

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 11th, 2025**, 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 January 28th, 2025, variance and regular meeting were read. Motion to approve minutes made by John, seconded by Tony. 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)

-Brad Olek – Swannies (On-Sale, Off-Sale)

The Board reviewed applications for renewal of liquor licenses for those listed above.

John motioned to consent issuance of these Liquor licenses, as applied, and seconded by Tony, carried 3-0.

2) **Vicki Bouchee, Nelson Lake Road conflict** – Vicki was present to provide her side of the conflict that continues between them and other neighbors near them. She provided a copy of several notes she has made over the years. She mentioned the Township assessor shared she was afraid to visit this neighborhood due to the negativity between the residents. She stated the Sheriff's department has a 3 ½ year history of conflict and what the other residents have informed the township in past meetings is not true or are accurate accounts of what is happening. She and her husband have been harassed and there are restraining orders in place between them and certain residents. (6/17/25 addition from Lisa Marshall – Lisa did not state she was afraid to assess parcels on this road)

Discussion ensued regarding the 15-mph speed limit sign and that the township is not able to enforce speed limits. The supervisors extended their empathy to the situation but it is a neighborhood dispute and the township is responsible for the road surface maintenance (gravel, snowplow, and grade) and cannot do much else.

D. Old Business

- 1) **Security System** – Steve advised he met with Eric Pilgrim, Arvig Security, this last week to finalize new security system. One more camera was added. Parts will be ordered and hopefully new system can be installed in a few weeks. Claudia asked for clarification that there is no monthly additional fee to backup video to the Cloud, and how long video storage will last, and is pending response.
- 2) **115th Street Suit** - Ken Bayliss, defense attorney for us, will be meeting with supervisors and clerk after today's regular meeting has concluded, via Teams for a closed attorney-client session.
- 3) **Community Education (Yoga/Sound Bells)** – Claudia informed that the recent Sound Bells yoga session was quite popular and they are hoping to schedule another session in next month or so.
- 4) **Newsletter** – Claudia did email Jesse (editor for newsletter) to add some items to the newsletter after the last meeting but no response yet from Jesse. Claudia will email her again.
- 5) **Otis Elevator service order** – Claudia shared an email received from Otis Elevator for CAT 1 Hydro Testing for a cost of \$575. Claudia will inquire about this and if procedure is required.

E. **Recycling** – Nothing to report.

F. Roads

- 1) **Snowplowing** – John reported that the road crew has winged out the snow further into the ditches to widen the roadways.
- 2) **LRIP Grant for E. Lake Ida Lane** – Claudia summarized what work Jim Olson, County Engineer, has done for us pertaining to this road grant. He had advertised for bids for this project and the lowest bid was much lower than the actual grant amount. Mr. Olson will submit all necessary paperwork to the MN DOT for approval and once that is completed, the township will need to pass a resolution to proceed. He will push to still use the residual awarded grant money for this road. John suggested to use money towards

potential driveway apron tarring. Claudia also verified that the dip over the culvert will be leveled and Mr. Olson confirmed that it would be included in the work. The only

expense to the township that the grant does not cover is the county inspection fees once the work starts and is in process.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Annual Meeting/Elections March 12** - Claudia advised she has submitted ads to be published in the DL Tribune for the Annual Meeting and township elections, as required, which need to be published twice before the meeting/election date.
- 2) **Workers Comp Audit** – Susie has completed this.
- 3) **Becker Cty. Assn. of Townships Meeting** – This will be held on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30 pm at the Becker Cty. Courthouse.
- 4) **Minutes on Website** – Claudia has updated township website with the regular minutes thru 2024.
- 5) **Annual Noxious Weed Meeting** – John advised this will be held on Friday, March 14th in Callaway.
- 6) **Building permits** – Becker Cty. Zoning is now sending an Xcel spreadsheet on a monthly basis of what permits they have issued for our township. Only two permits were issued in January for storage sheds.
- 7) **Miscellaneous Mail** – Drinking water report was received by the MN Department of Health, revealing nitrate and nitrite nitrogen less than 0.05 mg/L.

H. Treasurer’s Report - Susie presented her treasurer’s report for *January 2025*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$118,368.91
Receipts	+ \$100,257.00
Disbursements	- \$29,028.29
Ending	<u>\$189,597.62</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 Tony, seconded by John . Carried 3-0.

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1. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 11th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

- J. **Closed Session for Attorney/Client Meeting** – Steve stated that he would entertain a motion to go in to closed session to have an attorney client meeting, pursuant to MN Statute Sect. 13.05, subd. 3b, to discuss the case of Berg vs. Cormorant Township, Becker County, District Court file number 03-CV-24 – 2224, with Kenneth Bayliss, township defense attorney. John seconded the motion, no further discussion. Carried 3-0 and session proceeded in township office.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk