

The Cormorant Township Board meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 25th, 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 April 11th 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) **Greg Johnson – Nelson Lake Road** – Greg Johnson was present at the meeting with concerns with the 30-mph limit on last curve on Nelson Lake Road just past the split in the road to his house and to the condominiums. He witnesses people traveling at 30 mph, traveling too fast and sliding into his yard. His young grandchildren play in his driveway and near the road. Steve explained to Mr. Johnson that 30 mph is the enforcement speed limit for all township roads. John asked Mr. Johnson if the “Slow for children” sign was still placed there, which he stated shares the same pole as the 30-mph sign. Mr. Johnson reiterated that he simply wants to ensure his family’s safety. This speed issue has been brought up before, Board discussed to have a 15-mph sign replace the 30-mph sign and position the “slow for children” farther out. Steve and Tony stressed that the 15-mph sign is a visual aid only and cannot be enforced by law enforcement. Mr. Johnson expressed an understanding and appreciated this.
- 2) **Kelli Atchison – Book Sales** – Ms. Atchison advised the May 13th book sale is to be held on May 13th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the School Room. Kelli expressed concern about the location of the book sale during Cormorant Daze. She had heard from a past Cormorant Daze meeting that due to space issues, the book sale may need to be moved to the walking track area of the lower level of community center. She asked if that were the case, she would like signs directing people to the book sale and have the book sale location listed on the Cormorant Daze flyer. Steve will ask about spacing of events and book sale location with Tammy Odegaard (coordinator). Additionally, local churches have reached out to Kelli and Ila following their rummage sales to donate the

books to Cormorant book sales, resulting in Ila Mae having to go to a church to pick up a truckload of books. Steve suggested any book donations should be delivered directly to the townhall versus Ila Mae or others to have to retrieve them. All agreed there is a lot of work in organizing these sales, and the older books that do not sell need to be rotated out, and somehow keep track of how often they are up for sale.

- 3) **Wishek Playground Equipment** – Claudia received an email from a person who lives in Wishek and visits Cormorant. The City of Wishek is selling their playground equipment. The Board noted we have enough good playground equipment already, not much space for more equipment, so not interested; especially as equipment is unseen and located some distance away but they appreciated the gesture.
- 4) **Lake Park Legion** – Susie expressed an interest in donating to the Lake Park Legion rebuild. She shared there was only had \$300,000 in insurance coverage and the rebuild, although initially \$1.2 million, is now costing \$800,000. The Cormorant Lions are donating their proceeds from their fishing pancake breakfast on May 13 to the Legion. She added Lake Park Audubon senior Whitney Mickelson raised money for the Legion. Ila mentioned Lake Park Cenex are selling raffle tickets for the Legion rebuild as well. Steve asked Ila to check if Lake Park township is donating to this cause, and to consider further.

D. **Old Business**

- 1) **Safety Meeting May 3rd 5:30 p.m.** – The Safety Meeting scheduled for May 3rd, 2023, as mentioned by Claudia, with Darrin Galde presenting again this year.
- 2) **May 3rd Day of Caring** – Claudia also reminded that May 3rd, 2023, is Day of Caring, and hope all snow piles are gone.

E. **Recycling**

- 1) **Olson's Idea for Brush/Compost Site** -Steve spoke to Marlene Olson and she would like to sell the land used for the compost/brush site that the township is currently leasing. It is about 20 acres, and she is asking for approximately \$100,000. Board discussed this option, no need then to continue lease payment and could possibly move the recycling center located on Braseth Road to that land. Ed Chenze was present, adding this purchase would be a solid investment since the township has already built roads and cleared an

area. He would be in favor of this, and Steve stated discussions he has had with others also were in favor of this idea. Tony indicated he thinks it would be a smart investment; however, believes a lower price could be offered and to factor in surveying and insurance costs also. Board agreed to consult with Sam Rufer, township attorney.

- 2) **Mobile HHW Day** – Claudia has sent two emails, left a voicemail message to Sandy Gunderson regarding the scheduling of the Mobile HHW Day.
- 3) **Signage** - John mentioned more signs needed at the brush center, however, he questions if people read them, as people do not follow the directions where certain items need to be disposed of. Board discussed and agreed to post larger signs. Discussion ensued about having electricity dug to the entrance of the site, so could wire cameras versus using expensive battery-operated cameras.

F. Roads

- 1) **Road Inspection**– Weather permitting, the Board will be conducting the annual Road Inspection on April 26, 2023, following the Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting.
- 2) **Patching in Trouble Spots (Loon Lane and 132nd Ave)** – Calls have been received that these two roads have significant frost damage and Board will investigate cold patch or other methods to temporarily repair until asphalt overlay can be done. Ila mentioned a tough area on Globstad Beach Rd also.
- 3) **Roadwork Bids** - The Board will need to secure bids for asphalt overlay to roadways as quickly as possible after the road inspection.

G. Other Business

- 1) **Board of Appeal & Equalization** –This meeting will be held tomorrow, April 26th, at 10:30 a.m.
- 2) **Halliday/Erickson Family donation** - Claudia mentioned that Ila did a lot of valuable research on benches (in honor the Halliday/Erickson families). Tony suggested to contact family if they would agree to benches (with a plaque or sign) for the use of their donation. Claudia will contact the family. Suggestions were made to have benches on the little porch of the School Room.
- 3) **Insurance Coverage with MATIT**– If any changes are needed, Claudia will need to submit them by May 15, 2023.

- 6) **ARPA Report** – Claudia updated she received MAT help with the ARPA Report. She will finish report this week.
- 7) **Swanie's dock access** – Steve informed that the DNR, CLWD, Becker Cty. Planning and Zoning are working together on the dredging in the channel between Big Cormorant Lake and pond next to Middle Cormorant Lake. Neighbors on the end of Holiday Beach Road are opposed to the dredging, which would allow better boat access from the main part of Big Cormorant to Swanie's dock in the pond.
- 8) **Miscellaneous Mail** – No miscellaneous mail received.

I. **Adjournment** - The township meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with a motion from Steve, seconded by Tony, carried 3-0. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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