

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 29th, 2022**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Board members present were Chairman Steve Sorenson, Supervisors John Buhaug and Tony Hubbard, and Treasurer Susie Braseth. Clerk Claudia Hanson was absent.

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

B. **Minutes** from the February 28th regular meeting and the March 8th Board of Canvass were approved with a motion by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. A draft review of Annual meeting minutes was conducted. The claims/bills were signed as presented.

C. **New Business**

1) **Liquor Licenses** - The Board reviewed the application for renewal of the on/off sale liquor license for Dirty Jeans, LLC (dba Tri Lakes Roadhouse, presented by Gabriel Line). Board discussed and agreed to grant license. Tony motioned to consent issuance of on/off sale liquor license as applied and seconded by John. Carried 3-0.

2) **Lisa Marschall – Assessor** - Ms. Marschall was present. She provided the Board with two options to choose from when renewing her contract. Option 1 contains a 2–3-year agreement at \$12.50 per parcel with a bid of \$24,430. With Option 1, if parcel count remains the same, it would result in an increase of .25/parcel from 2020 agreement. Payment for her services would consider actual parcels assessed. Option 2 is a flat rate with a 2-year agreement at \$12.50 per parcel with a bid of \$24,430. However, with Option 2 Ms. Marschall’s pay would be negatively impacted if the average parcel count is increased. Ms. Marschall noted an example of an error she located this past year which resulted in many extra hours worked to file additional paperwork and having to pay to refile corrections. Discussion ensued amongst Board and Ms. Marschall. John motioned to accept Option 1 with a 2-year contract and Tony seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Lake Park Fire Department Service Contract** – The contract was reviewed by the Board. Lake Park Fire Department operational budget for 2022 is \$88,881.35 and Cormorant Township has almost 50% of the assessed value. Contract requested \$41,455.49 for 2022 fire service for our township. John motioned to approve contract,

Tony seconded motion. Carried 3-0. Steve Sorenson and Penny Wickenheiser signed contract.

- 2) **Coffee Maker** - Ila Mae Lindstrom noted the new coffee maker should be delivered in approximately three weeks. However, Susie Braseth indicated when she ordered it, she was told it could take longer than three weeks.
- 3) **ARPA Resolution** – The ARPA Resolution (#2022-3) was reviewed by the Board and the Board noted the township will use \$120,647.60 as allotted by ARPA funds. John motioned to approve resolution and Tony seconded the motion. Carried 3-0. All supervisors then each voted in favor of this resolution. Steve Sorenson and Penny Wickenheiser signed resolution document.
- 4) **Easter Egg Hunt and LARL Link events (April 9th – 10th)** - Susie Braseth and Ila Mae Lindstrom discussed the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Sunday, April 10. About 750 eggs have been filled with candy. A puppet show (Lalo’s Lunchbox Comedy) will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, April 9, which is a LARL sponsored event.

E. **Recycling** – John Buhaug advised that new batteries are in the cameras located at the recycling centers, but they are not working properly. Discussion ensued regarding weatherproof seal on cameras. Lloyd Ness will get new signs posted at sites soon.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Snow Piles** – Discussion amongst the Board regarding the how much the snow piles have melted recently. Steve Sorenson and Ila Mae Lindstrom mentioned how the roads are still rough to drive on. Dave Shaw asked if stance on stakes has been made by township board. Issue was not discussed further at this time.
- 2) **Plow Fixed** – John Buhaug advised the plow was fixed. However, it now needs a new steering box, so it is in again for repairs. He reported repairs should be completed within one week to ten days.
- 3) **Positive Feedback** – Ila Mae Lindstrom shared that her neighbor told her that the snowplowing this winter has been great. The neighbor highlighted the fact that the snow was pushed back nicely. A big “Thank you” was given by her neighbor.

- 4) **Ideal Beach Road right of way** - Dave Shaw was present and noted his interest in hearing what the township's stance is in regard to items in the right-away. John Buhaug advised Mr. Shaw that the Sheriff mentioned the Sheriff may end up issuing citations. Mr. Shaw expressed his concern about steel rods on the side of the road and noted it is a "blatant disregard for people's rights." Discussion ensued about moving the rock on Mr. Shaw's right-away. Mr. Shaw stated a "utilitarian standpoint." He noted he does not want someone to get hurt. Steve Sorenson indicated the Sheriff's Department and County have been consulted. Tony Hubbard mentioned he went to the site on four separate occasions and only saw orange stakes not steel stakes. Tony indicated his stance is an "all or none approach" to right-aways concerns, but personally he would leave things as they currently exist. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of "all or none" approach and the substantial number of roads and many people that approach would impact. Decision was made to contact the township attorney to discuss this issue and what can be done.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Reorganization Meeting** – The Reorganization meeting will be held on April 12 at 7:00 p.m. along with our regular township meeting. At that meeting, we will discuss donation and hourly wages for township employees.
- 2) **Annual Weed Meeting Recap** – John Buhaug attended the meeting on March 24, 2022. He said that there are two native phragmites; one is restricted, and one is not. Some nonrestricted phragmites are wild parsnip and knapweed that will need to be sprayed or cut. Some is located near Tim Erickson's, Duane Olson's, and the Roadhouse.
- 3) **Board of Equalization & Appeals** – This meeting will be held on April 27, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.
- 4) **Becker County Association of Townships Meeting** – This meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Becker County Courthouse. Steve Sorenson reviewed posting notice and advised notice shall be posted.

- 5) **April Calendars** – April calendars were disseminated to Board members. Susie Braseth mentioned the Lions board meeting is not reflected on the April calendar. Lions' member Steve Curtis indicated they have not had board meetings on the last Thursday of the month for the past few months.
- 6) **Update Signature Card** – An email received from the State Bank of Lake Park was reviewed by the Board members. In order to add an individual to the township signature card, personal identifiers along with a copy of a driver's license need to be presented to the Bank. Updated driver's licenses for Tony (Paul) Hubbard, John Buhaug, and Claudia Hanson are currently needed. A photocopy of Tony and John's driver's license were made and will be submitted to the Bank.
- 7) **Deputy Clerk Appointment** – Tony motioned, and John seconded to appoint Penny Wickenheiser as Cormorant Township Deputy Clerk. Motion carried 3-0.
- 8) **Rita Soine Memorial Bench/Tree** – Ila Lindstrom advised with the passing of Rita Soine many of the Pilates participants would like to donate money to have a memorial bench or tree installed somewhere on the township grounds. Ila located a Trex memorial bench for \$359. She added Home Depot no longer carry benches of this type. Steve Sorenson added a memorial tree or bench would be fine.
- 9) **Propane** - Susie Braseth added that propane was prebought and recently filled at the township.
- 10) **Miscellaneous Mail** Board reviewed other insignificant mail. Steve Sorenson advised to keep Corbin Excavating, Inc (dust control) flyer as well as the Glen Campbell tribute show flyer for future reference if needed.

H. **Treasurer's Report** - - Board reviewed claims and payments for the prior month (ending February 2022). Claims are available on request. Susie Braseth indicated large bills paid this month (March) to Lake Park Fire Department contract and snow removal by Sherbrooke Turf.

Beginning Balance	\$699,460.94
Receipts	+ \$55,035.83
Disbursements	- <u>\$17,147.21</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 737,349.56</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 John, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 12th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny G. Wickenheiser, Deputy Clerk