

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm  
November 12, 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 DEPUTY SHERIFF CRAIG POGATSHNIK AND PAUL THEIS TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**OPEN FORUM:** None.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

**Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to the Sub-Division Ordinances** – Supv Heim read the public hearing notice which had amendments to Chapter VI of the LeSauk Township Code regarding the approval process for subdivisions. Supv Heim opened the hearing to the floor. Supv Heim explained the amendments are proposed to clarify the process for subdivisions. No comments were heard from the floor. Clerk Plante did not receive any written or oral comments or concerns. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

The town board discussed the changes to the township ordinances, sub-division regulations and Town code regarding minor subdivisions. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 24-01, AMENDING CHAPTER VI OF THE LESAUK TOWNSHIP CODE REGARDING THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR SUBDIVISIONS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Craig Pogatshnik, Sheriff's Department Representative** – Deputy Sheriff Pogatshnik came before the Town Board for his bi-monthly report regarding the township. Sheriff Pogatshnik stated the department just incorporated a new reporting system and was not able to pull up the last couple months reports of sheriff calls in the township. He did say it has been very quiet in the township since a previous home with many calls to the sheriff's department has been removed. He discussed the numerous deer hits at this time, with frequent calls of the dumping of carcasses in township ditches.

The town board asked Deputy Sheriff Pogatshnik to look into a call regarding broken glass at the intersection of County Road 1 and 27<sup>th</sup> Street which may be connected to a phone call the board received from a township resident.

**David & Judy Traut – Public Hearing – Minor Subdivision & Plat – 26 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. No., Sartell** – Supv Heim read the public hearing notice for David & Judy Traut who are platting an 88.81-acre parcel as Diamond T Farm into two lots, with Lot 1 containing approximately 45.23 acres and Lot 2 containing approximately 40.39 acres. The hearing was open to the floor. Mr. Traut briefly explained why they split the parcel as they did which was to stay above the 40-acre threshold in the sub-division regulations and to keep existing buildings within the lot lines with the necessary setbacks.

No further comments were heard from the floor. Clerk Plante did not receive any written or oral comments or concerns. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECOND BY SUPV

WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Discussion was held by the board. Supv Heim reviewed issues with the city of Sartell project planner, Kari Haakonson but all of her concerns and questions were addressed and handled. Township attorney and engineer both reviewed the plat. Suggested by the township engineer was a culvert in the new driveway if water runoff was an issue. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL THE DIAMOND T FARM PLAT WHICH WILL CREATE TWO LOTS, LOT 1 WITH 45.23 ACRES AND LOT 2 CONTAINING 40.39 ACRES, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Paul Theis, 3675 Spider Court, Sartell – Addition to existing Accessory Building** – Mr. Theis came before the board with questions regarding either an addition to his existing 1080 square foot accessory building or the construction of an accessory building on the vacant lot he owns and is located south of his home. The board informed him he is allowed one accessory building up to 3600 square feet but would need to meet the setbacks if he planned to add on to his existing accessory building. If he would choose to construct an accessory building on the vacant lot he owns, he would need to go through the public hearing process for a conditional use permit. Mr. Theis stated he will probably add on to his existing accessory building. Supv Heim told him that once he has finalized his plans, he will need to have a site plan reviewed and approved by the town board. The site plan must have the setbacks of the new addition and indicate where buildings are located as well as his septic and drain field.

**Evan Carlson - 17<sup>th</sup> Street Road Maintenance Agreement** – A revised road maintenance agreement for 17<sup>th</sup> Street North (Pinecone Rd) was sent and reviewed by Mr. Carlson. This agreement is to allow basic maintenance and snow removal on 17<sup>th</sup> Street to allow Xcel Energy access to the areas when constructing and maintaining the solar farms which will begin in the spring of 2025. There will be three solar farms located on 17<sup>th</sup> Street (2 – 1 megawatt farms on the Fitzthum parcel and one 5-megawatt farm on the Weyer parcel) Upgrading the road will not occur until the construction of the farms is completed.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. The agreement was signed by Chairman Heim and Mr. Carlson. Clerk Plante will scan the document to Mr. Carlson.

#### **MINUTES:**

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Gilchrist is working on the cannabis ordinance and provided the solar farm/garden ordinance with its revisions.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:** No report.

#### **OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Bentley provided copies of the October Treasurer's report to all board members. Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the board our expenses in October. The largest being the payment for the Zander property clean-up of \$9300. The Bond sale money was also deposited from Citizen's State Bank which brought the township fund balance to \$887,663.87.

Treasurer Bentley received the re-payment schedule for the bond sales; the first one will be due August 1,



2025 and the second one on February 1, 2026. The payments on the bond sales are twice per year. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED THE OCTOBER TREASURERS REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**CLAIMS & VOUCHERS** - Treasurer Bentley presented all claims and vouchers to the town board which totaled \$11,444.98. They included all payments and reimbursements to election judges for the November 5<sup>th</sup> election. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,444.98 (CHECK #14350 THRU #14374 PLUS EFT'S 302 & 303), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

## **SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

### **Jeff Westerlund –**

**District 5 Meeting** – All town board members recently received the invite and agenda for the district 5 meeting that will be held at the Freeport Community Center on November 21, 2024. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ALLOW ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT 5 MEETING AT THE REGULAR RATE OF PAY, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**A.P.O. (Area Planning Organization Meeting)** – Supv Westerlund received the information on the upcoming APO meeting on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. but reported he is unable to attend due to another commitment. Treasurer Bentley stated he was available to attend.

**Broken Glass on 27<sup>th</sup> Street & County Road 1** – Supv Westerlund was asked to pick up broken glass at the intersection of 27<sup>th</sup> Street & County Road 1, but when he went to do so, he did not find any substantial amount of glass to be cleaned up.

**Tire on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the Schindler Property** – He did not the tire near the Schindler property on the St. Wendel side of the road. The board discussed the road agreement with St. Wendel township which requires each jurisdiction on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue to maintain both sides of the road.

**Stray Cat Call** – Supv Westerlund received a call from the Tri-County Humane Society regarding a stray cat located in the township. Supv Westerlund verified the address and approved the impoundment of the stray cat. He could not remember where it was located. Discussion was held briefly by the board to make sure the stray animals are located in the township before approving the impoundment.

### **Dan Heim –**

**Glass Breakage Text** – Supv Heim received the text from Supv Wagner regarding glass breakage at the intersection of County Road 1 and 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Supv Heim also looked and he only saw small shards of glass.

**Kevin Strauss, MPCA, MS4 Audit** – Supv Heim received an email from Kevin Strauss regarding the MS4 audit being conducted in the township. He questioned why Wayne Cymbulak or Supv Westerlund was not copied on the email. When Supv Heim contacted Mr. Strauss, Mr. Strauss said he was told that Supv Heim was taking the lead on this project.

**17<sup>th</sup> Street North (Udermann) Grading** – Supv Heim was contacted by Doug Welk of ASTECH Inc. informing him that 17<sup>th</sup> Street North was rough and in need of grading. Since the ground is not frozen and the harvesting has been completed by the Udermann's, plus discussion was already held by the town board to grade the road after harvesting, he approved Mr. Welk to go ahead and grade 17<sup>th</sup> Street. ASTECH will plan to grade the road during the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Township Website Update** – Supv Heim discussed an article by Leslie Rosendahl in the MAT Town Insider. The article stated that by 2026, township websites address must end in .gov. He questioned whether this would pertain to our website. But after discussion, the article states that it was only townships

who handle absentee voting, which our township does not handle as it is done by Stearns County.

**Steven Feneis – LaVerne Dehler Phone Call** – Supv Heim received a phone call from Steve Feneis who has been contacted by LaVerne Dehler, township resident. She was questioning Mr. Feneis about the annexation of her encompassed property.

**Gravel Road Survey** – Clerk Plante had forwarded a gravel road survey by Minnesota Association of Townships to all town board supervisors, that asked that all town board members take. Supv Heim has completed the survey.

**Mike Williams – Stearns County Broadband** – Supv Heim briefly discussed that Mike Williams from Stearns County is the person to contact if township residents are questioning board members when broadband will be brought out to areas in the township who have minimal broad band coverage. Mr. Williams is working with Albany Telephone who will be providing the broadband with COVID CARES Act money transferred to Stearns County by townships to be used for that purpose.

**Melissa Green – Realtor** – Supv Heim received a phone message from Ms. Green with questions about a township property. He stated he has left a message with no call back as of yet. Clerk Plante received a call and will report on this.

**J.K. Landscape – Kent Davis Parcel, 3514 Riviera Road – Boathouse Reconstruction** – Supv Heim received an email regarding the replacement of a boathouse on the Davis property. Stephen Grittmann, township shoreland consultant, viewed the property. In an email, Mr. Grittmann indicated several items Mr. Davis would need to do before proceeding with reconstruction of the boathouse which includes shifting or reducing the footprint of the boathouse to meet the 10-foot setback since as it appears right now, the building appears to be just a few feet from the rear property line, which would require a survey to establish the OHW. The lowest floor elevation must also be at least 3 feet above the OHW and the maximum height of the boathouse cannot exceed 10 feet. No further communication has been received from Jerry Konz of JK Landscape.

**Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road** – No further information has been received from Mike Nielsen, contractor for Mr. Sand regarding the possible deck replacement at the Sand parcel.

**Paul Wagner –**

**Dead Raccoon on 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.** – Supv Wagner picked up and discarded a dead raccoon found on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

**Broken Glass at 27<sup>th</sup> St. No & County Road 1** – Supv Wagner received a call from Andrew Burau, resident of 27<sup>th</sup> Street North who indicated that possibly a neighbor was breaking glass at the intersection and it needed to be cleaned up. Supv Wagner texted board members since he was unable to view the area. Supv Westerlund had gone to the area but could not find any significant broken glass.

**Clerk Report –**

**Melissa Green** – Clerk Plante received a call from Melissa Green, a realtor who had a potential buyer of the Dougherty parcel at 2365 6<sup>th</sup> St. So., Sartell. The buyer questioned whether the accessory building on the parcel could be used to establish and run a Home School Co-Op within the building. Ms. Green was told the buyer would more than likely need to annex to the city of Sartell in order to receive city services for the school business. It was also suggested to her to contact Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell project planner to see whether that would be something allowed in the city.

**Charter Franchise Fee Reduction** – Clerk Plante reported that she has received an explanation from Charter about the reduction in the amount of franchise fees the township is now receiving. David Larson informed her that a complaint was received from another municipality and it was found that roughly 400 addresses had been miscoded as being LeSauk residents and apparently should have gone to St. Cloud. Clerk Plante requested a list of the addresses to verify whether they may or may not be in the city. Mr.



Larson will check with legal counsel to see if the list of addresses can be provided and will get back to her.

**Pastor Scott – Faith Journey Church** – Pastor Scott emailed Clerk Plante questioning whether their church will be annexed and what the approximate cost of hooking up to city services etc. would be.

**Election Report** – Clerk Plante reported that election day on November 5<sup>th</sup> was very busy and after receiving the report from Stearns County which included absentee voters, the township had an approximate 87% turn out. She also reported the swing sign and various equipment that was stored at Faith Journey Church has now been moved to the new town hall location.

**MAT (Minnesota Association of Townships) Officer List** – Clerk Plante had all town board members review and correct as needed, the officer list that was sent by MAT.

**October Fine Reimbursement** - \$33.33 was received during October for fines in LeSauk Township.

### OLD BUSINESS:

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

- One more signature page was needed for the Government Bonds sales. Supv Heim signed and returned.
- To date, three bids have been received for the remodeling of the new town hall; Modern Kraft Construction - \$42,000, E.J. Timmers Construction - \$17,600 and J Dale Construction - \$46,000. Supv Heim met with Dale Gruber but has not received a bid as of yet and will meet with Crever Construction on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After receiving all of the bids, the township will have 5 bids for the project and will then be able to make a decision.

**Zander Property Clean-Up** – Supv Heim has taken some updated pictures of the Zander property, who again accumulating cars that are in need of repair on the property.

**Thomas Property Clean-Up** – Supv Heim took new pictures of the Thomas property. Supv Heim also emailed Stearns County Environmental Services to check whether they have viewed the property which they were to do in mid-September. There are remaining abandoned cars and property in the yard and driveway. A motorhome has also been brought into the yard.

**Sullivan Yard Clean-Up** – Yards are now dormant for the fall and winter, so this will remain on the agenda and viewed in the spring and early summer.

**Website Redesign** – No further action at this time. It is the plan to have a new website at the same time the new town hall is completed.

**Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance** – The draft ordinance has been completed and will now go to the public hearing process, possibly at the next Joint Planning Board meeting.

**MS 4 Audit Update** – Supv Heim reported there are 4 items that need to be completed. 1. Education of pet waste to all township residents. 2. Training field staff on illicit discharge. This will require emailing to all staff who may be in the field and deal with illicit discharge, such as the sheriff's department, fire & police. 3. Develop a stormwater management training program. We have 90 days to complete these items. After completed, a docu-sign will be sent to sign and state the items have been completed. Supv Heim questioned whether town board supervisors have viewed the training videos sent a couple months prior. Supv Wagner & Supv Heim have watched them, Supv Westerlund will watch them shortly.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Board of Canvass:** The town board reviewed the election results sent by Stearns County. The following were the township results for the state general election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024:

#### Town Supervisor Seat B:

Dan Heim – 771 votes

21 Write-Ins as follows: Martha Wend, 1 vote, John Doe, 2 votes, Mickey Mouse, 1 vote, Roderick Mrozek, 2 votes, Kevin Starry, 1 vote, Gary Rehnke, 2 votes, Danny Traut, 1 vote, Tyles Smith, 1 vote, Ron Naber, 1 vote, Steve Gessell, 1 vote, John Udermann, 1 vote, Cory Peters, 1 vote, Steve, 1 vote, Jeff Wilken, 1 vote, Jeff Westerlund, 1 vote, Brian Johnston, 1 vote.

There were 88 new registrants and a total of 1021 votes were cast.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE VOTES AS CANVASSED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV HEIM ABSTAINED DUE TO BEING ON THE BALLOT.

**Fee Schedule** – The fee schedule will be placed on the agenda under old business. A permit fee will need to be added to the schedule for the new solar farm/garden application.

The town board members went to the new town hall to view the area and discuss the remodeling of the meeting area, items that needed to be updated to comply with ADA (American Disabilities Act) requirements, snow removal until someone can be hired to take care of the snow removal (Supv Westerlund stated he has some extra snow shovels he can bring over). It was also the consensus of the town board to have an inspection completed of the furnace and permit Supv Heim to contact his furnace company to arrange a time to have the inspection done.

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