

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
November 26, 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 4 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Sam DeLeo, Surveyor for Margaret Traut Trust Property, 3845 Pinecone Road – Mr. DeLeo presented the board with a preliminary plat of the Margaret Traut property. There are two parcels in this area; the Margaret Traut Trust parcel of 5 acres and the Bluebird Hollow parcel of approximately 120 acres. The plat divided the 5-acre parcel into two 2+ acre parcels and the 120-acre parcel into parcels containing 5 acres to just over 7 acres. The central and northern area of the 120-acre parcel will have their own driveways with 4 parcels located on the south end of the plat would have one shared driveway. Mr. DeLeo stated there are no roads or streets planned for the plat.

Mr. DeLeo spoke with Kari Haakonson, Sartell Project planner, who informed him that Sartell does not have plans to extend services in this area since this area contains granite and out cropping. The board reviewed the preliminary plat and were comfortable with what has been proposed so far. Mr. DeLeo reiterated this is just in the preliminary stages right now. Supv Heim said the township has received many calls from family members regarding this parcel the last several years.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Cannabis Ordinance – Supv Heim had just received the draft cannabis ordinance from Attorney Gilchrist and asked Clerk Plante to forward it to the town board members. He asked the board to read and review so that it can be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley presented all claims and vouchers to the town board. He informed the board the township received a ACH deposit of \$9000 from Augmentmen Tax Service. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4444.72 (CHECK #14375 THRU #14380), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Heim asked Treasurer Bentley whether he had sent the final billing amount for the clean-up of the Zander property to Stearns County Auditor's office. Treasurer Bentley said he had not, but will do so after getting a final billing total from the township attorney's office.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

District 5 Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended the District 5 meeting in Freeport on November 21st. He was asked to run for a board member officer position, but unfortunately lost to the incumbent. Supv Wagner also attended and will report on the meeting during his report.

MAT Annual Meeting and Township Day at the Capitol – SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ALLOW ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND BOTH THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIPS ANNUAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 13 & 14TH AND THE TOWNSHIP DAY AT THE CAPITOL ON JANUARY 25, 2025 AT THE REGULAR RATE OF PAY, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Dan Heim –

Ray Schindler, 1062 30th Ave. No. – Drainage – Supv Heim received a call from Ray Schindler regarding the overgrowth in a drainage ditch that is northeast of his property and is causing water back-up on his property. The drainage area that is blocked goes to the Celebration Circle Plat of Sartell. Tim Molitor, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor for the city of Sartell, has been contacted to check on the cause of the back-up.

Lynn Thene, 1995 1st St. No. - Split of Property – Ms. Thene contacted Supv Heim questioning the process to split her father, Lawrence Traut's property, which is also located on 1st St. No. Mr. Traut has recently passed away and owned a 35.3-acre parcel on 1st St. No. just west of her property. Supv Heim informed her if they choose to split his property, they will need to annex the property to Sartell.

Zander Clean-Up Cost Assessment – Supv Heim provided the Stearns County letter to Treasurer Bentley with information regarding the time-frame for assessing properties. This was also discussed in Treasurer's Bentley's report.

Paul Theis, 3675 Spider Court – Mr. Theis previously attended a meeting to discuss the addition he would like to put on his accessory building. Supv Heim has not heard anything further from Mr. Theis who will need to meet setbacks for the addition and must have his site plan approved by the town board.

Paul Wagner –

District 5 Meeting – Cannabis Ordinance – Supv Wagner attended the District 5 meeting in Freeport and reported on the discussion regarding the need for a cannabis ordinance in townships. Consensus of most in attendance and by MAT representatives, was that an ordinance is needed regarding cannabis, but not to worry about the time frame, since the State of Minnesota has not finalized all aspects of regulations for cannabis in the state.

Broadband Placement – Supv Wagner stated that Michael Williams, Stearns County, reported that broadband is currently being placed in areas of Stearns County and it hopes to be completed in 2025. Mr. Williams did have a map of the county available indicating where broadband lines will be placed.

Clerk Report –

Assessment to Township Properties – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. All assessments the

township want to place on township parcels must be received by Stearns County Auditor's office by December 2nd.

Annual Weed Report – Clerk Plante asked Supv Heim to sign the annual weed report due to the county by the end of the year. Chuck Ertl, township ditch mower, provided his final invoice which is being paid at this evening's meeting.

Publication of Legal Notices – Clerk Plante discussed the time frame for publishing legal notices in the St. Cloud Times. She also spoke with the town board regarding the upcoming Joint Planning Board meeting which was to be this evening, but she had failed to get the notices published on time. The JPB meeting will now be scheduled for December 10th since no second meeting will be held in December.

Sartell Hydroelectric Project – Clerk Plante received notice the city of Sartell is requesting the license renewal for their hydroelectric project located on the Mississippi River. No action is required.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – The town board reviewed the 5 bids that were received for the remodel of the new town hall. They are as follows: Modern Kraft Construction - \$42,178.00, E. J. Timmers Remodeling - \$17,600.00, J. Dale Builders - \$46,139.99, Dale Gruber Construction - \$29,703.00 w/\$4397.00 option for painting all walls, and Crever Construction \$31,900.00. The high and the low bid were dismissed, along with the Modern Kraft bid. The board then discussed and compared the Gruber and Crever bids which were similar in amounts.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM DALE GRUBER CONSTRUCTION FOR \$29,703.00 AND INCLUDE THE OPTION TO REPAINT ALL THE WALLS IN THE NEW TOWN HALL FOR \$4,397.00, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Wagner suggested viewing the town hall during the remodeling, making sure the knock-down texture is used on the ceilings in the common areas and orange peel texture is used on walls.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Discussed earlier in the meeting. Treasurer Bentley will contact Attorney Gilchrist and Kennedy-Graven to receive final attorney fee balance and will contact the Stearns County Assessor's Office to have the total amount placed on the Zander property assessment.

Thomas Property Clean-Up – Supv Heim and Supv Wagner took updated pictures of the Thomas property which again has accumulated vehicles and abandoned property in the driveway, front and side yards. Supv Heim has yet to receive Stearns County Environmental Services report after their viewing of the property.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will remain on the agenda and viewed in the spring and early summer.

Website Redesign – No further action at this time.

Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance – Public Hearing will be held on December 10, 2024 at the Joint Planning Board meeting.

MS 4 Audit Update – Supv Heim questioned whether Supv Westerlund and Wagner had viewed the 4-minute video regarding illicit discharge. Since they had not, time was taken during the meeting to watch the video. Supv Heim was then able to email Wayne Cymbulak the video's had been viewed by all town board members, which then enables Mr. Cymbulak to report that to the MPCA auditors. Wayne Cymbulak is drafting a training program for the township.

Fee Schedule Revision - This will remain on the agenda and be discussed at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

NOVEMBER ROAD REPORT: Supv Wagner provided his road report for all town board members

along with pictures he took of concerning properties in the township. He stated the blow patching done by Bertram Asphalt was very good but left a lot of gravel in many areas. He suggested maybe doing the entire roadway next time. He also discussed the possibility of doing shoulder work on 322nd Street.

Supv Wagner had pictures of parcels in the township that have abandoned vehicles and property. The board has been working with the Zander property who again has several vehicles located on the parcel. He noted there is accumulating vehicles and property on the Hernandez parcel located at 32688 River Vista Lane. Letters had been sent previously to Mr. Hernandez with no reply.

Supv Wagner drove 17th St. No. (Udermann) and even though it has been recently graded, it is low and rough near the stop sign. Supv Westerlund will contact Doug Welk of ASTECH to view the intersection, checking with Mr. Welk whether loads of class 5 would need to be brought in the low area etc.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk