

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
October 22, 2024

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, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and 6 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING CATHY VANVICKLE AND MIKE NIELSEN TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Cathy VanVickle, 183 30th Ave. No., Sartell – Overweight Permit – Ms. Vanvickle came before the Board to request an overweight permit for 30th Ave. during 2025. Discussion was held regarding the reconstruction of 30th Avenue which was to begin in the spring of 2025. Supv Heim reported that as it is right now, approximately 60% of the plans have been reviewed. The wetland permitting process has been very time consuming and the project is now slated to begin in the spring of 2026. No estimate has been received for the project costs yet. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AN OVERWEIGHT PERMIT FOR RANDY & CATHY VANVICKLE, 183 30TH AVENUE NORTH FOR JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mike Nielsen, 3934 Riviera Road, Sartell – Deck Reconstruction– Mr. Nielsen is a contractor hired by Jeremy Sand who owns the parcel at 3934 Riviera Road. Mr. Sand would like to replace the existing deck and construct a larger deck (27 ft X 14 feet). He questioned what the process would be to receive a building permit since the parcel is located on the Mississippi River. Supv Heim asked Mr. Nielsen to forward the site plan for the project for review. Once received and reviewed, this will determine his next steps. Supv Heim also stated the project and site plan will need to be reviewed by the townships shoreland specialist. Supv Heim will contact Mr. Nielsen with further information.

SOLAR FARM & GARDEN ORDINANCE:

Gordon Simonton, Jeff Bertch & Deb Traut – Mr. Simonton & Mr. Bertch are employed by Solar Stone Energy and represent Ms. Traut. They were sent the solar farm/garden ordinance draft and had questions regarding several items in the ordinance draft. Those items were #4 Sub Section 2 regarding setbacks, Sub Section 5 regarding the township ordinance following the same language as the surrounding city and county and Sub Section 6 regarding the screening of the solar garden etc. Their comments and concerns will be given to our township attorney for review.

Mr. Bertch questioned the application process and fee for a solar farm/garden and whether an application could be available to them. He was given the administration permit application. Supv Heim reviewed the fee schedule and informed him the fee would more than likely be \$400, but since the solar garden/farm was removed from our ordinances and only allowed residential solar panels, the permit fee was also removed. The fee schedule will need to be updated to include the solar farm/garden permit fee amount.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-1. SUPV WAGNER ABSTAINED SINCE HE WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 SPECIAL TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Cannabis Ordinance – Attorney Gilchrist is in the process of drafting this ordinance. There will also be a public hearing by Stearns County on November 19, at 9 a.m. to review the county ordinance regarding cannabis issues.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Supv Heim was contacted by Lily of Insurance Avenues questioning whether a building permit was issued for re-roofing the Shirley Thomas property at 32502 County Road 1. Supv Heim contacted David Barsody, township building inspector, who found no permits have been issued for the Thomas property.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley presented 3 invoices for payment to the Town Board. Treasurer Bentley discussed the finalization of the closing for the new town hall and the set up for payment of the GO Bonds. He has been working with Betty from Ehlers Financial.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$360.19 (CHECK #14347 THRU #14349), SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund – Supv Westerlund had no report, but will discuss items during his road report later in the meeting.

Dan Heim –

David Traut, 29 19th Ave. No. – Split of Property & Plat – Supv Heim questioned the final day information must be received in order to hold the public hearing on November 12th. Clerk Plante told him it would be October 30th. Supv Heim will forward the resolution drafts from Atty Gilchrist and other pertinent information as soon as possible in order to hold the public hearing on 11-12-24 at the regular township meeting. For the U-1 zoning district and this application, the township holds the public hearing and makes a recommendation and the Joint Planning Board makes the final decision. This will then allow the Joint Planning Board to possibly approve on 11-26-24.

In-Law Suite Construction – Supv Heim was contacted by Tony with Jason Dale Construction,

questioning whether an "In-Law Suite" is allowed in the township ordinances. As of now, our township regulations do not address the in-law suites. Currently, Sauk Rapids is considering the regulation.

Town Line Road Project – Supv Heim discussed earlier in the meeting, noting again the project will not be able to begin construction in the spring of 2025, but will be waiting till 2026. This is due to the lengthy time it is taking to receive permits with various agencies; Department of Natural Resources, electrical companies located along town line road etc.

ASTECH INC. 17th St. No. Upgrade – An estimate of \$35,790.00 was received from Lance at ASTECH Inc. to upgrade 17th Street North to allow Xcel trucks and equipment easier access on 17th Street for the construction and maintenance of the proposed solar garden/farm.

Dan Roeber, 2944 Winnebago Road – Setbacks – Supv Heim was contacted by Dan Roeber of Stantec questioning the setbacks at 2944 Winnebago Road. Supv Heim sent him the setback regulations for R-1 residential zoning district.

Margaret Traut, 3845 Pinecone Road – Property Split – Sam DeLeo, surveyor for Ms. Traut, is working on a property split and rezone for a portion of Ms. Traut's property at 3845 Pinecone Road. Mr. DeLeo questioned whether a lot line adjustment would be sufficient to split off a 2.3-acre parcel. Supv Heim informed Mr. DeLeo, to contact him when the Traut's have an actual plan outlining what they would like to do. In past years, Supv Heim has been contacted several times by involved parties of the Traut property, but had no actual concept of what they wanted to do.

Paul Wagner –

Bill Fasen, 494 30th Ave. No. – Mr. Fasen contacted Supv Wagner regarding whether broadband will be near him soon. Broadband should become available to most township residents through funding from the COVID Cares Act money designated for broadband. It was suggested that Supv Wagner contact Mike Williams from Stearns County Environmental Services, who is heading up this project.

Ken Heim, 201 Heritage Drive – Annexation of 2nd Parcel – Supv Wagner was contacted by Ken Heim questioning whether he will need to annex a second parcel he owns to the north the of the parcel his home is located on. Currently, his home parcel is in the city of Sartell, but the 2nd parcel remains in the township. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that since there is no home on the parcel, it can remain in the township, but if he were to sell to construct a home, it may have to be annexed since it is within 100 feet of city services.

Treasury Trust Savings Account – Supv Wagner discussed the interest rate of 4.45% that is being offered by a North Dakota bank with a minimum deposit of \$5000. The balance only needs to stay in the account for 30 days. Currently, the township funds that are in a CD are at 5.25% & 5.30%, but need to remain in the accounts for 9 and 12 months respectively. It was the consensus to revisit this when the township CDs come due in February of 2025.

Clerk Report -

Bill Fasen – Broadband on 30th Avenue – Mr. Fasen left a message for Clerk Plante questioning whether broadband will be available in his area. He did not leave a number to call, but he contacted Supv Wagner who will give him the information that Albany Telephone is slated to bring broadband in that area in 2025.

Mike Nielsen – Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Deck – Clerk Plante received a call from Mr. Nielsen and asked him to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the construction of a deck for Mr. Sand, which he did.

Phone & Internet at new Town Hall – Clerk Plante discussed her conversation with T-Mobile, the present carrier of our township phone, regarding possible internet service at the new town hall. She was given the quote of between \$30-60 per month for 5G internet service. The monthly cost of the township phone is \$28.00. This would be cheaper than transferring to CenturyLink. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE CLERK PLANTE TO CONTRACT WITH T-MOBILE FOR THE TOWNSHIP PHONE

AND INTERNET SERVICES, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Demolition of desks etc. in Town Hall – It was the consensus of the town board to allow David Plante, after signing the Volunteer Service Agreement Form, to remove the desks in the new town hall which will possibly reduce the amount of the remodeling of the new town hall.

Voting Swing Sign at Faith Journey Church – Clerk Plante stated she would like the swing sign brought to the church as soon as possible. It was the consensus of the town board to allow David Plante, after signing the Volunteer Service Agreement Form, to take the swing sign to the church the next day, Wednesday, October 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Supv Heim reported on several items involving the new town hall.

- All necessary resolutions for the new town hall regarding the GO Bonds, have been signed by himself and Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and will be scanned and snail mailed to Kennedy Graven Attorney Firm before October 25th.
- Supv Heim met with Mark Finn, Sartell building inspector. There are a few things that need to be completed in the new building, a lot of which will be addressed when the remodeling is completed.
- Supv Heim contacted Jill Hollenkamp with the city of Sartell, who will provide a list of contractors that are licensed in the city of Sartell. If a contractor that is not licensed in Sartell, they will be charged a \$10 license fee.
- The new building will need recharged fire extinguishers January 1, 2025.

Zander Property Clean-Up – All of the invoices have not been received yet for the clean-up of the Zander property. Once they have been received, they will be sent to Stearns County and be assessed to the Gloria Zander property.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – No further action.

Website Redesign – No further action at this time.

Thomas Property Clean-Up – No information has been received from Tim Oswald of the county environmental services who was to view the property.

Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Fire Protection Contract – SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE FIRE CONTRACT RECEIVED FROM THE CITY OF SARTELL WHICH INCLUDES THE CHANGE OF THE YEARLY FEE FOR 2025 REMAINING AT \$40,000 AND THE NEW YEARLY FEE ACCORDING TO THE FORMULA WITHIN THE CONTRACT BEGINNING IN 2026, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MS 4 Audit Update – Wayne Cymbulak, Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance, submitted a final response to the MPCA. Supv Heim met with Wayne to view and find the outfalls within the township which need to be viewed and checked. Supv Heim also discussed with the board the importance of all board members reviewing the training videos sent by Mr. Cymbulak via Kenneth Ziek on July 19th. All of the town board supervisors must watch the videos and print a certificate they have viewed the videos.

17TH Street North (Pinecone) Maintenance Agreement – Attorney Gilchrist is in the process of drafting this agreement. Evan Carlson stated he may not be able to obtain an easement agreement with T & A Properties, but feels it will not hinder the possible maintenance agreement. He has signed easement agreements with the other 3 property owners on 17th Street (Pinecone). Mr. Carlson has agreed and placed money in an escrow account to cover expenses to have the township attorney draft this agreement and he will also pay for the cost of maintaining and plowing 17th Street. Discussion was held on the possible cost of upgrading the road for easier and better access to the solar farm/gardens that are planned to be built in this area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting Change Time – With the winter hours being used at the community center as of 10-1-24, discussion was held whether the township meeting could change to a 6:30 start time. Having it 30 minutes later may allow enough time for the Joint Planning Board members from Sartell to attend a JPB meeting if it is scheduled for 5 or 5:30. Clerk Plante will check with Kari Haakonson, Sartell Project Planner, questioning her whether a change in meeting times would be difficult. This will be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

OCTOBER ROAD REPORT:

Supv Westerlund traveled and viewed all township roads.

- He reported that 17th Street (Udermann) is in need of fall grading after the harvest has been completed. In general, all township roads are in good driving condition.
- 30th Avenue/Town Line Road has some small potholes which the township will continue to fix until the reconstruction of the road in 2026.
- Winnebago Road & 27th Street intersection has some tree limbs in the ditch area, but not hindering the driving surface.
- 322nd Street potholes have continued to be patched by St. Cloud. Joe Perske, Stearns County Commissioner, is beginning the process of getting funding for this road's reconstruction similar to the funding received for 30th Avenue/Town Line Road.
- Supv Westerlund discussed the township properties that are currently being cleaned up – he provided pictures of the Thomas property that still has a lot of junk and junk vehicles on the property. The township is currently waiting to see what the county will say about the parcel after viewing it.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk