

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Monday, February 28th, 2022**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. This meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, but was rescheduled to this date, due to a blizzard. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisor John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, and Treasurer Susie Braseth and Clerk Claudia Hanson.

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

B. **Minutes** from the January 25th regular meeting were approved with a motion by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

1) **Liquor Licenses** - The Board reviewed applications for renewal of on-sale liquor licenses for Parallel 46 (dba Cormorant Inn, presented by Randy Iwerks), and for the Cormorant Pub and Boathouse (presented by Gretchen Hunter). The Board also reviewed renewal of wine/strong beer license and 3.2 malt liquor license for Lakes Fika (dba as EllaMaries Café and Collectibles, Emma Mattson, owner). Board discussed and agreed to grant first two licenses. Tony motioned to consent issuance of all on-sale Liquor licenses, as applied, and seconded by John, carried 3-0. As EllaMarie's wine/strong beer and 3.2 liquor license renewal involved passing of a resolution, John motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve and issue this license by resolution (#2022-2). Motion carried 3-0 and all supervisors voted in favor of this resolution.

2) **Ideal Beach Road issue – Fran Heitkamp** was present to talk about the reflectors he has placed in the snowbank next to road. He said his neighbor, Dave Shaw (who was also present) states the reflectors are in the way. Fran has no problem with how the township has been removing the snow on the road. John Buhaug mentioned the reflectors are getting harder to miss when he is plowing the snow. Fran talked about the dedicated 66 ft. wide road right of way and that there is a lot of stuff in the road right of way. John B. further added it does become an inconvenience to have items in road right of way. Dave Shaw also presented a letter of his concern of how the right of way is being used. Fran questioned if building can be done in the 66 ft right-of-way, which John responded no. Fran did bring up the rock that Dave Shaw has in the right of way. Steve Sorenson clarified the rock should not be in the road right of way but this is a common problem

all over the township. Fran then expressed he doesn't mind Shaw's rock but then he would ask to have his reflectors left where they are at. Fran had concerns where the culvert was located, causing water back up to fill front yard and more discussion revolved around drainage. Fran believes the culvert should be removed and a ditch dug. Dave Shaw claimed Fran built up lot, obscuring the natural flow of rainwater.

Steve reminded everyone the issue are the reflectors. Another neighbor, Brian Garber spoke up, that the reflectors should stay, but added that Dave Shaw is blowing snow on top of his septic system. The question was then asked where snow should go once another neighbor, Joe Crabtree, builds his dwelling.

The discussion continued with John and others suggesting where snow should go in the future. There were further comments exchanged between Val Shaw and Fran.

The neighbors all appreciate John's snowplowing, but Fran recommended to have Steve and Tony, as supervisors, also inspect the site, along with John.

Steve stated that is what he advises, and agrees to have the supervisors do a site inspection to resolve issue.

- 3) **Resolution for Reestablishing Precinct & Polling Place** – Board needs to pass this resolution due to re-districting of the Legislature. Our township has not been affected directly by this, but MN Statute requires that precinct boundaries must be reestablished within 60 days of when the Legislature has been redistricted. The Cormorant Community Center is again the designated polling place for 2022 elections. See attached resolution #2022-1. John motioned, seconded by Steve, to accept resolution #2022-1, designating the Cormorant Community Center as the polling place for our township. Motion carried and each supervisor voted in favor of this resolution.
- 4) **Coffee pot** – Ila Mae explained continued problems with the coffee pots, one is just barely keeping coffee warm and the second one is heating but is quite old, was stored in the basement for some time. A similar replacement (estimate of \$400) would have lower voltage and takes longer to heat. An idea came up to have a water line installed directly to the coffee pot to decrease time, add convenience of making coffee. John explained further how the water line could be installed. Steve advised to obtain an estimate for water line installation.

- 5) **Air Conditioning unit** – Ila informed Board that a new unit would need to be considered, as last August, the unit closest to the kitchen ramp, continually froze up. Glen Smith, local repairman, stated the unit is starting to fail. Board agreed some estimates will have to be obtained for a new unit.

**D. Old Business**

- 1) **Lake Park Fire Dept. costs** – Claudia shared letter from the fire department on estimated costs of \$41, 455.49 for 2022 fire service for our township.
- 2) **Assessor Lisa Marschall update** – Lisa was not present but emailed a summary of last year’s assessment work, which was 1/5 of the township. She inspected 366 parcels, 262 travel trailer lots, 70 building permit sites, and 152 new construction sites. She will attend the March 29<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
- 3) **Annual Meeting and Township Elections** – Claudia reminded everyone that elections are March 8<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Annual Meeting will start at 8:15 p.m.
- 4) **ARPA forms** – Claudia advised new emails have been received from the US Treasury to complete. Deadline to respond to this is March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**E. Recycling** – Some junk reported at Braseth Bay Road site.

**F. Roads**

- 1) **Snow plowing** – Tony Hubbard, as well as the rest of the Board, have received several calls regarding the last bout of several blizzards. He wanted to verify the Township’s snow removal policy, which is that plows will start clearing snow once wind/snow have ceased. The plow drivers only clear roads during daytime for visibility and safety. The plows will not go out if there is 2 inches or less of snow accumulation.

The last few storms were one after another, so plows may not have been able to clear roads as frequently. Also, one plow had engine issues, not working, and is getting repaired.

John added that a snow blade was attached to the road grader, so now the grader can push snow too, especially while the second plow is not in use.

- 2) **MN DOT** – Claudia shared a snow plowing handbook received from MN DOT.

**G. Other Business**

- 1) **Lawn care** – Board discussed upcoming summer’s lawn care needs. Last year, as it was so dry, the grounds were only treated twice. Steve recommended to have 3 weed/ feed applications.
- 2) **Annual Weed Inspector Meeting** – Board was advised this is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Callaway Community Center. John Buhaug will attend.
- 3) **Arvig Fiber Optic dig notice** – Claudia shared letter that Arvig will installing fiber optic cable in the Seclusion Point area.
- 4) **Short Courses** – Claudia advised Board that courses will again not be held in person but only virtually during Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) **Small wedding inquiry** – Claudia received a question if a very small wedding could be held at the community center this fall, and Board reaffirmed that no matter what the size, no weddings will be held in the center, and as Steve clarified, the township does not want to compete with the existing wedding venues in our area.
- 6) **Board of Equalization training for supervisors** – The supervisors wanted to verify that their training has been completed and certified. John did not receive an email that he was certified. Claudia contacted County Assessor Lisa Will after this meeting and has confirmed all three supervisors are certified until July 1, 2025.
- 7) **Roundabouts construction** – Claudia received notice from MN DOT that construction for two roundabouts in Pelican Rapids is being considered and an in-person open house scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. Virtual open houses are also available.
- 8) **Miscellaneous mail** – Board reviewed any other insignificant mail.

H. **Treasurer's Report** - - Board reviewed claims and payments for the prior month (ending January 2021). Claims are available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$707,087.87
Receipts	+ \$13,117.30
Disbursements	- <u>\$20,744.23</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 699,460.94</u>
checking acct. balance	
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 John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk