

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 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, and Treasurer Susie Braseth.

- A. **Call to Order** by Chairperson Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Minutes** from the January 30th, 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) **Liquor License Renewal** - Liquor license renewals were requested by the following individuals representing their respective entities:
 - Rod Einerson – Cormorant Bottle Shop (Off-sale)
 - Sam Stockstad – Parallel 46 (On-sale)
 - Mike Levin – Green Valley Golf Course (On-sale)
 - Eric Guler – Cormorant Pub & Boathouse (On-sale)
 - Emma Mattson – Ella Marie’s (On-sale, 3.2)
 - Gabe Line – Tri-Lakes Roadhouse (On-sale, Off-sale)

The Board reviewed applications for renewal of all liquor licenses for those listed above. John motioned to consent issuance of all Liquor licenses, as applied, and seconded by Tony, carried 3-0. 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). 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 (#2024-1). Motion carried 3-0 and all supervisors voted in favor of this resolution.

- 2) **Lake Park Fire Service Contract** – Board reviewed the Fire contract for this year, which is up for renewal as of April 1st. Last year’s cost for our fire service was \$48,892.00. This year, they are asking for \$54,601.16. Board agreed to this amount of \$54,601.16 with a motion by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

- 3) **Cormorant Park Place Wastewater Treatment Facility** – John explained that MN Pollution Control Agency is advising residents of a change to the septic system at Cormorant Park Place, and to renew permit. At the time of the original permit issuance, the full system has not been placed into operation. The 13,000-gallon flow equalization tank has been utilized as a holding tank and the piping between the 13,000-gallon tank and the treatment units has been temporarily cut and capped below ground to ensure that no flow enters the non-operating treatment units. This new permit contains a construction schedule to activate the full system, reconnect what was cut. The Facility serves a 28 residential unit development. Each unit is served by a grinder pump lift station which is connected to a low-pressure collection system that leads to a very large tank. Penny has posted the permit notice.

D) Old Business

- 1) **Newsletter** – Jessie (not present) emailed the draft of the Winter edition of the newsletter on February 11th, which included information for the upcoming elections and the township annual meeting. Hopefully, this will be printed on a timely basis, as printer has either not printed newsletter as quickly, or the post office has not mailed as quickly as one would like. Residents have received past newsletters after certain events mentioned in newsletter, had already passed.
- 2) **Ramp addition** – There was a delay in receiving this ramp wedge due to back order and shipping issues, but it is now installed and wheelchair/walkers can smoothly get through the kitchen doorway.
- 3) **Arvig Fiber Optic** – Board reviewed the proposal from Arvig to upgrade our internet speeds and service. Board agreed to have them connect to the fiber optic network but decided not to connect any internet to the garage. Our current cost was \$79 a month for internet service and will increase to \$102 per month. John motioned, seconded by Tony, to approve this upgrade. Carried 3-0. Tony also added that he will write grant application for discounted TV services.

- 4) **GovOffice (Catalis) Website Upgrades** – Claudia advised our website management service contract is up for renewal. She received two options, of which one to keep the same service or the second option more expensive, and elaborate service subscription. The second option is quite a bit more expensive, and Board reviewed both options. It was agreed that our website is currently meeting the needs of the community and the original subscription services suit the township well. Catalis is now expecting to commit to a three-year fee subscription. Based on this and costs involved, Tony motioned to keep service the same, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.
- 5) **Diabetes Class, LPA Community Education** – Claudia was advised that this was postponed until March.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Trees for Brush/Compost Site perimeter** – John shared information from Becker Soil & Water Conservation District for prices and tree choices that they offer. They have a great variety of bushes and trees. After review, John suggested to use Norway Pine, American Plum, and Chokecherry trees to plant as a border around our new site. These choices are particularly hardy and should grow well in that soil. Price averages \$62.00 per 25 trees and John is suggesting to get approximately 500 trees. Board agreed to having John proceed, with a motion by Tony, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.
- 2) **Volume data of bins** – Sandy Gunderson of Becker Cty, Environmental Services, emailed information on annual collection of recycled items for the annual meeting.
- 3) **Blue bin locations** – Ila brought up that the bins at the recycling centers are located quite closely together to each other, and it is difficult to get in between them when dropping items into the bins. Board agreed that bins should be spaced more apart.
- 4) **Move Braseth Bins** – As we have a lot of space to use at the new Brush/Compost site, John suggested to have this recycling site on Braseth Bay Road and County Hwy 1, moved to the new Brush/Compost Site. This might be a good topic to bring up at the annual township meeting as well.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Snowplowing** – We have no snow and so there has been no plowing!

- 2) **Safety meeting** – Board agreed that Claudia should schedule this earlier for the year, so the crew can repair roads sooner and also obtain estimates sooner for bigger projects. Claudia will coordinate and hope to book speaker for end of March or beginning of April.
- 3) **Wermager Road damage** – An email was received from resident Evan Hass that there is some damage to repair, once our crew starts working on roads.
- 4) **Solar Speed Signs** – Steve added that he called Jona at Becker Cty. Highway Department, to maintain these signs and Steve was impressed with how quickly they came out to remove ice or fix anything with the signs.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP)** – This is on March 5th, and polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. Claudia has election judge schedule done and everyone is ready to work on that day.
- 2) **Board of Appeal & Equalization Hearing** – This hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Tony Vigen is the new county assessor, who will be present at that meeting.
- 2) **Township Election, Annual Township Meeting** - The annual township election is on March 12th, 2024 (Tuesday) 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Claudia reminded everyone the Annual Meeting will be held following the township election at 8:15 p.m.
- 4) **Annual Weed Meeting** – This is scheduled for March 21st in Callaway. John and/or Tony will try to attend.
- 5) **Short Course Training** – This MAT training is on Monday, April 1st, 2024, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. No pre-registration is required and as many Board members will try to attend.
- 5) **Boy Scouts Events** - Tony asked to schedule a Raingutter Regatta, Saturday, March 16th (10 am-1 pm) and the Blue and Gold Banquet for Friday, April 26th, 2024, starting at 5 p.m. These dates were open and added to the township calendar by Claudia.
- 6) **LRIP Grant results** – Claudia updated that no results will be available from MN DOT until end of March or later.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – MN Department of Health water test results for our community center water had good results.

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

Beginning Balance	\$270,319.96
Receipts	+ \$ 15,009.91
Disbursements	- \$ 29,637.29
Ending	<u>\$ 255,692.58</u>
checking acct. balance	
Investment beginning balance	-0-
Investment purchased	-0-
Investment transferred/sold	-0-
Investment interest	-0-
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 7:41 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 26th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk