

The *2020 Annual Township Meeting of Cormorant Township* was held on March 10th, 2020, at 8:15 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Persons who attended are recorded on the sign-up sheet.

- A. **Call to Order** by Clerk Claudia Hanson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Letter from Rep. Paul Marquart** – Claudia Hanson read letter sent to the Township from Representative Marquart in which he outlined his support for township government and it being a great form of Democracy as residents can vote directly on local budgets, elect township officials and approve other issues impacting the township. He also added he will continue to support increased funding for township roads, create fair annexation laws, support more funding for rural broadband and maintain stable property taxes.
- C. **Election of Moderator** - The floor was opened for nominations for a moderator, which was followed by a motion made by Duane Olson, seconded by Rob Schwartz, to nominate **Curt Lundeen** as moderator. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously.
- D. **Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting** – There were no corrections or additions. Motion made by to approve the minutes by Tim Erickson, seconded by Duane Olson. Motion carried.
- E. **Treasurer's Report and Information Packet** - All present were offered this packet outlining last year's financial information and other information, prepared by Susie Braseth. Motion was made by Rob Schwartz to approve the Report, seconded by Trim Erickson. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously. See attachment #1.
- E. **2019-2020 Road Report** – Chairman Tim Erickson gave report, advising the annual road inspection will be held in April where all the roads will be looked at and then determine what will be added to road work list. Tim mentioned for this coming year, the Township will do the usual road maintenance of grading all gravel roads and adding gravel to the next quarter that is up for gravel, and dustguard those gravel roads that have been done in the past. Yearly maintenance of the asphalt roads include crack filling on all asphalt and chip sealing on those to be determined at road inspection. Any overlay projects will be determined at road inspection time also. Road crew will continue to shoulder roads that need it.

Last year, the Township did not do as much new road work due to the large expense of snow removal last winter. Some of the proposed 2020 patching projects include East Lake Ida Lane, West Lake Ida Lane, Globstad Beach Road, Rossman Erickson Road by the slough, 132nd Avenue, and Ideal Beach Lane near the county highway.

Curt asked if Township still mow ditches, which we do, about three times a year.

Tim added we still implementing Swing Away Mailbox Post program and the cost of the swing away post is covered by the Township. He again welcomes residents to contact the township office if they need a swing away post.

G. 2021 Levy Proposal- Claudia Hanson presented the March 2019 Township Financial Summary (attachment #2) and explained to the audience. The town electors present need to decide what the levy amount should be for each fund for 2020. The total levy proposal is for \$432,000.

- 1) **General Fund** - The proposed General Fund levy is \$185,000, which was the same as last year. Duane Olson made motion to set the levy at \$185,000, seconded by Claudia Hanson. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **Road & Bridge** - Last year this levy amount was \$204,000. Tim made motion to set the levy at \$204,000, seconded by John Buhaug. No other comments or discussion arose, so motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Fire Fund** - The fire contract for this year from the Lake Park Fire Dept. (April 2019– April 2020), is a total of \$28,388. Duane Olson made motion to set levy at \$28,000, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) **Weed & Gopher Fund** - The gopher bounty must be determined first which last year was at \$4.00 per gopher. Tim Erickson made motion continue bounty at \$4.00 a gopher, seconded by Cara Bjerken. No other discussion so motion carried unanimously.

Rob Schwartz made motioned to suspend the Weed and Gopher levy at \$3,000. Seconded by Chuck Welle. Clarification was asked of the motion, in which Rob explained no further money should be levied for that fund. Duane Olson suggested to move that levy amount of \$3,000 toward the General Fund, so not to reduce our overall total levy amount of \$432,000. Rob then amended original motion to have \$3000 Weed and Gopher levy moved towards the General Fund, for a total of the General fund to be \$188,000 vs. \$185,000.

Amended motion was seconded by Chuck Welle. No other comments or concerns were raised. Motion was passed unanimously.

- 5) **Waste Management** - Grant money received last year was \$4,900 as reported by Susie Braseth. She also provided annual recycling totals in volumes, as measured by yards, for each recycling site on page 17 of the packet.

Motion was made by Tim Erickson to keep the Waste Management levy at \$12,000, seconded by Rob Schwartz. There was no other discussion surrounding this and motion passed unanimously.

The annual Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held again this year, with a definite date for some time in June. The township truck has been available to take any other non-hazardous items if the county does not take, as a convenience for the public. No garbage, however, will be taken.

Total levy for 2021 is \$432,000.

H. 2020 Election Results were as follows:

Supervisor (3-year term) = Tony Hubbard with 20 votes
Ed Chenze with 17 votes
John Foldesi with 12 votes
Steve Curtis with 1 vote

Clerk (2-year term) = Claudia Hanson with 46 votes
Tony Hubbard with 1 vote

- I. **Township Bank** – Tim made motion to keep the State Bank of Lake Park as the official bank of the township, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. No other discussion ensued, passing motion unanimously.
- J. **Official Paper of the Township** - The official newspaper has been the Detroit Lakes Tribune and Cara Bjerken made motion to have that paper as mentioned, the official newspaper seconded by Rob Schwartz. There was no other discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.
- K. **2021 Election Poll Hours and Annual Meeting Time** – Tim Erickson 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 2021., (will be March 9th, 2021) seconded by Rob Schwartz, and motion passed unanimously.

L. Other Business

1. **LARL Library Link Site** – Librarian Laurie Wanke reported. In 2019, there were 2518 items checked out. There has been a continued decrease in patrons in which there were 1157 in 2019 compared to 1360 in 2018. Many books are being electronically downloaded versus being physically checked out. One new addition is better signage on the outside of the community center for the Library Link Site. LARL Legacy events will continue to be planned. An interesting fact Laurie shared was that a wedding was held in the Link Site in October. She also mentioned the Link Site will be a QAC or Questionnaire Assistance Center for the upcoming Census so if people need help to complete the Census, they can turn to this for assistance.
2. **Cormorant Daze** – This year it is scheduled again for August 15th, (3rd Saturday in August) so mark your calendars. Planning meetings for Cormorant Daze will start soon on a regular basis and volunteers are always needed. A new fundraiser coming up on Saturday, April 25th will be Spring Fling Adult Prom Dance starting at 6:30 p.m. with the “Front Fenders” providing musical entertainment. This will replace the button sales.
3. **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 and suggested by the audience for 2020, were as follows:
 - 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 = Sponsor 2 children to camp (this is not Kamp Kace)

- 6) Cormorant Daze = \$1000
- 7) Games Galore (Cormorant Daze) = \$2275
- 8) Neumann Signs (billboards) = \$2500 (for 1-2 billboards)
- 9) LPA Schools Post Prom = \$200
- 10) Kiddyland (Cormorant Daze) = \$500
- 11) Lake Park Historical Museum = \$250
- 12) Kids programming -Cormorant Daze = \$2500

Cara Bjerken motioned to have this as the list of suggested donations for the township board to consider, seconded by Duane Olson. There was no other discussion, motion was then passed unanimously.

4. Other Items brought up by the Public:

- 1) Susie Braseth = She expressed her thanks for donations to the township from the Pilates Group and the Cormorant Lions group.
- 2) Rob Schwartz = He asked how often minutes are uploaded on the website, which Claudia explained.

M. Adjournment – As no other public business came up, Cara Bjerken made a motion to adjourn, motion was seconded by John Buhaug. Curt Lundeen declared meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hanson, Clerk

Curt Lundeen, Moderator