

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
December 10, 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 5 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING CANCELLATION OF 12-24-24 MEETING AND REORGANIZATION MEETING AND D-G HOMES TO NEW BUSINESS AND JEFF & PAM GOODING DECK REPLACEMENT TO OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Jeff & Pam Gooding, 2854 Riviera Road – Replacement of 2 Decks – Questions were raised regarding the replacement of 2 decks on the Gooding home located on the Mississippi River. Jim Darlington of DG Home Remodeling, stated that when residing the home, posts for the deck needed to be removed which then caused new footings to be constructed when they were replaced and building inspector, David Barsody, questioned whether the site plan for this had been approved by the town board. Mr. Darlington indicated the decks are not being enlarged, only replaced. After reviewing the site plans, SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TWO DECKS WITH NO FURTHER SIZE INCREASE OF THE DECKS ON THE GOODING HOME, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Supv Heim will contact building inspector David Barsody regarding the approval of the site plan by the town board.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Solar Ordinance Amendments – The Joint Planning Board recommended approval of the Solar Ordinance Amendments at its earlier meeting. Gordon Simonton of Solar Stone Energy answered questions of the town board regarding the panels used in solar energy indicating they are now much more efficient than previous panels. He also added that panels are recycled and repurposed after decommissioning. Each panel is approximately 600-700 watts. Mr. Simonton also questioned the application process for a solar farm as well as the fee amount. His company is working with Kevin & Deborah Traut for the placement of a solar farm on their property located in the township. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 24-02 SOLAR ENERGY ORDINANCE REGARDING SOLAR GARDENS/FARMS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MS4 Stormwater Ordinance Amendments – The Joint Planning recommended approval of the MS4 Stormwater Ordinance amendments at its earlier meeting. The amendments to the townships MS4 Stormwater Ordinance were done since the township was audited and the ordinance needed various updates to comply with stormwater runoff, education of residents etc. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 24-03 MS4 STORMWATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MS4 Stormwater Summary Publication – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PUBLICATION SUMMARY OF THE MS4 STORMWATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Sub-Division Ordinance Summary Publication – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PUBLICATION SUMMARY OF THE SUB-DIVISION ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Cannabis Ordinance – The draft of the cannabis ordinance had not been reviewed by all town board supervisors yet. It will be placed under old business in order to be discussed at the next meeting.

Town Code Provisions – Attorney Gilchrist has drafted a list of town code provisions that could be added to the Stearns County Law Enforcement. This will be placed under old business in order to act on them at an upcoming meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley provided copies of the November treasurers report to board members. He stated the balance in all township funds at the end of November was \$885,110.42. Revenues were mainly building permit along with a \$9000 deposit from Stearns County Aumentum Cutover Settlement. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE NOVEMBER TREASURERS REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley presented all claims and vouchers to the town board, stating the majority of expenses during the month were for the November election. Included in the invoices was an invoice from Jason Dale Builders for \$1850.00 for design plans to remodel the new town hall. Discussion of the invoice was held by the town board. Supv Heim stated he did not request Mr. Dale draw up these plans and they were done even though Mr. Dale's company did not receive the bid for the remodeling. Supv Heim had given all construction companies the diagram of the building provided by the previous owner. The diagram indicated what the township board wanted remodeled. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO NOT PAY THE \$1850 FEE FOR PLANS PRESENTED BY THE J. DALE BUILDERS COMPANY, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM. Discussion was held with Supv Wagner who opposed the motion stating that companies need to have a design plan before making a bid on a project. All other companies who bid on the remodel project were able to make bids without design plans. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,850.66 MINUS THE J. DALE BUILDERS INVOICE FOR \$1850 (CHECK #14381 THRU #14396, MINUS CHECK #14291 PLUS EFT'S 304 & 305), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Shovels & Fire Extinguishers – Supv Westerlund brought snow shovels to the new town hall for winter snow clearing. He also had the fire extinguishers recharged and serviced and has placed them in the new town hall.

17th Street North – Supv Westerlund had contacted Lance Bemboom of ASTECH Inc. regarding the addition of material plus grading the area on approximately the first 100 feet of 17th Street North. The area is quite rough and is lower than other portions of the road which may require bringing in material to build the area up.

Dan Heim –

Riley Beckman w/Xcel Energy – Right-of-Way Permit - Supv Heim was contacted by Mr. Beckman of Xcel Energy who is requesting a right-of-way permit for placement of power poles on 17th St. North. These are being placed to accommodate the upcoming solar gardens & farms that will be constructed in the area during 2025. Mr. Beckman will be having Xcel provide a \$250 check for the ROW permit fee and will provide a certificate of Insurance from Xcel Energy.

30th Avenue Update – Supv Heim reported there have been delays with DNR permits and no decision on the Active Transportation Grant which will delay the reconstruction project. Possible bidding of the project could take place in late summer or the fall of 2025. This will push the project to begin in 2026 unfortunately.

Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Replacement of Deck – Supv Heim has been in contact with Mike Nielsen who is the contractor for Jeremy Sand. Mr. Sand would like to expand the deck. The township's shoreland consultant, Stephen Grittman, viewed the property and stated this will require a OHWL (Ordinary High-Water Level) shoreland administrative permit to expand the deck.

Mary Klenke – Ms. Klenke contacted Supv Heim regarding a parcel located at 32534 River Vista Lane. The parcel is ¾ acre parcel previously owned by Dani Westra but now owned by Trompeterbuilt Properties LLC and annexed to the city of Sartell. However, the back portion located on the Mississippi River and also owned by Trompeterbuilt, is a separate parcel, and is still in the township. Supv Heim has emailed Kari Haakonson regarding the parcel.

Paul Wagner –

Stop Sign & 30th Ave & 360th Street – Supv Wagner reported that a Stop sign was down at this intersection. He made a make shift stop sign since it was a safety concern. The stop sign is located on the St. Wendel side of 30th Avenue, so he contacted Glen Lauer. A new stop sign was put in by the St. Wendel township board members.

New Town Hall Painting – Supv Wagner stated he would like to meet a representative from Gruber Construction at the new town hall to discuss the finishing and painting of the town hall. He discussed the \$6500 estimate to paint the entire town hall (all areas). He could do the painting for possibly \$5000 and save the township some money. Supv Heim stated he would need to check with the township attorney whether that would legally be allowed.

Clerk Report –

SCORE Grant – Clerk Plante informed the town board that she completed the request for reimbursement for township clean up day through the Stearns County SCORE Grant. The requested amount was \$2485.98

Justin Timmer – Gates Sign – Clerk Plante received a call from Justin Timmer who was concerned about the advertising sign for the Gates at Blackberry at the intersection of 27th Street and Pinecone Road. She informed him they have permission to have the sign on the Arlene & Harvey Weyer property through 2026.

MS4 Audit Information – Clerk Plante asked Supv Heim to meet at a separate time in order to review all areas that need to be completed and covered to meet all the requirements of our MS4 permit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Supv Heim discussed the process he did with each company who bid on the remodeling of the new town hall. He met with each company representative at the town hall and went over the building plan

layout which indicated what the town board wanted to be done. This building plan had been received from the previous owner.

Zander Assessment – In order to assess the Zander property for the reimbursement of money the township spent to clean up their parcel, a resolution will need to be drafted, signed and sent to the county. The resolution must have the amount, the years that will be given for assessment as well as the interest rate. This will be placed on the agenda. Supv Heim will have Attorney Gilchrist draft a resolution.

Thomas Property – The Thomas property continues to collect abandoned junk and vehicles. However, the motorhome that has been on the property is now gone.

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

MS4 Audit – Wayne Cymbaluk, Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance (CMWEA) has submitted the final report to the MPCA and training of township supervisors have been completed. An email from Kevin Strauss, MPCA director, had just been received stating the completion of compliance for the audit and its corrective actions have been completed by the township. Mr. Cymbaluk will meet with the town board to discuss the MPCA corrective actions going forward.

Fee Schedule – Discussion was held by the town board regarding the fee to be charged for possible applications for upcoming solar gardens & farms. After reviewing the solar ordinance, it states a solar garden/farm will need a conditional use permit to operate and construct a solar garden/farm in the township. The current fee schedule lists \$400 as the fee for a conditional use permit. For the time being, that will be the amount requested when applying for a solar garden/farm. The fee schedule will be placed under old business in order to review possible changes. Clerk Plante will email Solar Stone, informing them the fee for the solar farm being applied for by Kevin & Deborah Traut and the Solar Stone company will be \$400 and she will send them the conditional use permit application.

NEW BUSINESS:

December Meeting Cancellation – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CANCEL THE 2ND MEETING IN DECEMBER DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Reorganization-Qualifications Meeting – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SET MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. FOR THE REORGANIZATION-QUALIFICATIONS MEETING SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2025 Meeting Schedule- Clerk Plante has updated the 2025 meeting schedule for the community center and has emailed it to Ann Doyscher-Domres so she can put the dates on the schedule. The schedule was made out to June 2025, but that will change after the new town hall remodeling etc. is completed.

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