

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
August 6, 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 and 2 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING TIM RASMUSSEN TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: No items.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Tim Rasmussen, 328 21st St. No. – Deck Replacement Site Plan – Supv Heim received a site plan from Zablocki Construction outlining the deck replacement they have been contracted to do for Mr. Rasmussen. Supv Heim reviewed viewed the site plan with board members which meets all township ordinances setbacks. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DECK REPLACEMENT SITE PLAN FOR TIM RASMUSSEN, 328 21ST ST. NO., SARTELL, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2024 SPECIAL TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV WAGNER ABSTAINED SINCE HE WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING.

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

ATTORNEY REPORT:

17th Street No. – Minimum Maintenance Road – Atty Gilchrist, Supv Heim and Evan Carlson of Enterprise Energy, had a virtual meeting at which they discussed issues relating to the construction of a solar farm located on 17th Street which is a minimum maintenance township road. After discussions, Mr. Carlson will work on acquiring an easement from the property owners. Mr. Carlson also will set up an escrow account of \$5000 to cover attorney fees etc. or other expenses the township may incur during the process of getting easements for Xcel Energy needs to place power poles on 17th Street for the future solar gardens that are being constructed.

Attorney Gilchrist also stated he will draft an updated resolution regarding the minimum maintenance status of 17th Street North off Pinecone Road.

St. Cloud Orderly Annexation Agreement – Atty Gilchrist is in the process of drafting the orderly annexation agreement between St. Cloud, Sartell and LeSauk Township.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Tim Rasmussen deck replacement site plan. This was discussed during the “Business from the Floor” portion.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

July Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bentley provided copies of the July Expense and Revenue reports. He reported the township has received the remaining percentage of the first half real estate settlement. The township's fund balance remains at just over \$1 million. (\$1,022,682.56) He also discussed some of the expenses paid out in July which included blow patching township road expenses, 2nd half of the fire contract, reimbursement of two escrow accounts as well as a \$10,000 earnest money deposit on the possible purchase of a new town hall. Treasurer Bentley discussed the Earned Sick and Safe Time which Clerk Plante and himself are eligible for since they are appointed positions.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE JULY TREASURERS REPORT AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Claim Voucher/Invoices - Treasurer Bentley presented the invoices and checks for payment to the board which totaled \$17,042.58.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT \$17,042.58 (CHECK #14291 THRU #14301 PLUS EFT'S 291 & 292), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Community Ed Advisory Board Meeting – Supv Westerlund reported he attended the community education advisory board meeting. It was reported that approximately the same number of students registered for summer activities as the previous year. Other items discussed at the meeting was the addition of boys' volleyball, archery for grades 3-12 and a fall dance line for grades 7-12.

Primary Voting Swing Sign – Supv Westerlund placed the swing sign advertising the Primary Election voting at Faith Community Church. The primary election is being held on Tuesday, August 13th.

Dan Heim –

Bertram Asphalt – Supv Heim reported that Bertram will need 3 loads to finish the blow patching on Riviera Road & 30th Street, and if there may be some left, it will be put on 35th Street.

MS4 Permit Audit – No information has been received since Wayne Cymbaluk returned the completed questionnaire to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the audit being conducted by the MPCA.

Gordon Simonson – Solar Energy – Mr. Simonson contacted Supv Heim questioning the status of the township in relation to changing the township ordinances regarding allowing solar farms/gardens in the township. Township Atty Troy Gilchrist is drafting the ordinance change.

Development on County Road 120 – Supv Heim received an email from Paul Abdo who had questions regarding the rezoning of an agriculture piece of property to a mixture of residential and commercial. When contacting Mr. Abdo, it was found the property north of Kwik Trip on County Road 120 and owned by Duane Lodermeier is the property Mr. Abdo is questioning. Supv Heim informed him the property is zoned U-1 and provided information relating to the township's zoning and sub-division regulations.

Feedlot Setbacks – Sam Deleo, surveyor, contacted Supv Heim with questions regarding the feedlot setback regulations in the township. The feedlot setback is 700 feet and a possible variance would be

needed if development would be less than the 700-foot setback.

Jeff Bollinger, 2698 17th St. No. – Feedlot Setbacks – Mr. Bollinger is considering the purchase of the Mark Traut property located on 17th St. No. He contacted Supv Heim with questions regarding remodeling of the current home and the construction of another accessory building which would fall within the 700-foot feedlot setback. Supv Heim contacted Amber Mielke of the Stearns County Environmental Service Department who informed him any construction within the feedlot setback would not be allowed.

Bruce Ferkinhoff, 32133 County Road 1 – Home Business – Mr. Ferkinhoff questioned whether his daughter could operate an art studio on his property. In researching whether this is possible, Supv Heim found that his daughter does not live on the premises which would then not allow an incidental home occupation. An interim use permit may be a possibility, and if received, a sign advertising the business would be possible if it is within the allowed size. Supv Heim relayed the information to Mr. Ferkinhoff. Supv Heim will contact township attorney, Troy Gilchrist, if there are further questions.

Jason Ferche, Annexation Questions – Supv Heim received a phone call from Jason Ferche who owns property along Roberts Road. The parcel is located in the township and is one of the encompassed properties that will be annexed according to the orderly annexation agreement. Mr. Ferche questioned why he did not receive notice when the agreement was being discussed. Supv Heim informed him that all property owners of encompassed parcels had been notified using the addresses of the parcels listed on the Stearns County website.

Encompassed Parcels Public Hearing by the City of Sartell – The town board members discussed attending the public hearing the city of Sartell will be holding on August 12, 2024, in case there are questions. It was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante post a notice stating there may be quorum of supervisors attending the public hearing.

Internet Disablement – Margaret Stang, Brockway Township Clerk, contacted Supv Heim questioning a phone call she received from a resident who stated their internet was disabled. He informed her no reports had been received by LeSauk township residents who did not have internet.

Paul Wagner – No report.

Clerk Report –

Bridge Conduit – Clerk Plante has been working on researching who owns the cable located on the bridge. She contacted Arvig Communications who informed her the cable may be theirs and they would send out a technician to check the line and get back to her. No return call has been received, so she will contact again.

Mark Traut Property Questions – Supv Heim discussed the feedlot setback questions etc. in his report. Clerk Plante had also received calls on the property which may have been from the same person.

Minnesota Association of Townships District Meeting – The district 5 meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14 at the American Legion in Willmar beginning at 6:30.

Charter Franchise Fees – Clerk Plante reported that she has requested information from Charter regarding the significant reduction in franchise fees the last quarter. The fees dropped from \$3000+ the first quarter to \$1435 in the second quarter.

Evan Carlson, Enterprise Energy – Mr. Carlson emailed and had questions regarding how he should proceed with items pertaining to tree clearing, plowing, and an easement on 17th street. The email was forwarded to Supv Heim who is working with Atty Gilchrist and Mr. Carlson.

County Road 1 Debris – Clerk Plante received an email from Alex Svejkovsky of the city of Sartell regarding debris along County Road 1 which he thought would be within the township's jurisdiction. Clerk Plante viewed where the debris was which was south of Frederick's garage on County Road 1. She emailed Mr. Svejkovsky informing him this would be within the Stearns County Highway's jurisdiction.

Mark Skaj, Skaj Properties – Mr. Skaj owns property on 50th Avenue and questioned why he did not receive a letter regarding the upcoming public hearing being held by the city of Sartell regarding the

annexation of encompassed township parcels. She informed him that his property, even though listed within the orderly annexation agreement, only has a deferred assessment on it and is not one of the encompassed parcels that will be annexed to the city.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Supv Heim reported the original plat by Westwood was completed by Matt Wielinski and contains a drainage pond area and may not be able to be filled in, the pond area had previously been discussed as an area that could be used for a possible parking area. Parking at regular meetings would not be an issue, but a minimum of 10-12 would be needed when elections or annual meetings would be held.

The board discussed the terms of bonded indebtedness which will be prepared by Ehlers Public Finance Advisors. It was the consensus a 5-year term would be used with a \$100,000 down payment. Keith Dahl and Todd Hagen of Ehlers will be preparing the paperwork. This term will also allow the township to pay off the bond early if possible. Supv Heim will email Ben Copperthite, real estate agent, Mr. Dahl and Mr. Hagen regarding the township's decision allowing them to begin and complete paperwork.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Atty Bob Alsop has motioned for a default judgment with the summary of judgment hearing set for August 30th. Supv Heim viewed the property and spoke with Aaron Zander who was outside at the time. Mr. Zander stated he didn't know what should be done as far as cleaning up and objects to be removed. Supv Heim told him these items were listed and stated in letters from both Attorney Troy Gilchrist, township attorney and Attorney Bob Alsop who is now handling the default judgment order.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – Supv Westerlund reported nothing has changed and he will monitor the area.

Website Redesign – No further information has been received.

Thomas Property Clean-Up – Stearns County Environmental Services sent a letter to the Thomas's dated July 19th allowing them until September 1st to adhere to Ordinance 431 which prohibits the use of property for solid waste (garbage, rubbish, demolition debris, appliances, vehicle hulk, vehicle parts, tires, and other discarded material) at the property. The Thomas's have attended meetings to discuss the progress they have made; many more items have been accumulating at the property so it was decided at the previous meeting to have the county send them a letter.

Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance – Attorney Gilchrist is in the process of drafting an ordinance to allow solar farms/gardens within the township.

Park Fund Distribution – This item will be placed on the annual meeting agenda.

Fire Protection Contract – The board discussed possible dates to meet with Peter Kedrowski, Sartell Fire Chief regarding the revised fire protection contract. Attorney Gilchrist has reviewed the contract with little concerns. Kari Haakonson, Sartell Project Planner and Anna Gruber, Sartell City Administrator, will be invited to attend the meeting. Clerk Plante received an email from Chief Kedrowski stating that Monday's & Tuesdays are extremely busy and would prefer a Wednesday or Thursday meeting. Dates the town board decided on are September 25th or 26th at 6 p.m. Clerk Plante will contact Ann from the community center as well as the Sartell representatives to see if either of those dates work for them and whether a room would be available.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

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

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