

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on Tuesday, **February 23rd, 2021**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were: Chairman Steve Sorenson Supervisors John Buhaug, and Tony Hubbard, 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 26th regular minutes 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/off sale liquor licenses for Tri- Lakes Roadhouse, (owner Gabe Line), renewal of on-sale liquor license for Cormorant Pub (Trish & Brian Maloney), renewal of off-sale liquor license for Cormorant Bottle Shop (dba J- Rod Enterprises), renewal of on-sale wine/strong beer & 3.2 liquor license for EllaMarie's (Claudia Hanson, owner) and lastly application for on/off sale and wine/strong beer license renewal for Green Valley Golf Course (Mike Levin, owner). Board discussed and agreed to grant all licenses. Tony motioned to consent issuance of all Liquor licenses, as applied, and seconded by John, carried 3-0. As EllaMarie's 3.2 liquor license renewal involved passing of resolution, Tony also motioned, seconded by John, to issue this license by resolution. Motion carried 3-0 and all supervisors voted in favor of this resolution.

2) **Lake Park Fire Department presentation - Jason Abbott, John Beaudine and Dave Coufal** were present to explain a \$180,000 deficit in the fire department's budget and why the annual fire contract will have to be modified. They gave a very thorough explanation which for the last 4-5 years, the fire department has been confronted with increasing costs, and less grant funding. OSHA has also required expensive updates for their operating equipment, where some of their engines, tankers, and other trucks will need replacing. They also gave a history of which township/city has had the most fire calls. Cormorant Township alone consists of 46% of their fire calls, among their servicing area of Cuba, Lake Park, Hamden and Riceville townships and the city of Lake

Park. Last year, the Fire contract total assessment was \$28,388. For the new contract, the fire department would like to increase contract assessment to \$54,902. Board members discussed and were not surprised for the fire department to ask for a larger increase in funding, especially since the last several years, the increases have been nominal for Cormorant Township for how many fire calls we have. Board agrees to their request for an increase and that the township fire levy would also have to be considered for an increase at the Annual meeting.

The Fire department did prepare a fire service contract resolution #21-201. Board discussed and agreed to \$37,776.55 amount which is 46.24% of the \$81,696.69 lesser operational budget for the upcoming year, however this budget number can change and increase if less grants or other funding is not received. As was explained, the budget they would like to use is \$118,732.69 (no other funding received) which 46.24% (Cormorant Township portion) would be \$54,902. They realize this is a steep increase from what we have paid in the past, and the township can certainly commit to the lower budget amount.

John motioned, seconded by Tony to accept the resolution #21-201 for the \$37,776.55 amount for the Cormorant Township fire service contract. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor proceeded to vote in favor to pass resolution.

- 3) **Braseth Beach Road old partial road vacation correction** - Charlie Ramstad, attorney, has discovered an omission in the Becker County Recorder's office. He is doing title work for a client and noticed a road order was never completed in 2006 for a road vacation on an old partial unused part of Braseth Beach Road. He prepared the appropriated documents with the surveyed road description for the Board to review and sign. Attached find the road order that was needed to be recorded. Resolution # 2006 - ___ shows that the Board resolved to vacate this road portion but a Road Order never was issued to follow up the resolution. Charlie stated that another Order for the establishment of the existing Braseth Beach road also is recommended . Board agreed to this Road Order and the Order for the establishment of the existing road, and motioned as such by John, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.

D. Other Business

- 1) **Elevator** – There are still some issues on the elevator which the service man did lubricate the mechanism however, he later was informed by his manager that he should have handled this differently and it was his fault that the doors on elevator were slipping. He did come back for another visit and corrected the problem but advised we should not be responsible and pay for all the labor time he spent fixing the elevator.

E. **Recycling** – Tony working on the cameras for the recycling sites.

F. **Roads** – Nothing to report

G. Other Business

- 1) Annual meeting – This is March 9th at 8:15 with elections from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- 2) Board of Appeal & Equalization – This is scheduled for April 28th 10:30 a.m.
- 3) Lawn Service – Board agreed to use Valley Green South again for lawn maintenance.
- 4) Business cards – Claudia distributed new updated business cards.
- 5) Miscellaneous correspondence – Board reviewed mail and advertisements.

H. **Treasurer’s Report** - Board reviewed claims and payments for the prior month (ending January 2021). Available upon request.

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| Beginning Balance | \$416,715.00 |
| Receipts | + \$ 82,616.14 |
| Disbursements | - <u>\$13,559.12</u> |
| Ending checking acct. balance | <u>\$485,772.02</u> |
| Investment beginning balance | -0- |
| Investment purchased | -0- |
| Investment transferred/sold | -0- |
| Investment interest | <u>-0-</u> |
| Ending Investment value | <u>-0-</u> |

The Treasurers Report was approved by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with a motion from John, seconded by Tony, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 30th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hanson, Clerk

