

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
February 25, 2025

The regular township meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 7:00 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center – Liberty Room.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, Clerk Marlyce Plante and Treasurer Josh Bentley plus 12 interested parties.

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

OPEN FORUM: No open forum items.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Kevin & Deborah Traut - Resolution Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Construct & Operate a Solar Garden in the Traut Valley Farm Plat – The public hearing for the conditional use permit for a solar garden was held during the Joint Planning Board meeting held prior to this meeting.

The town board reviewed the questions and concerns brought forth by surrounding property owners. Two main concerns were the above-ground pivoting irrigation system that pivots directly over the field road where the transmission line is planned to be placed in order for the solar garden to connect with the Xcel Energy on Pinecone Road. Discussion was held on whether the transmission line could be buried versus having it above ground or possibly be buried only in the area the pivoting irrigation system is located.

Also, an area of concern was whether this permit would be better as an interim use permit versus a conditional use permit. An interim permit would last as long as the business on the property would last, but a conditional use permit would be with the property for always.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO TABLE A DECISION FOR TWO WEEKS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

With this decision, Supv Heim will contact township Attorney Troy Gilchrist with questions regarding a conditional use permit versus an interim use permit and whether that would require a new public hearing etc. Representatives from Solar Stone will also review the cost change of burying the transmission line versus above ground lines etc.

Due to the scheduled annual meeting on March 11th, discussion was held on changing the date of the meeting. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CHANGE THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11TH, TO MONDAY, MARCH 10TH BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE NEW TOWN HALL, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Jeremy Sand & Angela Murphy, 3934 Riviera Road, Deck Replacement – Jeremy & Angela plan to enlarge the existing 9 X 10-foot deck to 9.6 feet X 31 feet. Stephen Gritman, the township shoreland consultant, stated they are allowed to add 15% encroachment from the closest setback from the high water mark. The site plan has been reviewed by Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell Project Planner who had no concerns about the deck expansion. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR JEREMY SAND & ANGIE MURPHY FOR A 9.6 FT X 31 FT

DECK, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2025, REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV WAGNER ABSTAINED SINCE HE WAS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No new information has been received regarding the Town Code provisions with Stearns County and the orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: A certificate of occupancy was completed by Building Inspector David Barsody for the Doug Friedrichs home which has been completed at 3714 Riverside Ave.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley reported on the two \$200,000 CD's the township currently has. He has contacted Bank Vista regarding the 9-month CD which has come due and can be renewed at 4.15% for 6 months. The second CD is due in May. He felt the township funds are in good shape. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ALLOW TREASURER BENTLEY TO RENEW THE FIRST CD AT 4.15% FOR 6 MONTHS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Claims & Invoices – Treasurer Bentley stated that invoices and claims totaled just over \$48,000.00. The main expense was the remodeling of the new town hall which was just over \$43,000. Supv Wagner expressed his concerns on the carpet cleaning charges originally quoted by Gruber Construction.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL CLAIM VOUCHERS & INVOICES TOTALING \$48,178.51 (CHECK #14430 THRU 14437), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Heim received a check from J.K. Landscaping for the escrow account for the Kent and Shelly Davis major shoreland alteration application, plus the application fee.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Area Planning Organization (APO) Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended the latest APO meeting at which he met the new mayor of St. Cloud, Jake Anderson. Mr. Anderson, County Commissioner Joe Perske and Supv Westerlund discussed the need to upgrade 322nd Street. Mr. Perske would like to have the street reclassified in order for it to qualify it for federal and state funding.

Snow Plowing Bids – Supv Westerlund received two bids for snow removal for the new town hall,

Ground Control \$105/hr. and Affordable Lawn Care \$100 per snowfall. Supv Westerlund will charge \$22/hr. but stated these companies would be available for larger snow falls, since he may not be able to handle a larger snowfall with his equipment. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO HAVE SUPV WESTERLUND DO THE SNOW PLOWING, SIDEWALK SHOVELING AND LAWN CUTTING AT THE NEW TOWN HALL AT \$22/HR, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV WESTERLUND ABSTAINED.

Dan Heim –

Brandon Sligjord, Sartell Police Chief & Lucas Dingmann, Interim Sartell Fire Chief – No definite meeting date has been set for Brandon Sligjord to attend and upcoming township meeting. Clerk Plante stated she has heard back from Mr. Dingmann who will get a report to the township regarding the fire department which is usually given at the township's annual meeting.

April 8th District 742 Special Election – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CHANGE THE APRIL 8TH MEETING TO MONDAY, APRIL 7TH AT 6:00 P.M. DUE TO THE SPECIAL DISTRICT 742 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION SCHEDULED ON APRIL 8TH, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Brent Thomas – Pure Sky Energy – Supv Heim received a call from Mr. Thomas inquiring about a parcel owned by Edgar & Kitty Traut as a location for a solar farm. After researching the parcel, it is zoned U-1 and a solar farm would not be allowed in that zoning district.

Wayne Paquin, 7230 322nd St – Trees in Right-of-Way – Mr. Paquin contacted Supv Heim in July of 2024 regarding trees in the right-of-way on 322nd Street. He questioned who is responsible for the removable of them. Supv Heim noted that when Mr. Paquin purchased the 10-acre parcel, it was by metes and bounds legal description, which means he is legally responsible for removing the trees. Supv Heim will contact him and let him know.

Kent Davis, 3514 Rivera Road – Shoreland Alteration & Boathouse Replacement – Supv Heim reported that he has received the necessary application fee and escrow account balance for the Davis's shoreland alteration & boathouse replacement.

Paul Tomczik, 2944 Winnebago Road, Remodel – Supv Heim recently received plans for a remodel at the home of Paul Tomczik. This parcel is located on the Mississippi River, and he will review what may be needed to proceed with the project.

Paul Wagner –

Town Hall Sign – Supv Wagner shared pictures with the town board of signs that were made for the town hall by Joe Pfannenstien Signs. After viewing, it was the consensus of the town board to have the sign say "LeSauk Town Hall" (no address) and larger than the first draft shown to the board.

Clerk Report –

Town Hall Purchases – Clerk Plante discussed several purchases she made for the town hall: 40-cup coffeemaker, coffee, toilet paper, toilet cleaner & scrubber.

Township Clean-Up Day – Clerk Plante informed the board that she contacted Gary Opatz of Opatz Recycle questioning any changes for items that can be brought to the township clean-up day. The one item Mr. Opatz stated was that car batteries are accepted but must be placed in a wooden box.

Fire Department Report @ Annual Meeting – Interim Fire Chief, Lucas Dingmann can not attend the annual meeting but will either attend our March 10th meeting or get a written copy of his report to Clerk Plante which she will give at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting – It was the consensus of the board to have cookies, coffee and water. Clerk Plante

will purchase the necessary items for the evening.

911 Sign – David Traut – A letter was received by Renee Rosenow of Stearns County G.I.S. with the new address number for the David Traut property and has ordered the sign from M-R Sign Company.

Certificate of Occupancy – Frederich Property – Clerk Plante received the email on this request, and it was handled by building inspector, David Barsody, as reported earlier in the meeting.

Phil Ringstrom – Mr. Ringstrom contacted Clerk Plante regarding the possible donation for the restroom at the inclusive playground. She informed him it will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Township Short Courses – Clerk Plante questioned whether she could attend another session of the township short course since she will be working the day it is held in St. Cloud. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ALLOW ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND A TOWNSHIP SHORT COURSE OF THEIR CHOICE AT THE REGULAR RATE OF PAY, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Wayne Lepinski, River Vista Lane – Clerk Plante spoke with Mr. Lepinski, an adjacent neighbor to Robert Hernandez. Mr. Lepinski could not pull safely out of his driveway due to the growth of a pine tree on the Hernandez property. Supv Westerlund will visit the Hernandez property to see if the branches can be trimmed. Mr. Lepinski was also concerned about the speed limit and the possible location of a dead-end sign at the entrance to the street since they get a lot of traffic that comes through and turns around. Clerk Plante will email John Peterson of ID Sign Solutions.

Gary & Linda Rehnke – The Rehnke's contacted Clerk Plante regarding the process of adding a three-season porch on the deck. The Rehnke's will plan to attend the next scheduled meeting to discuss their plans with the Town Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Our first meeting will be held on March 10th at the new town hall. Clerk Plante has secured tax exempt status ordering from Amazon where the audience chairs will be purchased. She has also ordered supervisor chairs.

Thomas Property – No further information has been received from Tim Oswald of Stearns County Environmental Services. Supv Heim will contact Mr. Oswald again, but the board may consider going through the court process to have this property cleaned up.

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

Website Redesign – It was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante begin the process of having the township website redesigned.

Fee Schedule – Treasurer Bentley is working on previous variances, conditional use permits, shoreland alterations etc. to determine what their average cost is. With this information, the fee schedule may need to be changed to make sure our expenses are covered.

Cannabis Ordinance – No further action until all board supervisors have reviewed the ordinance.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim discussed emails he has received from Joe Perske and information from Tom Emmer who expects funding to be go through for this road project even though there has been a freeze placed on federal funds.

FEBRUARY ROAD REPORT: Supv Heim reviewed his road report with the town board. The majority of township roads are in good driving condition. Streets that are in need of repair remain 30th Avenue, 322nd Street and 35th Street (Lloyd Traut portion). He noted the home that had a fire on River Vista Lane looks like it is being remodeled but is not sure whether a building permit has been issued.

The property owned by Robert Hernandez, 32632 River Vista Lane has junk accumulation, Gloria Zander, 271 27th Street No. again has multiple vehicles in the front and the Shirley Thomas property at 32502 County Road 1 has multiple cars and junk accumulation.

Supv Heim reported there were 6 tires on 17th Street North (Pinecone Road). Supv Westerlund will pick the tires up and take them to recycle.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk