

The *2023 Annual Township Meeting of Cormorant Township* was held on March 14th, 2023, at 8:15 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. People who attended are recorded on the sign-up sheet.

- A. **Call to Order** by Clerk Claudia Hanson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Election of Moderator** - The floor was opened for nominations for a moderator, which was followed by a motion made by Ila Mae Lindstrom, seconded by Duane Olson, to nominate **Curt Lundeen** as moderator. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting** – There were no corrections or additions. Motion made by to approve the minutes by Tim Erickson, seconded by John Buhaug. Motion carried.
- D. **Treasurer's Report and Information Packet** - All present were offered this packet outlining last year's financial information and other information prepared by Treasurer Susie Braseth. Motion was made by Tim Erickson to approve the Report, seconded by John Buhaug. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously. See attachment #1.
- E. **2022-2023 Road Report** – Chairman Steve Sorenson gave report, starting off by saying last year's road projects were never completed due to no available asphalt companies to bid on our projects. He continued to list the roads for patching and overlay, including Sherbrooke Beach Lane, East/West Lake Ida Lanes, Globstad Beach Road, Danny Erickson Road, Loon Lane, Ideal Beach Lane, Maple Road, and 132nd Avenue. He hopes to obtain bids in April, or as soon as possible, once snow melts.

Roads listed for hole/dip repair include Rossman/Erickson Road, Snowshoe Beach Road, Wildflower Lane, SE Turtle Lake Road, YMCA Road, and Wermager Beach Road. Shouldering needs to be done on W. Lake Ida Lane, Loon Lane, and Shoreline Road.

Gravel was replaced on ¼ of all township gravel roads and as needed on other gravel roads. Dean Block, township road grader, consistently goes over the gravel roads every weekend.

Chip seal needs to be done on Braseth Beach Road, and some on 132nd Ave. Steve commended the road crew (4 to 5 employees) for their great job on crack fill, which is completed every summer in about a 3-week time period. Dust guard was administered on heavily traveled gravel roads.

Steve wrapped up with mentioning how tough this winter has been on plowing. We experienced huge nine-to-ten-foot drifts, and frequent days of blowing snow. The township did the best they could to keep roads open with the volume of snow that fell this year.

- F. **Swing Away Mailbox Post program** - John Buhaug added the township is still implementing Swing Away Mailbox Post program and the cost of the swing away post is covered by the Township. He added it has also been a tough year on wooden posts, which unfortunately, were hit by the township plows, but the township has repaired those posts until spring. John welcomed residents to use the swing away posts and how beneficial they are if hit, so no damage is done to the mail box, as the plow causes the post to just swing to the side if hit. He advised to contact the township office if they need a swing away post. A form needs to be completed and the township will coordinate with Gopher One to have the post area marked for any underground wires.

He also added that pushing back on high snowbanks and snow piles has been contracted out, as there is no room in some township road ditches for more snow.

- G. **2024 Levy Proposal**- The township residents present need to decide what the levy amount should be for each fund for 2024. The total levy proposal is \$447,000. Agenda outlined amount was levied for each fund last year.

- 1) **General Fund** - The proposed General Fund levy is \$188,000, which was the same as last year. Steve Sorenson made motion to keep the levy at \$188,000, seconded by Nan Heinrich. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **Road & Bridge** - Last year this levy amount was \$204,000. Dave Pederson made motion to set the levy at \$204,000, seconded by Susie Braseth. No other comments or discussion arose, so motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Fire Fund** –Tony Hubbard motioned to keep Fire Fund at \$43,000, (was increased in 2021), seconded by Claudia Hanson. All voted and motion carried to maintain Fire levy at \$43,000.
- 4) **Weed & Gopher Fund** - The gopher bounty must be determined first, which last year was at \$4.00 per gopher. Tim Erickson motion continue bounty at \$4.00 per gopher, seconded Duane Olson. No other discussion so motion carried unanimously.

Last year, the levy for this fund was voted to be \$0. Steve Sorenson motioned to keep

the levy amount \$0, seconded by Susie Braseth. No other comments or concerns were raised. Motion was passed unanimously.

- 5) **Waste Management** - Motion was made by Tony to keep the Waste Management levy at \$12,000, seconded by John Buhaug. There was no other discussion surrounding this and motion passed unanimously.

Tony Hubbard stressed to the audience that the township has mounted cameras at our recycling centers and the brush/ & compost site, due to an increased amount of inappropriate dumping. He added that violators have been identified and fined for illegal dumping at the sites, so please spread the word to be respectful of the sites and only drop off appropriate recyclable items.

The annual Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHW) will be held again this year. Susie Braseth pointed out the recycling bin data on page 19 on how much recycling has been collected for the last year. Historically, our township has done an excellent job with recycling. Claudia added the township will hold another HHW Day in August or September, before snowbird residents leave the area, as July can be too hot for our crew.

Total levy for 2024 is \$447,000.

H. 2023 Election Results were as follows:

Supervisor (3-year term) = Tony (Paul) Hubbard with 18 votes
Treasurer (2-year term) = Susie Braseth with 18 votes

- I. **Township Bank** – Ila Mae Lindstrom made motion to keep the State Bank of Lake Park as the official bank of the township, seconded by David Pederson. No other discussion ensued, passing motion unanimously.
- J. **Official Paper of the Township** - The official newspaper has been the Detroit Lakes Tribune and Tim Erickson made motion to have that paper the official newspaper, seconded by Susie Braseth. There was no other discussion, and the motion was passed unanimously.
- K. **2024 Township Election Poll Hours and Annual Meeting Time** – Claudia Hanson made motion to set the polls hours from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the annual meeting to follow at 8:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of March 2024 (which will be March 12th, 2024) seconded by Duane Olson, and motion passed unanimously.

L. Other Business

1. **LARL Library Link Site** – Librarian Sandy Duval was unable to attend meeting.
2. **Cormorant Daze** – This year it is tentatively scheduled for August 19th (3rd Saturday in August). Organizers welcome more volunteers to help coordinate this event, as its attendance seems to increase each year.
3. **Easter Egg Hunt** – An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 2nd from 3:00-4:30 at the community center.
4. **New Deputy Treasurer** – Susie Braseth introduced her new deputy, Cindy Wipperling.
5. **Donations** – Electors, at annual meeting, may allow the Town Board to contract with nonprofit organizations (not exceeding \$10,000 per year) to support health, social and recreational services, artistic organizations, public or private non-profit senior citizen or youth programs. From this fund, Dollars for Scholars, Becker Cty Historical Society, Post Prom, etc. can be funded. Electors also can set up a fund for supporting a community celebration or historical event. This is where the township helps fund Cormorant Daze.

The donations reviewed from past years are listed below:

- 1) Alert = \$6000
- 2) Becker County Historical Society = \$150
- 3) Humane Society = \$100
- 4) LPA Schools Dollars for Scholars = \$2000 (for graduating seniors)
- 5) Camp Cormorant (YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties) = \$1045
- 6) Cormorant Daze = \$2000
- 7) Lake Park Historical Society = \$250
- 8) Tammy Odegaard = \$1000 (Cormorant Daze organizer and other community efforts)

Claudia Hanson indicated that she has received donation request letters from Becker County Historical Society, NW Minnesota Purple Ribbon Club, and Walker Area Food Shelf. Claudia also recommended to add Lake Park Audubon Post Prom again. Duane Olson suggested the Food Pantries in Detroit Lakes, Hawley and Pelican Rapids. Cindy Wipperling suggested to hold a food drive during Cormorant Daze.

Board will review these suggestions and all other past donations at a future township meeting. There was no other discussion regarding donations.

5. Other Items brought up by the Public:

Steve Sorenson = Steve highlighted for everyone to look at page 21 which Susie has prepared tax comparisons for 2021-2023. This shows how the estimated market values have increased in the last few years, however not at the same rate of increase as the taxable market values. Also, our 2022 township tax rate was 8.6893% where our proposed 2023 tax rate is at 7.1228%

Susie Braseth = She wanted to add to the donations items is that the Township pays for Kiddyland rides so kids do not have to pay.

M. Adjournment – As no other public business came up, Ila Mae Lindstrom made a motion to adjourn, motion was seconded by John Buhaug with a thank you to Curt Lundeen for being the moderator for this meeting. Curt Lundeen declared meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk

Curt Lundeen, Moderator