

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
September 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 and 6 interested parties.

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

OPEN FORUM:

Greg Ahrendt & Virgil Harren – Common Fence between 2639 & 2635 7th Ave. No – Mr. Ahrendt & Mr. Harren came before the board questioning the regulations regarding the placement of a common fence on the property line between their parcels. Both parties have signed a notarized document stating they agree on the placement of the fence on the property line.

The Town Board informed them of the height regulations which are between 3 ½ feet to a maximum of 6 feet if placed on the line. The board also suggested their signed document be recorded with their abstract so that future owners of their properties are aware of their agreement. Mr. Ahrendt stated the fence will be the maintenance-free vinyl fencing that will be 6 feet high.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Thomas Barrett & Sandy Warnert, 217 Heritage Drive – Pet Grooming Business – Mr. Barrett and Ms. Warnert were asked to attend the meeting to discuss the pet grooming business that is being operated by Ms. Warnert in an accessory building on their parcel.

They were informed they will need an interim use permit since the business does not qualify as an incidental home occupation which is allowed within the living dwelling on a property. They would like to pursue applying for the interim use permit and were given an application to complete. They completed the application, paid the \$400 fee and were informed the public hearing could be held on September 24, 2024.

Elijah & Rachel Dockendorf – Storage Container Usage – The Dockendorf's were asked to attend the meeting to discuss the storage container that is located on the parcel they own on 40th Street. This parcel has an accessory building on it but no residential home. The Dockendorf's presently live in St. Joseph, MN. They are using the storage container to store miscellaneous household items etc. They plan to construct a home on the property in the near future.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ALLOW THE DOCKENDORF'S TO RETAIN THE STORAGE CONTAINER ON THEIR PARCEL LOCATED ON 40TH STREET UNTIL 12-31-25 TO BE USED FOR STORAGE, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. If they need an extension, they were asked to return to a township meeting to request one.

The Dockendorf's questioned how they receive a house number for this parcel since it presently has none. They were told that when they begin the construction of their home, they must contact the GIS Mapping Department of Stearns County and they will assign a house number.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024 SPECIAL TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV WAGNER ABSTAINED SINCE HE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. SUPV WAGNER ABSTAINED SINCE HE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Solar Farm Ordinance Draft – Supv Heim had Clerk Plante forward the Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance draft to town board members for review. He asked the board members to review before the next meeting in order to begin the process of the public hearing for approval of the ordinance.

Cannabis Ordinance – Attorney Gilchrist is in the process of drafting this ordinance.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report at this time.

AUGUST TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed the August Treasurer’s Report with town board supervisors. He stated that expenses in August totaled \$28,793.73. Payments consisted of election costs for the August Primary, regular payroll and the last payment to Bertram Asphalt for blow patching of township roads. The revenues consisted of several building permits and the Enterprise Energy escrow account. The township’s fund balance at the end of August was just over \$1 million. (\$1,001,031.10)

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST TREASURER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5751.41 (CHECK #14322 THRU #14330 PLUS EFT’S 293 & 294), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Speed Limit – 1st Street North – Supv Westerlund spoke with a resident who stated she was going to begin a petition to have the 40-mph speed limit sign removed from 1st Street. The street previously did not have a speed limit and the town board was asked to place a speed limit on the street due to the high speed on the street by a resident living on 1st Street.

30th Street Abandoned Property – Supv Westerlund recently picked up 9 tires on 30th Street and took them to recycle at Northern Tire & Auto. Supv Heim reported that posts with cement were also dumped on

30th Street and asked Supv Westerlund to pick them up.

Area Planning Organization (APO) Meeting – Supv Westerlund informed the board he is unable to attend the next APO meeting that will be held at the St. Cloud Library. Treasurer Bentley will attend the meeting to represent the township since neither Supv Heim or Supv Wagner were available to attend.

Dan Heim –

Angie Gueldner – 2611 7th Ave. No. – Chickens & Fence Regulation's – Supv Heim received a call from Angie who is purchasing the parcel at 2611 7th Ave. No. She questioned whether she could raise chickens on the parcel and what types of fences would be allowed. Supv Heim informed her that chickens are not allowed in a platted residential area and provided the fence regulations.

Hernandez Abandoned Property Letter – Supv Heim questioned whether any board member had been contacted by Robert Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez was sent a letter requesting he attend the meeting to discuss the mounting abandoned vehicles and property in his front yard. No board member had received any contact from Mr. Hernandez.

Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Accessory Building – Supv Heim has not received further information from Mr. Sand who would like to construct an accessory building on his parcel. The parcel is located within shoreland and will need to be placed in his front yard which will require a variance.

Bruce Ferkinhoff, 32133 County Road 1 – Advertising Sign – Supv Heim had taken a picture of a sign located in Mr. Ferkinhoff front yard advertising his daughter's photography business. Supv Heim has contacted Mr. Ferkinhoff to discuss the issue since he will possibly need an interim use permit in order to allow his daughter to use his garage for her business as well as advertise her business.

David Traut Split of Property – Supv Heim has received information from Mr. Traut regarding the split of his property located on 19th Avenue. The township regulations will require Mr. Traut to plat the property he would like to split. It will be considered a minor subdivision and is zoned U-1, urban service district. He has sent the information to Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell project planner, for review and comment. Hopefully the information will be received in enough time to hold the public hearings at the joint planning board meeting in October.

Paul Wagner –

Tree on Town Line/30th Avenue – Supv Wagner was contacted about a tree that was down on 30th Avenue North and was blocking traffic in both directions. He reported that area neighbors and himself worked to cut and move the tree and its limbs into the ditch area to allow safe traffic flow. Since the tree was located in the St. Wendel Township portion of 30th Avenue, he contacted Supervisor Glen Lauer letting him know the tree had been moved but will need to be removed from the ditch area.

Jason Dale - Supv Wagner discussed with the town board the possibility of utilizing Mr. Dale for snow removal etc. for the new town hall parking lot etc. Mr. Dale's business is located next door and snow removal is one of the many items he does for his business. This will be placed under old business for discussion.

Clerk Report -

Arvig Communications – Conduit on Bridge – Clerk Plante reported that after contacting Arvig again...an engineer from Arvig, Brian Wochnick, called and informed her the conduit on the bridge is not Arvig's. They burrowed their line under the creek and on the east side of 30th Avenue when putting in their lines in 2023. Since no other utility (Stearns Electric, Century Link & Charter) has claimed owning the lines, this may wait until the reconstruction of 30th Avenue in the spring of 2025.

Faith Community Church Future Use – With the purchase of the new town hall, the town board discussed the future use of Faith Community Church. Clerk Plante received an email from Pastor Scott questioning whether there were other events the township would use the church for. She will let him know we are purchasing the town hall, but hopefully we will again be able to use the church parking lot for the annual clean up day since the new town hall area will have limited space.

Grants for Townships & Small Cities for Park & Trail Improvements – Supv Wagner forwarded an email to Clerk Plante which advertised \$200,000 in grant money available to townships & small cities for park & trail improvements. She forwarded it to Stu Giffin who is trying to raise funds for the restroom improvement for the inclusive playground the Lions built on Pinecone Road. Mr. Giffin did contact them but was told it was only for small cities with a population of 500 or less. Since the inclusive playground is located in Sartell, it would not qualify unfortunately.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Supv Heim reported on several items regarding the purchase of the town hall.

- Received an email from real estate agent, Ben Copperthite questioning whether the township would like the remaining carpet & counter top. Clerk Plante informed him the township would like those items to remain.
- Supv Heim received an email from Matt Wielinski stating he was not sure whether the drainage area located on the parcel the township is purchasing was meant for just the one parcel or all three parcels which were platted in this area.
- Ehlers Financial sent him a list of companies & banks that would possibly bid on the bonds. He asked that the two banks (Falcon & Bank Vista) which the township uses, could also be sent the information.
- The seller of the property did not agree to paying for the raising of the sidewalks by the two entry doors, but did agree to leaving five (5) storage shelves.
- SUPV HEIM MOTIONED THAT AFTER CLOSING ON SEPTEMBER 17TH, TO CONTACT GRANITE CITY CONCRETE RAISING TO RAISE THE SIDEWALKS BY THE ENTRY DOORS AND TO CONTACT JOHN PETERSON OF ID SIGN SOLUTIONS FOR AN ESTIMATE TO PLACE A HANDICAP SIGN & POST BY THE HANDICAPPED PARKING AREA, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.
- The board also discussed moving items in the storage unit to the garage at the new town hall. This will be decided after the closing process has been completed.
- Supv Heim discussed with the town board the possibility of removing the present sign in the front yard of the new building and replacing it with an electronic illuminated sign that can be changed easily for meetings, elections etc. This will be discussed and pricing will be researched.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Supv Heim received the judgment order that has allowed the township to hire the necessary company(ies) to clean up the Zander property. Supv Heim has contacted Junktastic Removal & Recycling. A letter was sent to Gloria Zander informing her the township will be entering the property on September 26 & 27th to remove all abandoned vehicles & property. Supv Heim will be entering the property with the necessary law enforcement if needed. All the expenses incurred for this process will be assessed to the Zander property.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – No further action. A portion of the front lawn is cut, but other portions have been left to grow and is now 3 to 4 feet high.

Website Redesign – Clerk Plante suggested getting the redesign of the website done when introducing the new town hall. This will remain under old business.

Thomas Property Clean-Up – The Thomas's had until September 1st to complete clean up on their property as requested by Stearns County Environmental Services. Tim Oswald of the county environmental services will be viewing the property on Wednesday, September 11th and will update Supv

Heim of the progress.

Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance – Attorney Gilchrist is in the process of drafting an ordinance to allow solar farms/gardens within the township within the A-20 (Agricultural 20 acres or more) zoning.

Fire Protection Contract – The meeting to discuss the fire protection contract is scheduled for 6 p.m. on September 26th. Chief Kedrowski will be attending the meeting even though his date of resignation is September 29th. Lucas Dingmann will be the interim fire chief until a new one is named.

MS 4 Audit Update – Wayne Cymbalak, Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance, provided a copy of the answers he sent to the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) regarding the township's MS4 Audit. Supv Heim will read through Mr. Cymbalak's answers and discuss at the next meeting. He will provide Clerk Plante with several papers he reviewed and separated into categories the township will need to keep records on.

NEW BUSINESS:

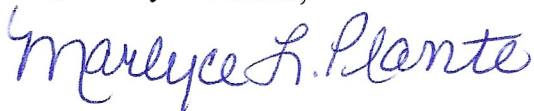
ASTECH Snow Plowing Bid – SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SNOW PLOWING BID FROM ASTECH FOR THE 2024-25 WINTER SEASON, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Election Judge Hourly Pay – Discussion was held by the Town Board regarding the alignment of the election judge pay with hourly pay town board members receive as well as private sector rates of starting pay. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO INCREASE THE ELECTION JUDGE PAY FROM \$15.00 TO \$17.00 PER HOUR AND THE HEAD JUDGE PAY FROM \$20.00 TO \$22.00 PER HOUR, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Plowing of 17th Street North – Evan Carlson of Enterprise Energy, has asked the township to plow 17th Street North during the winter months. Xcel Energy will need access to the area for placement and maintenance of the poles for the upcoming solar gardens to be located in the area. Since this is a minimum maintenance road and is usually not plowed, Attorney Gilchrist is drafting a road maintenance agreement for 17th Street to address costs etc.

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