

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
May 14, 2024

The regular township meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:30 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 four interested parties.

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

OPEN FORUM: Shirley, Steven & Ted Thomas, Property Clean-Up and Chuck Ertl – Township Ditch Mowing. Both parties were not in attendance at the meeting, but will be discussed if they attend later in the meeting.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2024 ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Zander Summons Answer- Supv Heim was contacted by Atty Robert Alsop informing him he has received an answer from Angela Zander to the summons and complaint served on her mother, Gloria Zander. An answer to the summons was to be received by April 9th. The answer written by Ms. Zander was dated April 12th and was not received by Atty Alsop until April 30th.

Within the answer written by Ms. Zander, she states all of the vehicles are tabbed and in running & working order and other vehicles which were unnecessary, have been removed from the front yard and put in the back yard. She states in the answer they have been cleaning up the property but it all takes a lot of time. She also said that she has been in contact with Supv Westerlund to figure out a reasonable date to have the yard cleaned up by. Supv Westerlund stated he has not spoken to Ms. Zander since his last visit prior to the issuance of the summons and complaint and has not discussed any date for clean-up of the property.

Supv Heim stated he tried several times to contact Ms. Zander between texts, phone calls & emails finally getting in touch with her to discuss the amount of time she thinks they may need to clean up the property. She stated till the end of July and possibly mid-August. The board viewed pictures and video Supv Heim took of the Zander's back yard which now includes people living in two tents on the property. Supv Heim stated the front yard does look better but they have basically moved the majority of the abandoned property to the back yard plus some.

The board discussed the suggested avenue given by Atty Alsop to proceed with an abatement agreement and adding a specific amount of time and final date for the clean-up of the property.
SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CONTACT ATTORNEY BOB ALSOP STATING THE TOWN BOARD SUPERVISORS ARE INTERESTED IN AN ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE ZANDERS

ALLOWING THEM UNTIL JULY 31ST TO COMPLY WITH ALL REQUESTED CLEAN-UP REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Heim has been in contact with the owner of Junktastic Removal & Recycling. They do clean-up of situations such as the Zander property. He will keep their contact information in case the township must step in to clean up the Zander property to the satisfaction of the township per the summons & complaint.

Chuck Ertl – Township Ditch Mowing & Brush Trimming

Chuck Ertl presented his proposal for the township ditch mowing and brush trimming for 2024. The first cutting would be \$1050 and the second cutting would be \$2000. The cost in 2023 was \$880 for the 1st cutting and \$1815 for the 2nd cutting. The brush cutting would be \$325 and be done at the guardrails on 40th Street, but none on the 30th Avenue bridge. Mr. Ertl noted the first cutting cannot be done until after June 15th due to nesting habitat in the ditches and the second cutting is after August 15th.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT CHUCK ERTL'S PROPOSAL FOR THE MOWING OF TOWNSHIP DITCHES AND BRUSH CUTTING, 1ST CUTTING @ \$1050, 2ND CUTTING @ \$2000 AND BRUSH CUTTING AT \$325, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Frank Kundrat – 322nd Street Condition & Overlay Discussion

Mr. Kundrat came before the town board to discuss the condition and plans for the overlaying of 322nd Street. Mr. Kundrat is a resident living on 322nd Street which was formerly in the township but now is in the city of St. Cloud. He stated he attended a meeting held by the city of St. Cloud regarding the condition of 322nd Street and a possible housing development that would be located on the southwestern side of 322nd Street. The only access to this new development will be 322nd Street which he feels is already in very poor shape and is a heavily used road for a short cut to St. Joseph.

Supv Heim informed Mr. Kundrat and the town board supervisors that he had a meeting with Luke Langer, Assistant City of St. Cloud Engineer, Scott Volkers of St. Wendel Township and himself regarding the bid the city of St. Cloud has received to place a leveling course on 322nd, then a 1 ½ inch asphalt overlay on the road. The total cost of the project would be \$283,000 (\$106,000 – St. Cloud, \$97,000 – St. Wendel Township and \$80,000 – LeSauk Township). A public hearing for the project will be scheduled for June 24th in St. Cloud.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO GET 322ND STREET OVERLAYED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD AND ST. WENDEL TOWNSHIP AND NOTIFY ALL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 24th, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Supv Heim will contact Luke Langer regarding the board's decision and request notification to all township residents on 322nd Street. Supv Heim did state the project probably will be done by the end of July.

Shirley & Ted Thomas, 32502 County Road 1 – Property Clean-Up – The Thomas's came to the meeting to again review the continued clean up of Ms. Thomas's property. Supv Heim viewed pictures with the town board members he had taken earlier in the day. The Thomas's are continuing to show progress in cleaning up the front yard. Mr. Thomas said the driveway is a little messy now since he is working on a car wheel bearing, but that should be completed soon. Supv Heim questioned whether the blue vehicle is in operating condition and if it isn't, to have it removed. He asked the Thomas's to continue with the clean-up and the town board members will be monitoring the condition of the yard.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURERS REPORT & CLAIM VOUCHER PAYMENTS:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the board the interest rates he received from Bank Vista. Bank Vista is offering both 9 month & 11-month CD interest rates at 5.29%. The 15-month CD rate would be 5.05%. Currently the township's CD of \$400,000 is at 4.4% interest rate. After discussion, SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PLACE \$200,000 IN A 9-MONTH CD AND \$200,000 IN AN 11-MONTH CD AT THE 5.29% INTEREST RATE, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the Town Board the April Treasurers report. Revenues during the month were \$49,017.90. Expenses were \$41,804.00 with an ending balance of \$518,649.43 plus the \$400,000 presently in a certificate of deposit. The ending balance in all township funds is \$918,649.43.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE APRIL TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2024, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Invoices presented at the meeting totaled \$20,786.36. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL INVOICES & CLAIMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,786.36 (CHECK #14237 THRU 14250 PLUS EFT'S 284 & 285) SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Township Clean-Up Day - Supv Westerlund manned the annual township clean-up day held on Saturday, April 27 at Faith Journey Church. He reported that about 20 residents attended the clean-up day. The town board amended what items could be brought to the clean-up day. He had several residents bring mattresses, tires & TV's which were items that would be taken for a minimal fee. Only 2 dumpsters were needed with both dumpsters being just over $\frac{3}{4}$ full. At this time, he felt it worked well and the same process should be used next year.

Tri-Rec – Summer Recreation Program Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended a second meeting of the Summer Recreation Advisory Board as the representative of the township. He reported the former Apple Duathlon will be held on May 19th with events beginning at Sartell High School. They will include a new Triathlon which will include a swim, run, bike & run. The township is normally informed of the use of Pinecone Road & 40th Street for the biking portion. To date, no one has contacted anyone on the town board or sent letters to those residents that live on those roads.

Dan Heim –

322nd Street Teams Meeting – Supv Heim reported on his meeting with representatives of the city of St. Cloud, St. Wendel Township and Stearns County Highway Department regarding the overlay project of 322nd St.

Glen Lauer, St. Wendel Township Supervisor – Mr. Lauer contacted Supv Heim regarding the poor signs on 390th Street which have very little reflectivity. Mr. Lauer thought they may be in LeSauk Township, but they are in Brockway Township. LeSauk Township replaced all the township road & street signs with new signs in 2020.

Norb Schramel, 1555 Riverside Ave. No., Sartell – Mr. Schramel contacted Supv Heim with questions about the current burning restrictions.

Ed Traut, 3845 Pinecone Road – Mr. Traut contacted Supv Heim regarding property his mother, Margaret Traut, owns on Pinecone Road. He questioned whether her home, which is on a 5-acre parcel, could be split. Supv Heim told him the possibility is there but the property would need to be rezoned and platted if that is what they choose to do. Margaret is no longer in the home; she is now living in Foley at a senior center.

Riley w/Xcel Energy – Fitzthum Solar Farm/17th St. North – Supv Heim received a call from Riley of Xcel Energy who is working on preliminary drawings of the solar farm for the Fitzthum property located on 17th St. He questioned the correct width of the street, which according to legal descriptions drafted in 1990 is 66 feet or a 4-rod road.

Chad & Michelle Spoden, Deck Project, 3826 Riviera Road – Deck Project – The Spoden's have decided to delay their deck project for 1-2 years. Supv Heim had been waiting on the deck site plan for approval by the town board before a building permit could be issued.

Lisa Vollbrecht, City of Sartell Public Works Director – Supv Heim contacted Ms. Vollbrecht questioning whether the city filled potholes on 30th Avenue. Ms. Vollbrecht, who is the new city of Sartell's Public Works Director, informed him she had received a complaint about the potholes and sent her crew out to fill them. The Town Board has no issue with the city filling the potholes, but Supv Heim did let her know which area was in the city of Sartell and where LeSauk begins etc. It was discussed to have Ms. Vollbrecht attend a township meeting in order for the entire board to meet her and discuss the various intertwining of city and township roads. June 25th may possibly be a good date for her to attend.

Town Line Road Meeting – Supv Heim attended a meeting regarding town line/30th Avenue. Joe Perske, Stearns County Commissioner and Stacy w/MN State Representatives Tom Emmer's Office. Joe Perske & Supv Heim provided pictures of town line/30th Avenue and an application had been filed with Mr. Emmer's office for possible funding from federal money. Currently 50 projects for the federal money have been submitted. It was narrowed down to 15 projects and the town line road reconstruction project is one of those 15 projects. No decision has been made yet. This is federal money, so would be in addition to the money received from state funding.

Active Transportation Infrastructure Program (ATP) Funds - Supv Heim received a letter from Steven Prusak, State Aid Active Transportation Engineer, informing him the 30th Avenue/Town Line Shoulder Paving project has been selected to receive up to \$648,355.00 in ATP Infrastructure funds. The letter included a user guide for the process of using these funds and what the funds can be used for.

Paul Wagner – No report

Clerk Report –

Homeless Encampment, 581 County Road 120 – Kathryn Then, daughter of Jerry Then, contacted Clerk Plante regarding a homeless encampment located to the west of her late parent's farm at 581 County Road 120 which is owned by United Methodist Church. This property is now in the city of Sartell so the information was given to Sartell Chief of Police Brandon Silgjord.

Election Judge Training – Clerk Plante informed the town board that election judge training will begin in June. She has also been sent a list of township residents that signed up at caucuses to serve as an election judge. The residents that sign up must be used as judges before other judges can be assigned.

Xcel Energy – Road Right of Way Width of 17th Street – Clerk Plante reported she was also called regarding the width of 17th Street by Xcel so they can begin their preliminary designs for solar gardens that are planned in the area. She found the legal description of all township roads which was drafted by Pauley Olsen, an engineering firm used by the township in the 90's. The legal descriptions were done in 1990 which she forwarded to Supv Heim.

April Fine Reimbursement – The township received \$219.97 in fine reimbursements for the month of April.

Michael Burdick Property Clean Up, 1461 Riverside Avenue – Clerk Plante received a call from a neighbor questioning what regulations the township has for residents to keep their property cleaned up. She

was informed this property has piles of sand & rock, garbage, plus the lawn has only been cut in the front yard but not in the back. She told him the town board supervisors do a road inspection each month and they will check the property.

Minnesota Association of Town Law Review – This will be held on May 31st in Otsego, MN. No further action was taken since this is usually not attended by the town board.

Township CARES Fund Money Transfer – Clerk Plante received an invoice from Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer showing the transfer of the \$45,311.00 the township received from the CARES Fund to the Stearns County Broadband Infrastructure Project. The CARES funds had limited areas for townships to use, so it was the decision of the Town Board to transfer the remaining funds to Stearns County – the funds were received by the township in September of 2020, they were transferred to the County on November 24, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Discussed under the attorney report.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – When doing monthly road inspections, this property will be viewed since it is still early in the “lawn cutting” season.

Website Redesign – Clerk Plante has briefly looked into the redesign of the township website and has found it will be more expensive to redesign a site plus the higher monthly fees for the site. She questioned how the board feels about the current website and whether she should continue to pursue this project. The board would like to have some concrete numbers for comparison.

Solar Farm/Garden Presentation - Park Fund – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SET A SEPARATE MEETING FOR EITHER JUNE 12 OR 13TH BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. BASED ON AVAILABILITY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante will contact the community center to see if either date’s work, then will contact the town board and Solar Stone Company representatives.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ROAD REPORT:

322nd St. Overlay Project – Supv Heim reported on the 322nd Road Project earlier in the meeting.

Annual Road Inspection Report – The Town Board discussed areas of the annual road inspection the town board went on May 7th. Supv Heim contacted Midwest Asphalt with no answer for cost of blow patching material. He contacted Doug of ASTECH – their cost was \$8000 for 6 tons of granite and 250 oil. Bertram Asphalt – their cost was \$5500 for 7 tons of material (granite & oil).

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO WORK WITH BERTRAM ASPHALT, FIRST DRIVING THE 5 AREAS OF THE TOWNSHIP THAT MAY NEED BLOW PATCHING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF BERTRAM ASPHALT; COUNTRY SIDE ACRES ADDITION, BONHOMIE VALLEY ADDITION, 35TH STREET – LLOYD TRAUT AREA, 30TH STREET AND RIVIERA ROAD AND THE PLEASANTDALE ADDITION FOR UP TO 3 LOADS OF MATERIAL, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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

