

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm  
September 24, 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 and Jeff Westerlund, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Treasurer Josh Bentley and 9 interested parties.**

**ABSENT: Supervisor Paul Wagner**

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING ELECTION JUDGE APPOINTMENT TO NEW BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

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

**Thomas Barrett & Sandy Warnert, 217 Heritage Drive – Pet Grooming Interim Use Permit –** The Joint Planning Board held the public hearing prior to the township meeting. Mr. Barrett & Ms. Warnert applied for an interim use permit to operate a pet grooming business (Pawsitive Pet Services) in an accessory building on the property. The joint planning board recommended approval.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-14 FOR AN INTERIM USE PERMIT FOR PAWSITIVE PET SERVICES, A PET GROOMING SERVICE, IN AN ACCESSORY BUILDING LOCATED AT 217 HERITAGE DRIVE, SARTELL, MN, ABIDING BY ALL STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS LISTED IN THE PERMIT, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

**Ted Thomas, 32952 County Road 1 – Abandoned Property & Junk Vehicle Clean-Up –** Mr. Thomas came before the board to discuss the clean-up of property he resides on but is owned by his mother, Shirley Thomas. The Thomas's received a letter from Stearns County Environmental Services giving them an expected timeline of September 1<sup>st</sup> to clean up the property as requested in the letter. Tim Oswald is scheduled to view the property but neither the township or the Thomas's have received any communication whether the clean-up was sufficient.

Supv Heim did take pictures during his recent road inspection which were viewed by Mr. Thomas and other board members. The board questioned the vehicles which are remaining on the property are operable and licensed and questioned Mr. Thomas about other abandoned property that remains. Mr. Thomas was informed by the consensus of the town board, that after receiving the report from environmental services, a decision will be made whether to pursue further action to have the property cleaned up. The board also told Mr. Thomas that some improvement has been made, but the property cannot continue to revert back to the mess it becomes where the township or county needs to again step in to force the clean up of the property. The clean-up of this property has been an on-going issue for years.

**Gordon Simonton and Jeff Bertch - Solar Farm Ordinance Draft –** Mr. Simonton and Mr. Berch are representatives of Solar Stone Energy and are working with township parcel owners, Kevin and Deb Traut, who considering a solar farm/garden on their property. Mr. Simonton and Mr. Bertch had questions on the solar farm/garden ordinance draft. They were informed the draft is still being reviewed by the town board with the possibility of setting a public hearing at the Joint Planning Board meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The town board plans to discuss it further on October 8<sup>th</sup>, their regular scheduled meeting. They asked to be placed on the agenda for that meeting also requesting a copy of the draft ordinance for review. Supv Heim

will forward the draft ordinance.

**Aaron Zander, 271 27<sup>th</sup> Street No – Clean-up of Property** – Mr. Zander came before the board to review with them the progress he has made in removing some of the abandoned vehicles and property on the parcel he lives at but is owned by his mother, Gloria Zander. Supv Heim reviewed the pictures he had taken of the property and indicated what will be removed on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Supv Heim and Deputy Sheriff Carden Mueller will be at the property with Junktastic Recycling to remove all necessary abandoned vehicles and property.

Discussion was held with Mr. Zander on the possibility of construction of a new accessory building. He was informed other buildings on the property will need to be removed since only one utility shed and one accessory building are allowed. Mr. Zander was reminded that all of the expenses incurred by the township, including attorney fees, will be assessed to his mother's property taxes.

**MINUTES:** Minutes will be placed on the next meetings agenda for approval when a full board is present.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT:**

**Zander Property Clean-Up** – As stated earlier, Supv Heim has been in contact with Austin Brownie, owner of Junktastic Recycling, reviewing with him what will be removed on the Zander property. Supv Heim will be accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Mueller. September 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> have been scheduled for removal of the abandoned items. All costs will be assessed to the Gloria Zander property taxes.

**David Traut Property Split** – Supv Heim informed the board members that he asked Atty Gilchrist to review township zoning and sub-division regulations regarding the Traut property split request. Atty Gilchrist stated how the township regulations are written requires Mr. Traut to do a minor-subdivision plat and not just a certificate of survey splitting the 80-acre parcel. After paperwork and payment of the escrow account has been received, the public hearing etc. should be able to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in November.

**St. Cloud Orderly Annexation Agreement & Cannabis Ordinance** – No further information at this time.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:** No report at this time.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Bentley attended the Area Planning Organization (APO) meeting representing the township. He stated they discussed the funding formula for the jurisdiction's members of the APO. He also reported that Joe Perske, Stearns County Commissioner, was in attendance and started the conversation to advocate for the reconstruction of 322<sup>nd</sup> Street similar to what transpired for the reconstruction of town line road/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Perske was given the APO's blessing to begin that process.

Treasurer Bentley requested the board move \$225,000 from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge to cover the cost of the town hall purchase. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO MOVE \$225,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE ROAD & BRIDGE FUND TO COVER THE COST OF THE HEW TOWN HALL, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Treasurer Bentley presented 3 invoices and 2 EFT's (Electronic Fund Transfers) to the board for payment. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY VOUCHERS & EFT'S IN THE AMOUNT OF \$344,787.45(CHECK #'S 14331 THRU 14333 PLUS EFT'S 295 & 296), MOTION SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

**SUPERVISORS REPORTS****Jeff Westerlund –**

**Fire Contract** – Supv Westerlund questioned what will be discussed at the upcoming meeting with the Sartell Fire Chief and the city of Sartell representatives. Atty Gilchrist has reviewed the contract which he said is similar to the previous contract other than the change of yearly fees to the city which has been \$40,000 and is now figured at approximately \$71,000. It has been basically 10 years since the contract has been reviewed and updated. It was the consensus of the board to question whether the fee can remain at \$40,000 for 2025 since our levy has been set for 2025 and the increase would then take effect in 2026.

**Bonnie Schraut, 2618 Winnebago Road – Tree down** – Ms. Schraut reported a tree down to the on 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Supv Westerlund went to the area with his chain saw, but found that Xcel Energy was already in the area and had cleaned it up. With the clean up of the brush etc., a “T” sign was found at the 27<sup>th</sup> Street & Winnebago road intersection.

**Brian Johnston, 2643 & 2647 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. No. – Accessory Building** – Supv Westerlund was contacted by Mr. Johnston, who again questioned whether he could construct another accessory building on his property. Supv Westerlund informed Mr. Johnston he already has the allowed accessory buildings but could possibly construct one on his other parcel if it meets the township regulations.

**Dan Heim –**

**Bruce Ferkinhoff, 32133 County Road 1 – Business Sign** – Supv Heim had contacted Mr. Ferkinhoff informing him the business sign his daughter placed on his parcel does not meet the township regulations. Mr. Ferkinhoff has removed the sign.

**Townline Road/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Progress** – Supv Heim spoke with Jeff Langen, engineer assigned to the town line/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road project. He informed Supv Heim that approximately 60% of the plans by the end of October and he plans to contact the involved jurisdiction representatives for a meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the progress.

**Jodi Teich/Townline Road/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project** – Supv Heim reviewed with the town board the utility relocation during the reconstruction of Townline/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Township utility permitting will need to be followed. Supv Heim sent the townships permit and ordinances to Jared, who is working on this portion of the project.

**Shawn Omann, 3329 Riviera Road – Debris on 30<sup>th</sup> Street** – Supv Heim received a call from township resident Shawn Omann informing him someone has dumped a large jug full of oil on 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Supv Heim picked up the jug and disposed of it.

**Paul Wagner** – No report.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

**Internet Service @ Town Hall** – Clerk Plante reviewed the town board the carriers she contacted for pricing on internet services at the town hall. Basically, the only two that are available are Spectrum and CenturyLink. Spectrum’s business internet is \$79.95 per month plus fees for one year. CenturyLink is \$55 per month with transferring our township phone to CenturyLink plus the phone cost would just over \$100 per month with all fees for a lifetime. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CHANGE THE TOWNSHIP PHONE TO CENTURYLINK FROM T-MOBILE AND GET INTERNET THROUGH CENTURYLINK, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- John Peterson from ID Sign Solutions returned an estimate for \$441.09 the placement of the handicap sign & pole in front of the parking space. He can do the work when he is in the area to do Brockway Township's signs during the second week in October. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE JOHN PETERSON OF ID SIGN SOLUTIONS PLACE THE REQUIRED HANDICAP SIGN AND POST AT THE NEW TOWN HALL AT THE COST OF \$441.09, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.
- Supv Heim discussed the plat the new town hall is located on which includes a holding pond area. He contacted David Blommel, township engineer, to question whether the holding pond could be downsized to allow some increased parking. Mr. Blommel stated the chances of the allowance of that is minimal since the holding pond was made in 2002 and rules have changed significantly.
- Discussion was held on whether to have mail delivery at the new town hall or keep the present P.O. box at the post office. For the time being, the P.O. box will be kept and a decision will be made at a later date.
- The water & septic billing has been switched over as of the closing date – September 17, 2024.
- Supv Heim checked with Kari Haakonson, Sartell City Planning Director, whether we must have garbage service since we will accumulate very little – she said we do not.
- Supv Heim will contact Granite City Concrete Raising to raise the sidewalks at the entrances in order to be handicap compliant.
- Supv Heim has also contacted J. Dale Construction and Modern Kraft Construction for an estimate for the remodeling of the interior and will contact Modern Concepts for another estimate.

**Zander Property Clean-Up** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting when Mr. Zander came before the board questioning what will be done by the township when they enter the property on September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

**MS4 Audit Update** – Supv Heim reviewed some updated materials from Wayne Cymbaluk who is working with the township to answer questions and areas of concern the MPCA have regarding the permit. Areas discussed were the finding of all the outfalls and holding pond areas in the township, various items to place on the township website, having an annual public assessment meeting, clean-up day, number of people attending each and number of notices of public input. Another item that must be completed is an annual assessment of the Illicit Discharge Program; improving it by adding spill kits, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kits, plus shovels & floor dry element in case of an illicit discharge or spill.

Another item was to approve the public education outreach plan which Mr. Cymbaluk has written for the township. Supv Jeff Westerlund will be the contact person should anyone need to get in touch with a town board supervisor. This plan will be placed on the township's website for accessibility to township residents. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH PLAN, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. Clerk Plante will work on getting these items on the township website. Other items to be placed on the website will be the MS4 Annual Report and SWPPP (Stormwater Protection Plan) documents for the Monarch Meadows plats.

Supv Heim also reminded the supervisors to watch the videos provided by Wayne Cymbaluk which will cover different training the supervisors need under regulations of the MS4 permit.

**Sullivan Yard Clean-Up** – No report.

**Website Redesign** – No report at this time – but Clerk Plante did suggest the website be upgraded and revamped to coincide with the new town hall opening etc.

**Thomas Property Clean-Up** – Mr. Thomas was in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

**Solar Farm/Garden Ordinance** – This will be discussed at the October 8<sup>th</sup> township meeting. Supv Heim again asked that town board supervisors review the draft forwarded to them.

**Fire Protection Contract** – The meeting to discuss the fire protection contract is scheduled for 6 p.m. on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**17<sup>th</sup> Street Plowing – Minimum Maintenance Road** - Atty Gilchrist is in the process of drafting a road maintenance agreement in order for this to be plowed during the winter months for access for Xcel Energy.

**SEPTEMBER ROAD REPORT** - Supv Heim went over his road report and discussed several items of concern. He questioned the compacted dirt and weed growth on the deck of the bridge that should be removed. Supv Westerlund said he will try to get to it by the end of the week. 322<sup>nd</sup> Street is very rough and there are small potholes. 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue also has small potholes. Culvert is clear on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The upcoming October Road Report will be done by Supv Westerlund as it has been scheduled. Supv Heim asked Clerk Plante to send a second letter to the Hernandez property since abandoned vehicles and junk are continuing to accumulate.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Road Certification** – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CERTIFY THE TOWNSHIP ROAD MILES AT 25 MILES, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

**Election Judge List** – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ELECTION JUDGE LIST FOR THE NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ELECTION AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

There being no further business, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,  
LeSauk Township Clerk