

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, Clerk Claudia Hanson, Treasurer Susie Braseth and Deputy Clerk Penny Wickenheiser.

A. **Call to Order** by Chairman Sorenson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. **Minutes** from the February 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were read. Motion to approve minutes made by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

- 1) **Lisa Marschall, Township Assessor billing** – Claudia disseminated Lisa Marschall’s (not present) prospective billing for 2023 to board members. Susie noted that Ms. Marschall second half owed to her for 2022, will be paid to her on April 26th, 2023.
- 2) **Fire Contract** – Steve reviewed the proposed Lake Park Fire Department’s fire contract for 2023. The fire contract requests \$48,892 for 2023, as mentioned in the Annual Meeting. This amount was discussed, John motioned to approved contract, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0. Steve and Claudia signed the fire contract. Claudia will get the signed contract returned to the City of Lake Park.
- 3) **Cooking Class, Melissa Gullard (email)** – Claudia read an email from Michelle Gullard requesting the use of the community center’s kitchen for a cooking class for 20-32 children who live in the area. She would like to use School Room and the kitchen one time per month (likely a Friday) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. June through August. Ila mentioned the children that Ms. Gullard has had at the center have been very well behaved. Steve added he has witnessed several adults monitoring the children when they are at the community center. Steve approved, along with the rest of the Board, and suggested no charge for the use of the space. Claudia will let Ms. Gullard know and will emphasize that the children will need to be closely supervised while in the kitchen area.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Elevator Compliance** – Elevator is now up to compliance as required by the State.
- 2) **April Calendar** - Claudia distributed the April calendar to the Board.

- 3) **Easter Event** – The Easter Egg Hunt event will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the community center. Ila indicated volunteers filled 700 eggs with candy for the event. Decorating will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 4) **Townhall Lawn Care** – Ila advised that last year she spread seed on the lawn and then it was sprayed too soon, so the seed was unable to root. Since it is almost April, still have a lot of snow on the ground, Board decided to forego treating the lawn in the spring, but will have spraying completed mid-summer and fall.
- 5) **Newsletter Update** – Jessie Chenze was present and relayed that the current newsletter is ready for printing. She added she sent a draft of the newsletter to Board members but did not receive a response and discovered there was an issue with receipt of email. However, Steve informed Ms. Chenze past newsletters have been well done, so okay to send newsletter to print without review. Ms. Chenze will send them to printers tomorrow.

#### E. **Recycling**

- 1) Ed Chenze relayed no one has been attempting to get around prohibitive gated entrance to compost area. Ed started to burn brush on December 12, 2022, and some ash was still smoldering. He is watching the smoldering pile and will have it mixed with the snow so it will finally be extinguished.
- 2) Mobile HHW Day – Claudia will reach out to Sandy Gunderson to schedule a date for this year.

#### F. **Roads**

- 1) **Road across from Braseth Bay Road** - This is 135<sup>th</sup> Street which John had an inquiry if this is certified to be maintained by the township. Claudia researched and this road is included in our township road certification. John stated that road needs some gravel and could also consider having a snow fence put up to reduce drifting.
- 2) **Roger Coffey, resident on Ida Oaks Road** – Mr. Coffey was present (was not on the agenda) to voice his concerns about the ice on the road, and why other roads are in better shape than this road. He showed pictures of W. Lake Ida Lane and the ice ruts in the road. Board explained in length that tree shaded areas on the roads are difficult to scrap ice off, especially with below-freezing temperatures. Also, the timing of when the plows can get to those particular roads during certain conditions plays a part in how well the

ice and packed snow is removed. Steve relayed there has been approximately 140 days of below 40-degree weather this year; thus, making it difficult to get the ice removed from the roads. Board apologized that snowplows were not able to do a better job, but the township tries to do the best they can with how many roads need plowing and how many resources we have to do the snowplowing.

- 3) **Early Road Inspection** – The annual road inspection will take place once there is no more snow on the roads then Steve will get quotes for road repairs and improvements.
- 4) **Dust Guard Quote** – Board reviewed dust guard quotes which included a charge of \$1.13/gallon.
- 5) **Lakeview Township** – Claudia shared Lakeview Township charges cable companies for digging in township ditches, pursuant to an email received by their clerk. They charge \$100 for each fire number the cable company services. Steve advised the township has given permission for road right-a-way use to cable companies, as it benefits the community. The Board discussed and agreed the cable companies have always been restoring ditches well so no need to charge them.
- 6) **City of Lake Park Rural Road's Project** - Claudia mentioned Lake Park requested our township support in obtaining MN State Legislature funding for this special project to improve their streets. also agreed on behalf of the township to show support for this funding as this project cites improvements will not only serve Lake Park residents, but also the numerous lake country visitors Lake Park has every year.

#### G. Other Business

- 1) **MAT Short Course, Mahnomon, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Monday)** – Claudia reminded board members of the short course training in Mahnomon scheduled for Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **Board of Appeal & Equalization** – The Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Steve shared from Becker County to expect some tax increases on property within Cormorant Township.
- 3) **Becker County Association of Townships Meeting** – This meeting will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker County Courthouse.

- 4) **Lions Blood Drive** – The Lions Blood Drives are scheduled for Fridays June 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) **Flu Shot Clinic** – The Flu Shot Clinic will be held on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the community center. Susie reminded to ask Clinic providers to have senior flu shots available.
- 6) **Signature Card Changes** – Motion by Steve and seconded by John to add Cindy Wippering to township signature card at the State Bank of Lake Park. Megan Hoyes is no longer deputy treasurer and needs to be removed from card. Motioned carried 3-0.
- 7) **Ila, Hall manager Credit Card** –Ila Mae Lindstrom could use a township credit card for her township purchases. She currently uses the road crew’s card, but that is not readily available if the crew is out working. Board and Susie agreed this is a good idea to have a separate card, and to have a card given to her for town-related purposes.
- 8) **LARL Link Report** – Claudia distributed Sandy Duvall’s LARL Link report which included fun events hosted in 2022 by LARL Link. It also noted 564 walk-ins, 2,930 items checked out, and 1,102 digital items checked out. LARL Link anticipates offering a Summer Reading Experience/Challenge beginning in June for children and adults. It also reiterated that Cormorant LARL offers wireless printing and Wi-Fi hotspot availability for LARL patrons.
- 9) **Miscellaneous Mail** – John disseminated pamphlets regarding fentanyl and opioid issues that he received at the weed meeting he recently attended. Susie indicated that Arvig is increasing television rates and Claudia mentioned there is a MN DOT training in Mankato on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

H. **Treasurer's Report** - Susie presented her treasurer's report for *February 2023*. Board reviewed claims (payments) and receipts. Data is available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$714,714.89
Receipts	+ \$ 8,834.11
Disbursements	- \$ 28,788.26
Ending	<u>\$ 694,760.74</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>

Treasurer's Report was approved by John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 11th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk and  
Penny G. Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk