

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm  
June 25, 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 2 interested parties.**

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING KARI HAAKONSON, SARTELL CITY PROJECT PLANNER TO OPEN FORUM AND DEREK KIFFMEYER SITE PLAN TO NEW BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

#### **OPEN FORUM:**

**Kari Haakonson, Annexation Letters to Encompassed Township Parcels** – Ms. Haakonson, the city of Sartell’s Project Planner, discussed the annexation letters that will be sent to encompassed township parcels prior to July 9, 2024. The encompassed parcels number approximately 19. The letter will inform the township residents of the public hearing date of August 12, 2024 at which time they can discuss with the Sartell city council their concerns, questions etc. regarding the annexation.

Ms. Haakonson reviewed with the town board what information the letter will contain; the reductions the township residents will be offered when annexing to the city, effective date of annexation, the comparison of tax rates and other information relating to being a city resident.

**15<sup>th</sup> Street Extension** - Supv Heim questioned Ms. Haakonson on the progress and time frame of the first phase of 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Pinecone Road to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Townline Road. Ms. Haakonson stated the project is still in fund and grant processing as well as right of way acquisition from affected property owners. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase is possibly 2-4 years out at the present time.

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

#### **MINUTES:**

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2024 SPECIAL TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT:**

**Thomas Property Clean-Up** – Supv Heim reported on the discussions he has had with Atty Gilchrist regarding the Thomas property located at 32502 County Road 1. The clean-up of Thomas property has been handled in the past through Stearns County Environmental Services when the township has exhausted their efforts. This property was cleaned up after contact by the county, but has reverted back and the town board may need to get the county involved again. Township Attorney Troy Gilchrist, Chad May, Stearns County Assistant Attorney and Tim Oswald at Stearns County Environmental Service office have been brought into the discussion of this property with the possibility of revisiting the property to

view its condition again. It will be a decision by the Stearns County Environmental Service Office whether they again need to contact the property owner.

**Township Code Violations** – Atty Gilchrist spoke with Chad May, Stearns County Assistant Attorney, regarding the town code’s violations being placed into the county/district court’s system in order to allow criminal citations to be issued. Atty May stated the county would not prosecute the violations that would be issued which would then fall onto the township to hire a prosecutor to prosecute those violations. Supv Heim will Atty Gilchrist to narrow down the list of code violations that happen frequently, then a decision can be made by the town board whether the township should continue with having frequent violations placed in the county court system, which would then be required to hire a prosecutor to process the violations.

**17<sup>th</sup> Street (Pinecone Road) Right-of-Way** - Atty Gilchrist informed Supv Heim that 17<sup>th</sup> Street is a minimum maintenance road and the township should be careful in giving permission regarding the removal of the trees in the road right of way. The road right of way may only include the area that has actually been maintained over the years. Removing the trees may be the responsibility of the property owners and not the township.

**17<sup>th</sup> Street (Udermann Area) Grading Invoice** – Atty Gilchrist emailed Supv Heim stating the township should refuse to pay the “invoice” the Udermann’s presented to the board for grading 17<sup>th</sup> Street and a strong message should be given to the Udermann’s stating they must not grade the road. They do not carry the necessary liability insurance and are not a professional road maintenance company. Supv Wagner questioned whether they could be contracted if they provide a certificate of insurance etc. After discussion by the board, it was the consensus of the board to have Atty Gilchrist draft the letter to the Udermann’s informing them they are not allowed to grade the road at any time. since they have been asked to not grade the road in the past and have continued to do so without the township’s approval.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:** No report.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

**Claim Voucher/Invoices** - Treasurer Bentley presented the invoices and checks for payment to the board which totaled \$11,603.00. He stated there has been minimal activity presenting just seven invoices for payment. He gave the updated balance in township funds at just over \$900,000.00 with the first real estate settlement due to the township.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT \$11,603.00 (CHECK #14264 THRU #14270), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

#### **SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

**Jeff Westerlund** –

**Trees on Road** – Supv Westerlund was contacted by the Stearns County Sheriff’s office on June 12<sup>th</sup> to remove trees near 1923 Riviera Road, which were on the road and blocking traffic. When he arrived with his chainsaw, there were two residents and Xcel Energy already working on the tree removal.

**Dan Heim** –

**Rachel – Sundial Energy** – Supv Heim was contacted by Rachel from Sundial Energy questioning whether the township planned to change their ordinances regarding solar garden/farms. He informed her that no decision has been made.

**17<sup>th</sup> Street North (Udermann Area)** – ASTECH finished placing the 250 tons of crushed class 5, grading and crowning of 17<sup>th</sup> Street prior to June 22<sup>nd</sup> as was planned. Supv Heim stated the road looks very nice and is much smoother.

**Bertram Asphalt – 17<sup>th</sup> Street No. (Udermann Area)** – Supv Heim had asked Bertram Asphalt for a bid to place crushed Class 5 on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The bid had not been received prior to the town board approving ASTECH to go ahead with the project. Bertram's bid was for over \$12,000, but they had planned to put the Class 5 up to the Tom Fish home located at the end of 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The township's portion of 17<sup>th</sup> Street ends at the Udermann farm property.

**Bertram Asphalt Blow Patching Project** – Supv Heim reported that Bertram is continuing the blow patching of township roads within the next week. They will be blow patching streets they missed in Bon Homie Valley Addition, then continue blow patching in Via Riviera Addition, 35<sup>th</sup> Street No. (Lloyd Traut area), then ending with 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue if they have enough material that was approved by the board.

**322<sup>nd</sup> Street Overlay Project** – Supv Heim received an email from Zachery Borgerding stating the St. Cloud City Council did not approve the 322<sup>nd</sup> Street overlay project. When assessing affected property owners, at least 6 council members must vote in the affirmative and only 4 council members voted to approve the assessments for the project. However, the project is not completely lost, it may be revisited at the next council meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Stearns County 5-year Road Construction Plan** – Supv Heim reported the 5-year road construction plan of Stearns County had been approved. On the road plan is the 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Townline Road project for 2025 and Pinecone to County Road 133 in 2026.

**Sandy Klocker Email** – Supv Heim questioned whether other town board members had received an email from Sandy Klocker regarding the possible allowance of non-US citizens the ability to register to vote when they are applying for a driver's license. The email has been forwarded to Randy Schreifels, Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer. Ms. Klocker is an area political activist.

### **Paul Wagner –**

**30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Potholes** – Supv Wagner spoke with Glen Lauer, St. Wendel Township Supervisor, about the potholes located on the St. Wendel Township portion of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Lauer stated Kamco was to be filling the potholes but they have been behind on their scheduled road projects.

**30<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Down Trees** – Supv Wagner discussed the trees that were down on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue after the June 12<sup>th</sup> storm. He reported that clean-up of the trees had already been handled before he arrived.

### **Clerk Report –**

**MS4 Permit Audit** – Clerk Plante reported July 2<sup>nd</sup> has been set for the meeting with representatives from the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) to review the MS4 Permit Audit for the township. That meeting is scheduled from 1-5 p.m. The board will also meet with Wayne Cymbaluk, CMWEA (Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance), from noon to 1, to review items the MPCA will request of the board. Mr. Cymbaluk has worked with the township for many years doing the annual completion of the MS4 permit.

**Election Report** – Clerk Plante will have a list of election judges who will serve for the upcoming August Primary ready for appointment by the board at the meeting scheduled on July 9<sup>th</sup>. She reported she has sent emails to previous judges as well as a couple who may consider becoming an election judge, but has not heard back from several of them.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Town Hall** – Clerk Plante will contact the realtor suggested by former supervisor Shawn Omann, to

arrange a time to view a property after the MS4 Permit meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. She will notify the board if it will be set up and make sure the proper notification is on the website and at the community center.

**Zander Property Clean-Up** – Atty Bob Alsop has emailed and mailed the settlement agreement to Angie Olson and Gloria Zander but no email or answer has been received back.

**Sullivan Yard Clean-Up** – Supv Heim provided a picture of the Sullivan property. It was the consensus of the Town Board to have Clerk Plante send a letter to the Sullivan's asking them to remove the abandoned property as well as mowing their lawn.

**Website Redesign** – No further information has been received.

**Solar Farm/Garden Presentation** – Supv Heim asked other board members to read and review the information presented by Solar Stone Energy so that a decision can be made regarding whether changes should be made to township ordinances allowing solar farms & gardens in the township.

**Park Fund Distribution** – Discussion was held briefly on projects the township could donate the park fund money too. Supv Heim asked the board members to review the project list sent by Kari Haakonson of the city of Sartell that are planned in Sartell, as well as other possible park project donations. It was also noted that this subject could be discussed at the 2025 annual meeting in order to receive input from township residents.

**Fire Protection Contract** – It was the consensus of the Town Board to have Atty Gilchrist review the revised fire protection contract sent by Peter Kedrowski, Sartell Fire Chief. After a review from Atty Gilchrist, a meeting will be set up with Chief Kedrowski, the city of Sartell representatives and the town board for discussion. Renewal of the contract is not due until 2025.

**Jeff Davies, Site Plan Approval for Fence, 2333 Pinecone Road** – Supv Heim received a site plan for placement of a chain link fence on the Davies parcel. The property has not been officially annexed to the city of Sartell, but is scheduled for the fence installation within the week. Mr. Davies has had the parcel surveyed showing the correct property lines. Supv Heim has been in contact with the city of Sartell who are comfortable with the township handling the approval of the site plan since fence regulations are similar in the township and the city. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN PROVIDED BY JEFF DAVIES, 2333 PINECONE ROAD PLACING A 4-FT CHAIN LINK FENCE TWO FEET FROM THE PROPERTY LINE, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Derek Kiffmeyer, Site Plan Approval for Concrete Work**, - Supv Heim received the site plan from Mr. Kiffmeyer who plans to remove a sidewalk at his home and replace it with a 11 X 24 square foot concrete slab. It meets all necessary setbacks and falls under the allowed impervious surface. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN PRESENTED BY DEREK KIFFMEYER TO REMOVE A SIDEWALK AREA AND REPLACE IT WITH A 11 x 24 SQ. FT. CONCRETE SLAB, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

## **ROAD REPORT –**

Supv Heim reviewed with the town board his monthly road report. He noted that all township roads are in good driving conditions. 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Town line road continues to be rough but is being reconstructed in 2025, so minimal work, such as the filling of potholes are being done. He did report earlier that St. Wendel Township's portion has several potholes that should be filled within the week. 322<sup>nd</sup> Street may yet be overlaid, with the possibility of the project being reconsidered at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the city of St. Cloud council.

Supv Heim discussed the Hernandez property on River Vista Lane which again is piling up with abandoned property and a motor home that has been parked and is without current license tabs. It was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante send a letter to Mr. Hernandez.

Supv Heim questioned Clerk Plante whether she has researched what communication line runs along the top of the bridge deck on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The plastic tube the line is in is damaged in several spots and should be replaced. She has not researched it yet, but will contact Gopher One first to try and find out who owns the line within the plastic tubing. She will report at the next scheduled meeting. Also discussed was the removal of the dirt and weeds that are growing on both edges of the bridge deck. Supv Westerlund will work on the removal of the dirt and weeds as soon as possible. These two items were listed on the annual bridge inspection report completed by Stearns County and the township was asked to have them completed.

Supv Heim also noted the intersection of Pinecone Road and 40<sup>th</sup> Street has not been filled in yet and should be completed as soon as possible.

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