

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
January 28, 2025

The regular township meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:00 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center – Liberty Room.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Treasurer Josh Bentley and 3 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING DAVID TRAUT MYLAR SIGNING FOR THE DIAMOND T FARM PLAT AND SITE PLAN FOR HIS NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION TO OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

David Traut – Mylar Signing - David Traut came before the Town Board to have the mylar's signed by the township chairman and clerk prior to recording the Diamond T Farm plat with Stearns County. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK SIGN THE MYLAR'S FOR THE DIAMOND T FARM PLAT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

David Traut, 26 19th Ave. No. – Site Plan Recommendation - The town board reviewed the site plan presented by David Traut. Mr. Traut reviewed the site plan with town board supervisors. He is constructing a new home on the south 40+ acre parcel that was created with his recent Diamond T Farm plat. The board reviewed all setbacks for the new home which Mr. Traut meets. Mr. Traut stated they do not have final plans for the home as of yet. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE SITE PLAN PRESENTED BY DAVID TRAUT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOME LOCATED ON LOT 2 OF DIAMOND T FARM PLAT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Mr. Traut was informed the Joint Planning Board will have final approval. That meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 25th at 5:30 p.m. at the community center. Clerk Plante will place him on the agenda.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: No business from the floor.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2025 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Gilchrist is continuing work on the Town Code provisions with Stearns County and the orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud.

Cannabis Ordinance – This will be discussed under old business.

In-Law Suite Ordinance Amendment – Supv Heim has done some research with area jurisdictions and what is allowed within their ordinances. An "In-Law Suite" is also referred to as an accessory dwelling unit. Sauk Rapids does not have an ordinance addressing this type of dwelling. Sartell's current ordinance allows an accessory dwelling unit that is attached, but a detached dwelling is not allowed. St. Cloud allows both an attached and a detached dwelling as long as it is a family member living in the dwelling. It was the consensus of the board to not go further with updating our ordinances referencing an "In-Law Suite" or accessory dwelling unit.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURERS REPORT – CLAIMS AND INVOICES

Treasurer Bentley presented invoices totaled \$20,889.34 to the Town Board. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL INVOICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,767.26 (CHECK #14413 THRU 14416), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Audit Meeting – SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO HOLD THE ANNUAL AUDIT MEETING AT THE NEW TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M., SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS**Jeff Westerlund –**

Rich Winter, 32158 62nd Ave. – Sand in Addition – Mr. Winter contacted Supv Westerlund regarding the excessive amount of sand that is being spread in the Pleasant Dale Addition. Supv Westerlund explained to Mr. Winter that it is a safety issue but if it gets worse, contact him again and he will contact ASTECH.

Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance (CMWEA) Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended the latest CMWEA meeting at which they reviewed their budget and discussed new information ads and will shortly be on the H2YOU website. These information ads cover pet waste, washing vehicles, salt usage etc. They are all geared to keeping our water resources cleaner and healthier.

Township Day at the Capitol – Supv Westerlund attended the township day at the capitol which was well attended this year. This may be due to the fact the event was parred down to one day and not a two-day event as it has been the last couple of years. He questioned Steven Fenske, attorney at Minnesota Association of Townships, regarding the need for a cannabis ordinance. Mr. Fenske recommended allowing our county officials to handle.

Dan Heim –

Encompassed Township Parcels Annexation – Supv Heim noted the city of Sartell had the final annexation of the encompassed township parcels on their Monday, January 27th meeting agenda. It was noted that one township parcel was operating a land use that was not allowed in the township and will not be allowed within the city. The property is the Downare property which is operating an Airbnb rental of a Star Gazing Bubble Room. In 2020, this was discussed with the Downare's who stated they will discontinue the operation of renting this room. Apparently, the Downare's have begun renting this Airbnb. The city will now contact them regarding this issue.

4th Avenue Upgrade – Supv Heim briefly discussed another item on the city of Sartell's agenda which was funding for the upgrade of 4th Avenue. This street is where the new town hall is located so he contacted Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell Project Planner. Ms. Haakonson stated that our town hall parcel will not be part of possible assessments since it is non-eligible relating to the grant.

Kent Davis, 3514 Rivera Road – Shoreland Alteration & Boathouse Replacement – Supv Heim has not heard further from Jerry Konz of JK Landscaping regarding the major shoreland alteration that is being planned for this property as well as replacement of the boathouse. Mr. Konz was informed the boathouse can not be enlarged and what is planned for the shoreland is a major alteration which both will need a permit and possible variance.

Kevin & Deborah Traut – Solar Garden Conditional Use Permit Extension – A 60-day extension letter was received from the Solar Stone Energy Company regarding the extension needed pertaining to the conditional use permit application for a 5 MG solar farm. The public hearing for the permit will be held by the Joint Planning Board and will be scheduled for February 25th at 5:30 p.m.

MS4 Website Updates – Clerk Plante will meet with Supv Heim on Friday, January 31st, to review what

may be further needed on the township website to comply with all aspects of our MS4 permit.

Paul Wagner –

Township Day at the Capitol – Supv Wagner attended the township day at the capitol with Supv Westerlund. He reiterated what Supv Westerlund reported on regarding the good attendance due to having just a one-day event. He noted that a lot of the discussion by representatives etc. is the need to get more road funding for townships. Presently the townships only receive roughly \$41 million dollars, but over 60% of roads in the state are in townships.

Glen Lauer – St. Wendel Township Supervisor – Supv Wagner spoke with Glen Lauer, supervisor for St. Wendel Township, who informed him their township is allowing Stearns County to handle the cannabis management in their township.

Clerk Report –

CMWEA Contract – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ENTER INTO THE 2025 CONTRACT WITH CENTRAL MINNESOTA WATER EDUCATION ALLIANCE (CMWEA) HAVING WAYNE CYMBULAK WORK WITH LESAUK TOWNSHIP, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Supv Heim signed the contract and Clerk Plante will scan and send to Noah Czech of CMWEA, who sent the contract.

St. Cloud Live Newspaper – Clerk Plante discussed with the board her research into using St. Cloud Live as our publication for legal notices. She found that to have a notice in the Friday only published paper, notices must be in by 9 a.m. Monday. The cost savings for legal notices are significant, and we may find that public hearings etc. may need to be delayed since the paper is only published on Friday's. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO MAKE ST. CLOUD LIVE THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR LESAUK TOWNSHIP DUE TO THE CHEAPER COST, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

St. Cloud School District Special Election/Referendum – Clerk Plante has been in contact with Christine Hatch who is handling the special district election for the St. Cloud School District. She informed her Faith Journey Church has agreed to allow the election to take place at their church. Clerk Plante will also begin finding election judges for the election – Dan Heim will serve as Head Judge and so far, she has heard from Stephanie Kuhl and Carol Ann Zika who plan to serve as judges.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – The town board will be going to the new town hall immediately after this meeting to view the finished painting, carpet work etc.

Resolution for Assessment on the Zander Parcel– Attorney Gilchrist has updated the resolution. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE GLORIA ZANDER PARCEL FOR \$14,504.67 FOR A 5 YEAR TERM AT 5% INTEREST, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. This will be signed by Chairman Heim and Clerk Plante when they meet on Friday.

Thomas Property – No further information has been received from Tim Oswald of Stearns County Environmental Services.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will remain under old business and viewed in the spring and summer.

Website Redesign - This will remain on the agenda to begin after the new town hall is complete.

Fee Schedule – Treasurer Bentley will put together the costs related to the last several variances, conditional use permits, shoreland alterations etc. This will help in determining whether fees may need to be raised in order to cover our costs for these applications.

Cannabis Ordinance – The town board discussed where cannabis businesses could be allowed in zoning

areas within the township. It was the consensus of the board to allow them in the A-20 zoning and have Attorney Gilchrist update the ordinance. The cannabis ordinance will remain under old business to allow Supervisors Westerlund and Wagner to review and possibly vote on at the next scheduled meeting.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim had Clerk Plante forward an email he received from Huston Engineering which gave a timeframe for all aspects of the Townline road project. As of right now, it will be the spring of 2026 before reconstruction will begin.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

JANUARY ROAD REPORT: Supv Wagner discussed his inspection of township roads. He stated that township roads are in good winter driving condition though most were snow covered. He also drove 17th St. No. (Pinecone Road) which was drifted. He again questioned whether St. Cloud would consider taking over 322nd Street which is used as a main corridor between St. Cloud & St. Joseph. The street is narrow, a little rough and traffic travels at a higher rate of speed than what is posted. 17th St. (Udermann's) is not too bad, but snow covered.

Supv Wagner also viewed the properties in the township that are continually being viewed for clean-up. He shared some pictures with town board members and stated the Zander, Thomas and Hernandez property continue to store abandoned vehicles and junk in their front yards.

The meeting was recessed to go to the new town hall. Once arriving at the town hall, the board viewed the finished paint job, carpet laying and other aspects of the remodel done by Dale Gruber Construction. The completed remodeling was done very well. The carpet layers did a great job in matching the carpet with rolls that were left in the basement. The carpet was shampooed in hopes the distinction between the old and new wouldn't be quite so subtle. Clerk Plante will be ordering the training tables, two supervisors chairs and one 5-set seating area chairs which will hopefully be in prior to the upcoming audit meeting.

There being no further business, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk