

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 12th, 2022**, 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 March 29th regular meeting were approved with a couple of revisions with a motion by Tony, seconded by John. Carried 3-0. The claims/bills were signed as presented.
- C. **New Business**

1) **Brad Rivers, Realtor (Swannie's Campground)** – Mr. Rivers attended meeting with his client, Brad Olek, who will be purchasing the Swannie's campground property in May. He informed the Board of history of the property and some ideas they have for improvement of the property. This business has been closed for many years, and when it was open, there was a bar that served 3.2 alcohol and off sale. They would like to get another liquor license but unsure to what extent. Becker County Planning and Zoning has been working with them on what building improvements can be made, of which one improvement for this new business is to add boat slips to both the Middle Cormorant Lake shoreline and the pond on Big Cormorant Lake. Apparently, the boat slips were permitted when Swannies' was initially granted permission from Zoning to build the resort, according to Mr. Rivers. They are interested in having a bar again and the boat slips would improve convenience for boaters to dock up and walk over to enjoy an alcoholic beverage.

The Board discussed further with Mr. Rivers and Mr. Olek and Steve stated the Board would need to follow up with Becker Cty. Planning & Zoning for what their insight is to the building renovation of the old resort. Granted, the old property has been an eye sore over the years due to neglect and being closed, so improvements to the area are welcome. But as Steve clarified; the Board cannot promise on granting a liquor license until some research and all steps for application have been completed.

Claudia added the Becker County website is very helpful in the application process, however, they need to have liquor insurance, State inspection of the alcohol- serving site done, and other steps completed, and it can be quite a process.

Board summarized they appreciate the plans and would not oppose granting liquor license but some research and all steps in the application procedure and paperwork would have to be completed before granting this license.

2) **Mark Johnson, House moving inquiry** – Mr. Johnson was present to advise he is moving a house from Wermager Beach down Snowshoe Beach Road to near 15492 Snowshoe Beach Road. Tony did look at areas by the road where some tree branches are in the way, and only 2 spots where no houses are, that some branches will have to be removed. Mr. Johnson stated he is replacing a cabin with this house. Board discussed and had no objection to the move and cutting of some tree branches.

3) **Relocation of Brush/Compost site – Ed Chenze** was present to talk about relocation of this site, from its current location to new land right across from old site and across the county highway. Board agreed we will need to have our township attorney assist in drafting up a rental agreement to use land owned by Marlene Olson, but also include her son, Kyle, as part owner, and have Ed Chenze listed as the maintainer of the site. Included in this agreement, which will be a 20-year lease, we will need description of the land area to be used, and whose equipment will be used for maintenance. Board stated a sign should be made that old site is no longer available for dumping brush. Steve added also a sign should be placed that this new site is in memory of Orvis Olson and in gratitude to Marlene Olson.

4) **Township permission for overweight delivery of concrete** – An email was received by a concrete truck driver who was seeking permission to drive his overweight truck on one of our roads (weight of truck is over the current road restriction) to pour a concrete basement near Lake Ida. Board discussed, had no opposition to this and Steve will call the truck driver to grant permission.

D. **Old Business**

1) **Update Signature Card** – Penny has been working with the State Bank of Lake Park and they have requested to list in the township minutes all those that will be signers/users of the debit/credit cards and sign checks. Usually, it is Susie Braseth as Treasurer, Steve Sorenson as Chairman and Claudia Hanson as clerk for signing the township checks. But for back up reasons, in case anyone is ill, not available or unable to sign, we have back up

personnel to sign checks and also use the debit/credit cards. Board approved the following for signers/users: Steve Sorenson, Chairman, John Buhang and Tony (Paul) Hubbard as Supervisors, Susie Braseth as Treasurer, Megan Hoyes as Deputy Treasurer and Claudia Hanson as Clerk, Penny Wickenheiser as Deputy Clerk. John motioned to approve these signers/users, seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

E. Reorganizational items

- 1) **Chairman** – A motion made by John, to have Steve appointed as Chair of the Board for another year, seconded by Tony. 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 #2022-4 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution, and it was signed by Tony.

As Tony may do some emergency debris removal or snow removal on township roads, or the community center parking lot, a resolution regarding any conflict of interest was reviewed, and Steve motioned, seconded by John, to accept Resolution #2022- 5 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution, and it was signed by Steve.

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 #2022-6 as written. Carried 3-0. Each supervisor voted in favor of resolution, and it was signed by John.

- 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. Susie suggested resolution for this. John motioned, seconded by Tony, to maintain same wages as mentioned above and to

entertain this motion as a Resolution #2022-7 (Waste Management Crew wages). Carried 3-0. Each supervisor agreed to the waste management crew wages, as cited above, and each voted in favor of this resolution.

b) Snowplow operators – Board discussed and raised hourly wage from \$45 to \$50. Tony motioned, seconded by John for this change. The \$80 per time rate for equipment usage will stay the same. Carried 3-0. This winter has been especially challenging for 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 increase hourly wage from \$25 to \$30. Seconded by Tony. Carried 3-0.

d) Board members – Board discussed that there has not been an increase for quite awhile, as well with the regular employees. Steve motioned to increase hourly rate from \$30 to \$35. Board meeting (per meeting) pay should increase from \$75 to \$80. Tony seconded motion and carried 3-0. No changes for mileage or calls.

All changes are effective as of April 1st, 2022.

- 4) **Rental rates for space in the community center.** Board discussed to keep rates as is.
- 5) **Donations** – Board discussed, and John made motion to donate as follows. seconded by Steve: \$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, \$450 (2 kids) to YMCA Camp of Cass-Clay, and \$2000 to Cormorant Daze committee. There may be additional related Cormorant Daze donations once planning for the event evolves. Carried 3-0.

F. **Recycling** – Nothing new to report

G. **Roads**

- 1) **Snow** – Piles were pushed back a few weeks ago, but more snow forecasted.
- 2) **Plow Fixed** – Last of the repairs are done, according to John.
- 3) **Ideal Beach Road right of way** – Nothing new to report on this.
- 4) **Gravel Quote** – Olson Construction presented their quote for price per yard to spread on township gravel roads, as \$17.00 per yard. Board discussed and agreed to accept with a motion by Tony, seconded by John.

H. Other Business

- 1) **Easter Egg Hunt** – Considering the weather was not the best, this event still had 75-80 youngsters and adults attend. Thanks to the volunteers who organized this wonderful Spring event!
- 2) **Rita Soine Memorial Bench/Tree** –Pilates participants would like to donate money to have a memorial bench or tree installed somewhere on the township grounds, as Rita started this activity at the center. Ila updated to have this done once more snowbirds back from the south.
- 3) **Board of Equalization & Appeals** – This meeting will be held on April 27, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. The Township Road Inspection will follow this after lunch, weather permitting.
- 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) **Safety Meeting** – Board agreed to have this scheduled again before road work would start. Claudia will contact Darrin Galde, Border States Paving, to book a date/time for meeting.
- 6) **DOT Drug & Alcohol Testing** – Claudia advised supervisors that the township received many emails to have our snowplow and pick-up truck drivers tested. Steve and John stated we are not required to have this done, as our drivers are only part-time (not full time) employees and the work they do for us, is not their primary job or primary place of employment.
- 7) **Dacotah Paper order** – Both Penny and Claudia have been working with Dacotah Paper to obtain a credit for a couple items to return and additionally, trying to locate 2 boxes of product that were never delivered to the community center. Penny was able to get a return credit, however still awaiting to have our previous order re-shipped, that we never received.
- 8) **New coffeemaker** – Susie is working on this, it is on order, and once in, will have water fitted to it by local plumber for easier usage.
- 9) **Miscellaneous Mail** Board reviewed other insignificant mail.

I. **Treasurer's Report** - - Board reviewed claims and payments for the prior month (ending March 2022). Claims are available on request.

Beginning Balance	\$737,349.56
Receipts	+ \$187.81
Disbursements	- <u>\$88,760.71</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 648,776.66</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.

J. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony, and carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 26th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia M. Hanson, Clerk