

The *2021 Annual Township Meeting of Cormorant Township* was held on March 9th, 2021, at 8:15 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center. Persons who attended are recorded on the sign-up sheet.

- A. **Call to Order** by Clerk Claudia Hanson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. **Election of Moderator** - The floor was opened for nominations for a moderator, which was followed by a motion made by Duane Olson, seconded by Hans Heinrich, to nominate **Curt Lundeen** as moderator. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting** – There were no corrections or additions. Motion made by to approve the minutes by Hans Heinrich, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. Motion carried.
- D. **Treasurer's Report and Information Packet** - All present were offered this packet outlining last year's financial information and other information, prepared by Susie Braseth. Motion was made by Duane Olson to approve the Report, seconded by Nan Heinrich. No other discussion was made, and motion passed unanimously. See attachment #1.
- E. **2020-2021 Road Report** – Chairman Steve Sorenson gave report, starting with last year's road projects. The road crew replaced 2 broken or crushed culverts, and sealed road cracks on all township tar roads. Chip seal was applied on 2 miles of tar road. Gravel was replaced on ¼ of all township gravel roads and as needed on other gravel roads. There were two large frost blow outs that were filled and patched up. The township road ditches are mowed three times a year. Our grader operator goes out about every weekend to blade and upkeep gravel roads.

This year, the supervisors will inspect the roads again in April and determine what needs to be done. Seal coating, gravel maintenance and crack filling will continue to be done. Some road signs will need replacing also.

Steve summarized that taking care of all the roads is a big operation and we have 4-5 people working on our road crew thru out the year.

- F. **Swing Away Mailbox Post program** - John Buhaug added the township still implementing Swing Away Mailbox Post program and the cost of the swing away post is covered by the Township. John welcomed residents to contact the township office if they need a swing away post. A form needs to be completed and we will coordinate with Gopher One to have the post

area marked for any underground wires. Our township newsletter is also a great reminder of this program and other township issues, which the newsletter should resume once our community center re-opens.

G. **2022 Levy Proposal-** . The township residents present need to decide what the levy amount should be for each fund for 2022. The total levy proposal is for \$432,000. Agenda outlined what amount was levied for each fund last year.

- 1) **General Fund** - The proposed General Fund levy is \$188,000, which was the same as last year. Steve Sorenson made motion to keep the levy at \$188,000, seconded by Duane Olson. There was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **Road & Bridge** - Last year this levy amount was \$204,000. Megan Hoyes made motion to set the levy at \$204,000, seconded by Nan Heinrich. No other comments or discussion arose, so motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Fire Fund** – Steve explained the major changes to the Lake Park fire contract for this year which the Fire Dept. is in dire need to revamp their service contracts due to increases in costs, uncertain funding from other sources and low budgeting in prior years. The levy for fire service has not changed since 2009. Susie Braseth motioned to increase Fire Fund to \$48,000, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. There was much discussion and some people felt that amount was too high. Motion died. Duane motioned to set Fire Fund at \$43,000, seconded by Tony Hubbard. All voted and motion carried to increase Fire levy to \$43,000.
- 4) **Weed & Gopher Fund** - The gopher bounty must be determined first which last year was at \$4.00 per gopher. Tony Hubbard motion continue bounty at \$4.00 a gopher, seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom. No other discussion so motion carried unanimously.

Last year, the levy for this fund was voted to be \$0. Tony also motioned to keep this amount the same, seconded by John Buhaug. No other comments or concerns were raised. Motion was passed unanimously.

- 5) **Waste Management** - Motion was made by Steve Sorenson to keep the Waste Management levy at \$12,000, seconded by Duane Olson. There was no other discussion surrounding this and motion passed unanimously.

The annual Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held again this year,

sometime in June. Susie Braseth pointed out the recycling bin data on page 19 on how much recycling has been collected for the last year, which our township historically has done a great job with recycling.

**Total levy for 2022 is \$447,000.** Another motion was made by Steve Sorenson, seconded by Duane Olson to accept this as our new total Levy. Motion carried unanimously.

**H. 2021 Election Results were as follows:**

Supervisor (3-year term) = John Buhaug with 20 votes  
Treasurer (2-year term) = Susie Braseth with 20 votes

**I. Township Bank** – Hans Heinrich made motion to keep the State Bank of Lake Park as the official bank of the township, seconded by Tony Hubbard. No other discussion ensued, passing motion unanimously.

**J. Official Paper of the Township** - The official newspaper has been the Detroit Lakes Tribune and Claudia Hanson made motion to have that paper the official newspaper, seconded by John Buhaug. There was no other discussion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**K. 2022 Township Election Poll Hours and Annual Meeting Time** – Duane Olson made motion to set the polls hours from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the annual meeting to follow at 8:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of March 2022 (will be March 8th, 2022) seconded by Ila Mae Lindstrom, and motion passed unanimously.

**L. Other Business**

- 1. LARL Library Link Site** – Librarian Eileen Mooney was not able to attend meeting but supplied a written report. Claudia Hanson read report, noting the LINK site is offering curbside pick up service. Full report is attached.
- 2. Cormorant Daze** – This year it is tentatively scheduled again for August 21<sup>st</sup>, (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August) depending on Covid 19 protocols. Some adjustments will be made due to the pandemic, but organizers will still welcome volunteers to help revitalize this event.
- 3. Donations** – Electors, at annual meeting, may allow the Town Board to contract with nonprofit organizations (not exceeding \$10,000 per year) to support health, social and

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recreational services, artistic organizations, public or private non-profit senior citizen or youth programs. From this fund, Dollars for Scholars, Becker Cty Historical Society, Post Prom, etc. can be funded. Electors also can set up a fund for supporting a community celebration or historical event. This is where the township helps fund Cormorant Daze. The donations reviewed from past years are listed below, however many events were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic:

- 1) Alert = \$6000
- 2) Becker County Historical Society = \$150
- 3) Humane Society = \$100
- 4) LPA Schools Dollars for Scholars = \$2000 (for graduating seniors)
- 5) Camp Cormorant = Sponsor 2 children to camp – (closed)
- 6) Cormorant Daze = \$1000 (cancelled)
- 8) Games Galore (Cormorant Daze) = \$2275 (cancelled)
- 9) LPA Schools Post Prom = \$200
- 10) Kiddyland (Cormorant Daze) = \$500 (cancelled)
- 11) Lake Park Historical Museum = \$250
- 12) Kids programming -Cormorant Daze = \$2500 (cancelled)

Claudia Hanson relayed information from a new donor option, Northwoods Wildlife Rescue, who care for and assist injured birds and animals to return them back to their natural habitat. Susie talked about Kamp Kaze and Curt mentioned expansion at the Becker County Historical Society and Museum.

Susie also brought up to have retirement acknowledgement and appreciation to Trish & Brian Maloney for all their community contributions, as well as Mary Erickson for maintaining the Historical Room and Laurie Wanke for managing the Cormorant LINK site. There was agreement by the audience to organize an event for these contributors and many thanks for their time to our township.

Megan Hoyes motioned to have this as the list of suggested donations and other suggestions mentioned for the township board to consider, seconded by Duane Olson. There was no other discussion, motion was then passed unanimously.

4. **Other Items brought up by the Public:**

1) Steve Sorenson = He stated that some people really want our community center reopened. He explained that we are bound by Governor Walz's orders and recommendations made by the MN Association of Townships, as a government entity. He has empathy and also wishes the center to be open. It is a shame to not have our beautiful space available for the community, but the township needs to maintain current occupancy levels until Covid 19 restrictions are loosened up.

2) Hans Heinrich = Hans shared gratitude and thanks to our snow removal crew for a great job this winter for cleaning the roads. It is much appreciated!

M. **Adjournment** – As no other public business came up, Duane Olson made a motion to adjourn, motion was seconded by John Buhaug. Curt Lundeen declared meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hanson, Clerk

Curt Lundeen, Moderator