

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 11th, 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, and Treasurer Susie Braseth.

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

B. **Minutes** from the March 28th 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) **Mary Erickson, donation from Nels Erickson decedents** – Mary was present to share that family relatives (the Halliday and Giere families) would like to donate \$1500 to the township, as one of the family members (Shirley Halliday) passed, and due to her recent passing, they would like to honor the family legacy in the area with a donation to purchase something for the community center or park. The family decedents used to own the Cormorant Store and were pioneers in the community many years ago. Some ideas on how to use the funds was to purchase benches outside on the patio of the School Room. Board graciously accepted the donation and will into options for benches.

Mary also added the china cabinet in the Historical Room is empty and could be sold or used for another purpose, as no items are being displayed in it anymore. Some ideas were suggested, such as storing the player piano music rolls. Board agreed to research options for the cabinet and also to research bench ideas for the patio.

2) **Day of Caring** – This is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd and Susie added the alternate date is May 10th. This event has been rescheduled in past years due to inclement weather, but hopefully May 3rd will work. The deadline to submit project paperwork is April 19th.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Forest School Cooking Class** – Melissa Gullard emailed if she could expand her home-schooling experience by using the community center's kitchen for a monthly cooking class for her students. The space she is currently using is exceedingly small. Board discussed the Friday dates of June 16th, July 14th, and August 11th from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. They agreed on those dates, but mentioned to make sure she has enough adult supervision.

Also, it would be a good reminder to make sure kitchen cleaned up well after the class.

Ila added that so far, the students and Melissa have done a particularly good job cleaning up after they used the space in the community center.

2) **May Calendar** - Claudia distributed the May calendar. Things are getting busier.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Brush/compost site** – John Buhaug shared that the Olson family is interested in selling the land on which the brush/compost site is located versus continuing with a land lease. A new lease was agreed upon and signed off last June of 2022. Board will need to research this, along with land value and price, how many acres to consider and also may need the township attorney's opinion to make a decision.
- 2) **Mobile HHW Day** – Claudia will reach out to Sandy Gunderson again as Board is open to other dates in the summer to hold this event (besides end of August).
- 3) **Smoldering** – Ed Chenze advised the smoldering from December's burning of brush has finally burned out and there is no more smoldering left in the pile.

F. **Roads**

- 1) **Snowplows** - Susie added the township should have a naming contest for all the plows, truck, and grader (except Betty White). Steve also stated the old snowplow that is no longer in use should be sold or advertised to sell and include what parts have been replaced on this old plow. The old plow has a bent frame.
- 2) **New snowplow operator** - Paul Bakken, retired snowplow operator for the Dept. of Transportation has offered to help the township. His experience will be appreciated, and Steve motioned, seconded by John, to hire Paul as an employee. Carried 3-0.
- 3) **Road Inspection** – Board discussed, and need to do this sooner than later, (considering how quickly asphalt providers booked up last year). Claudia advised need to post date of inspection. Steve stated to try to schedule for next week if weather cooperates.
- 4) **Dust Guard** – Susie provided last year's information that 17,289 gallons were used for dust guard. Board advised to lock in price with Corbins' Excavating at a charge of \$1.13/gallon.
- 5) **Safety meeting** – Claudia advised need to schedule this and Board mentioned the first week in May would be ideal.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Board of Appeal & Equalization** – The Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting will be held on April 26th at 10:30 a.m. Discussion ensued regarding tax increases within Cormorant Township.
- 2) **Becker County Association of Townships Meeting** – This meeting will take place on April 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker County Courthouse.
- 3) **Debit card usage** – Claudia mentioned township debit card usage is not best business practice as stated in the recent Short Course training.
- 4) **MATIT Insurance Policy review** – We received an overview from MATIT on our insurance coverage and what is all listed for coverage. Board had a few items to clarify with our coverage, such as value on plows and a few other things. Deadline for changes to policies is May 15h, 2023.
- 6) **ARPA Report** – Another report is required by the US Treasury with a deadline of April 30th, 2023. Claudia will begin working on this.
- 7) **Tax valuation on township parcel** – Board reviewed this for township property on Ness Estate Lane.
- 8) **Easter Egg Hunt results** – Ila mentioned it was a great turn out again with about 90 attendees. She stated it was wonderful to have volunteers and LPA Honor Society students help but suggested we should have at least 15 people enlisted for the various stations and activities. Many people generously donated food items for the Becker Cty. Food Pantry.
- 9) **Miscellaneous Mail** – No miscellaneous mail received.

H. Reorganizational items

- 1) **Chairman** – A motion made by Tony to have Steve appointed as Chair of the Board for another year, seconded by John. Carried 3-0.
- 2) **Conflict of Interest Resolutions** – These documents outline if a supervisor does any work for the township, that their work price is as low or lower than prices at which services could be obtained elsewhere. A resolution for any conflict of interest was

reviewed if John does any such road work as snow removal or other community center projects. Steve motioned, seconded by Tony to accept resolution #2023-2 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution and signed by Steve.

As Tony may do some emergency debris removal or snow removal on township roads, or community center work, a resolution regarding any conflict of interest was reviewed, and Steve motioned, seconded by John, to accept Resolution #2023-3 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution, and it was signed by John.

As Steve may do some snow removal at the community center parking lot and on township roads, another resolution regarding any conflict of interest was reviewed and John motioned, seconded by Tony, to accept Resolution #2023-4 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution and signed by Tony.

3) **Wages and mileage reimbursement** – No changes were made for mileage reimbursement.

However, wages were discussed:

a) Waste Management Crew - \$375 monthly for recycling sites, \$250 for brush/compost site. \$80 for each time to do additional mowing, snowplowing over monthly base pay.

Board discussed and agreed to make no changes. John motioned, seconded by Tony, to maintain same wages as mentioned above and motion carried 3-0.

b) Snowplow operators – Board discussed hourly wage of \$50 and agreed to no change in this wage, as an increase was made last year. The \$80 per time rate for equipment usage will stay the same. Tony moved to no changes, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.

This winter has been long again, hard on our snow removal crew and Board is very appreciative to their time.

c) Other township employees (tar crew, maintenance crew. etc.) – Board reviewed, and John motioned to maintain hourly wage at \$30. Seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

d) Board members – Board discussed that no increase is warranted as hourly rate was increased last year to \$35 per hour. as well as the regular employees. Steve motioned to

keep hourly rate and per meeting rate of \$80 the same. Tony seconded motion and carried 3-0. No changes for mileage or calls.

4) **Rental rates for space in the community center.** Board discussed to keep rates as is.

5) **Donations** – Susie provided outline of last year’s donations:

\$6000 to Alert, \$150 to Becker Cty. Historical Society, \$100 to Becker Cty. Humane Society, \$250 to Lake Park Historical Society, \$2000 to LPA Dollars for Scholars, \$1045 to YMCA Camp of Cass-Clay, and \$4,503.99 to Cormorant Daze related items (Games Galore, Kiddyland tickets, gift cards, etc.) There may be additional related Cormorant Daze donations once planning for the event evolves.

Other donations that were suggested at the annual meeting were also considered.

Board agreed to add \$200 for LPA Post Prom. John made motion for all donations to be made as outlined as last year, with the addition of Post Prom and there may be additional Cormorant Daze items. Seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

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

Beginning Balance	\$694,760.74
Receipts	+ \$ 80,836.97
Disbursements	- \$ 38,629.73
Ending	<u>\$ 652,553.50</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 Tony, seconded by Steve. Carried 3-0.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by John, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk

