

The *2019 Annual Township Meeting of Cormorant Township* was held on March 12th, 2019, 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. **Election of Moderator** - The floor was opened for nominations for a moderator, which was followed by a motion made by Hans Heinrich, seconded by Tim Erickson, to nominate **Curt Lundeen** as moderator. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting** – There were no corrections or additions. Motion made by Hans Heinrich to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve Sorenson. 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 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. **2018-2019 Road Report** – Chairman Steve Sorenson gave report, advising the annual road inspection will be held around mid-April where all the roads will be looked at and then determine what will be added to road work list. So far, there are already about 7 -12 patching jobs to do. Crack fill will be done on the roads that need it. Chip sealing is done on a 6-7-year rotation. Any big asphalt or other projects will be determined after the road inspection.

Last year, the township completed 7 larger patch jobs on Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke Beach Lane, Snowshoe Beach cul-de-sac, W. Lake Ida Lane, Redman Beach, Hillside Road, and Thomas Road.

Shoulder work was also done on Maple Lane, W. Lake Ida Lane, Shoreline Lane, Nelson Lake Road and Church Drive.

Chip sealing was completed on Victory Lane and 147th St. Gravel upkeep will be

done on the northwest quarter of the township.

Dustguard will be done on North Beach Rd, 115th St. 145th Ave., 142nd Str., 130th Ave., North Leaf Lake Road, Buffalo Lane and Thunderbolt Ranch Road.

The township will do brushing and tree trimming where needed. The township also mows all the shoulders of the township roads three times a year.

Snowplows have been out at least weekly with all the snow accumulation this year. The last storm was very difficult as the plows are running out of room where to put snow. Piles are very high, and the Board had to hire private contractors to push back the large piles on several occasions.

Swing Away Mailbox Post Program – Supervisor Tim Erickson advised about the swing away mailbox post program, and this year has been tough on mail boxes from all the snow plowing. Due to snowy winter, it would be a great incentive for residents to have a swing away mailbox (less likely to get damaged) if the snow plow would happen to hit the mail box. Tim added the cost of the swing away post is covered by the Township and welcomes residents to contact the township office if they need a swing away post.

G. 2020 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. Hans Heinrich made motion to set the levy at \$185,000, seconded by Susie Braseth. 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 2018– April 2019), is a total of \$28,107. Steve Sorenson made motion to set levy at

\$28,000, seconded by Nan Heinrich. 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 Susie Braseth. No other discussion so motion carried unanimously.

Hans Heinrich made motioned to keep the Weed and Gopher levy at \$3,000, seconded by Steve Sorenson. No other comments or concerns were raised. Motion was passed unanimously.

- 5) **Waste Management** - Grant money received this year was \$4,76.00 as reported by Susie Braseth. She also stated Becker County provided annual recycling totals in volumes, as they measure amounts recycled by yards now (on page 19 of packet). Motion was made by Tim Erickson to keep the Waste Management levy at \$12,000, seconded by Laurie Wanke. There was no other discussion surrounding this and motion passed unanimously.

The annual Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held again this year, probably in June, as that time is not as hot and humid as in July. The township truck would also be available to take any other non-hazardous items if the county does not take, as a convenience for the public. No garbage, however. This service keeps our roads cleaner and less dumping in ditches.

Total levy for 2020 is \$432,000.

H. 2019 Election Results were as follows:

Supervisor (3-year term) = Steve Sorenson with 17 votes
Treasurer (2-year term) = Susie Braseth with 17 votes

- I. **Township Bank** – Steve Sorenson made motion to keep the State Bank of Lake Park as the official bank of the township, seconded by John Buhaug. No other discussion ensued, passing motion unanimously.
- J. **Official Paper of the Township** - The official newspaper has been the Detroit Lakes Tribune and Nan Heinrich made motion to have that paper as mentioned, the official

newspaper, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. No other discussion and motion was passed unanimously.

- K. **2020 Election Poll Hours and Annual Meeting Time** – Hans Heinrich 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 2020., (will be March 10th, 2020) seconded by Susie Braseth, and motion passed unanimously. Susie also added that the township will need more election judges, as there will be four elections next year, with the addition of the presidential primary in February/March 2020. It is especially difficult to find people in the winter when so many “snowbirds” are gone.

L. **Other Business**

1. **LARL Library Link Site** – Librarian Laurie Wanke reported. In 2017, there were 3154 items checked out. However, in 2018, 2943 items were checked out. Laurie also informed that there are 9 link sites in the LARL system and Cormorant has the fifth highest in circulation. There has been in decrease of patrons - 1360 in 2018 to 1490 in 2017. Items that were downloaded electronically has increased from 318 items in 2017 to 367 in 2018, and there is an increase in e-books and audio book check outs.

Laurie thanked the township for their support and in purchasing the children’s new book cart. She also added the public -use computer has been replaced and there is a new color printer/copier for public use. She mentioned a LARL Legacy event is planned for June 12th targeting children aged 3-10. She will share more information as that becomes available.

2. **Cormorant Daze** – This year it is scheduled for August 15th, (3rd Saturday in August) so mark your calendars. Steve Sorenson attended the last planning meeting for Cormorant Daze and it was emphasized more buttons need to be sold.
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. Claudia mentioned donation requests that were mailed to township this year were from LPA Schools Post Prom, LPA Schools Robotics, Becker Cty. Food Pantry and North Country Food Pantry. Audience discussed. The donations suggested by the audience for 2019, 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

Hans Heinrich mentioned that it is important to support Alert for ambulance services as it is unknown how much the new Essentia ambulance can service our area, and that the Essentia ambulance is not a replacement for Alert first responders.

Nan Heinrich motioned to have this as the list of suggested donations for the township board to consider, seconded by Hans Heinrich. There was no other discussion, motion was then passed unanimously.

4. Other Items brought up by the Public:

- 1) Easter Egg Hunt – Susie Braseth = This is to be held on Saturday, April 13th from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Robin Carlson is organizing event and volunteers are still needed!

- 2) Steve Sorenson = Steve wanted to point out in the Information Packet how the taxable market values of all properties in Cormorant Township continue to increase and are now at a total of \$427,918,700 for 2019. New construction values for 2019 are at \$3,948,700.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hanson, Clerk

Curt Lundeen, Moderator