – Dean Block was present and has inspected the new snowplow to check if any repairs are needed. The old snowplow will be sold as parts and the Board would like to purchase another new snowplow. John is researching options and found a 2004 Sterling with 193,000 miles on it. The board decided that if another snowplow is found, approval is granted to make the purchase. Steve mentioned that another township contacted him about hiring Cormorant Township to mow ditches for them; however, our township is just able to mow our own ditches. Claudia mentioned the County does some mowing for townships
- 2) **Magnetic Signs for Plows, Truck** – Claudia will contact M & R Signs to inquire about ordering a half dozen 12x36 magnetic signs for the plows and trucks.
- 3) **Gravel Roads** – Dean updated that we need rain to be able to grade the gravel roads properly, especially those that had dust guard applied to them.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **Trunk & Treat Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 3-5 pm**- Ila mentioned, that so far, Barb Maasjo has received notice that 10 vehicles will be present for Trunk & Treat.
- 2) **Ladies Night Out Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 4-8 pm** – There are a lot of vendors expected for this year's Ladies Night Out event.
- 3) **Election Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> Polls Open 7am – 8pm** – Claudia indicated our township is ready for election day. John made a motion to appoint the following election judges: Susie Braseth, Megan Hoyes, Ginger Lenzmeier, Tim Lenzmeier, Sharon Olson, Donna Lutz, Penny Wickenheiser, Ila Mae Lindstrom, Cara Bjerken, Mark Nielson, Warren Meissner, Barb Maasjo, Lavonne Selberg, Jo Downs, and Laurie Wanke. Tony seconded the motion, carried 3-0.
- 4) **Conversion of New Laptops for Clerks** – IT specialist Sharon Buermann has been working on setting up the new laptops with Microsoft 365 and the ability for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to share documents.

5) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Claudia mentioned a thank you was received for the plow. Tony advised there is a need for a reminder to be set for March 2023 to start road projects.

H. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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