

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting  
January 25, 2022

The regular meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Heim and Supervisor Omann joined the meeting remotely. All other attendees were present at the Sartell Community Center – Liberty Room.

**PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim (Remotely) Shawn Omann (Remotely) and Jeff Westerlund, Treasurer Vikki Dullinger, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and 6 other interested parties.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING JOE PERSKE AND JOE LAHR TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR AND UPDATED COVID PLAN UNDER NEW BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:  
HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**OPEN FORUM:** No business.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

**Clarence & Peggy Weyer, 2175 Pinecone Road – Abandoned Vehicle Removal** – The Weyer's were sent a certified letter requesting them to attend this meeting to discuss the removal of abandoned vehicles located on their property. The town board has received an anonymous complaint regarding the continued storage of abandoned vehicles on the Weyer property. In 2019, the town board also worked with the Weyer's regarding the number of vehicles. Clerk Plante had spoken to Peggy Weyer, who stated the vehicles currently on their property were all licensed, plus they had two collector cars. At that time, they had 5 drivers within the household. She stated they will continue to work on the removal of the other abandoned cars located in the rear portion of their parcel.

Mr. Weyer stated they currently have 18 vehicles on their property, 12 which are currently licensed (4 or 5 of the 12 are for sale) and 6 abandoned vehicles are located in the rear yard. He provided pictures of the licensed vehicles. Treasurer Dullinger took photos of the pictures since the Weyer's did not have copies to provide to the township. He also said he has 4 drivers living in his household.

Mr. Weyer questioned whether the township regulations state a limited number of vehicles any parcel can have. Supv Heim stated the regulations do not state a particular number of vehicles, but all vehicles must have current tabs. Mr. Weyer also was concerned that township supervisors had entered his private parcel without permission and wondered how the township knew there are vehicles in the rear yard. Supv Heim stated he took the pictures of the vehicles in the front yard when stopped on Pinecone Road and the rear yard can be viewed through aerial photographs taken by Stearns County and are on the G.I.S. Interactive Mapping section on the county's website.

Mr. Weyer stated his disappointment that a board member hadn't come directly to them instead of sending a certified letter and also questioned who the complaint was from. Supv Heim informed him the Town Board was following the township regulations regarding the process in handling complaints and if it is requested to have the complaint remain anonymous, the town board respects that request.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ALLOW THE WEYERS UNTIL JUNE 1, 2022, TO REMOVE THE ABANDONED VEHICLES AT WHICH TIME A TOWN BOARD SUPERVISOR WILL CONTACT THEM TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH THEM TO VIEW THE REMAINING

VEHICLES ON THE PROPERTY ASSURING THE TOWNSHIP THEY ARE CURRENTLY LICENSED AND INSURED, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**Joe Perske – Stearns County Commissioner** – Mr. Perske attended the meeting to discuss his work with Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Director, to lobby for state/federal financial assistance for the upgrade of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The county will only be the administrative agent for requesting the financial assistance, and the involved jurisdictions, three townships and the City of Sartell, will be responsible for the financial aspect for the possible upgrade of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Perske also will be lobbying for the change in the type of tax rates provided to solar gardens in the area. Currently the township does not receive any tax collected on solar gardens located in their township.

**Joe Lahr – Relevant Life Church Expansion** – Mr. Lahr came before the board to discuss the possible expansion of the Relevant Life Church located on County Road 120. Presently there is a home on the property which has been renovated for the parish offices and meeting room which holds the present congregation of about 40. Since the home's septic system is designed for a 3-bedroom home and the property is located within 100 feet of the City of Sartell's septic services, further expansion of the building would trigger annexation to the city of Sartell.

Mr. Lahr has been in discussion with the city of Sartell regarding the cost of city services to the church, the WAC (Water Access Charge) & SAC (Sewer Access Charge) fees and park dedication fees. The park fee estimation is quite high at \$28,000. Currently those costs would take half of the money the church has allowed for their expansion. No definite decisions have been made by the church and Mr. Lahr is working with the City of Sartell regarding the fees.

#### **MINUTES:**

SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2022 MINUTES AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** No report.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:** No report.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,220.48 (CHECK #13722 THRU 13727 PLUS EFT 214), SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

Discussion was held how to handle the signing of the checks by Chairman Heim. Treasurer Dullinger felt it wasn't necessary to have all three signatures on the checks. The consensus of the town board was to have all checks signed by the chairman, clerk & treasurer. Clerk Plante will take the checks home with her and Supervisor Heim will pick them up the next day, review and sign them, then deliver them to Treasurer Dullinger's home.



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

**Bruce Theisen, 140 County Road 120 – Property Clean Up** – Supv Westerlund received a call from Mr. Theisen stating he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to health reasons. Mr. Theisen has cleaned up the front and side yards, but there are items he still needs to remove that he moved to the back of his house. These items will not be able to be moved until the spring. The property will be viewed closer to spring time during the monthly road inspections by the town supervisors.

**CMWEA (Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance) Meeting** - Supv Westerlund reported the January CMWEA meeting was cancelled.

**APO (Area Planning Organization) Meeting** – Supv Westerlund attended the January 13<sup>th</sup> APO at which officers were elected. Joe Perske was elected chairman for a two-year term. Discussion at the meeting included 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Townline road and other road projects in the St. Cloud metropolitan area.

**Dan Heim –**

**5<sup>th</sup> Ave Stop Sign** – Supv Heim and Supv Omann worked together to put up a temporary stop sign at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Supv Omann received a temporary stop sign from the city of Sartell to be placed at the intersection. It was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante contact M-R Sign Co. & Sign Solutions for the cost of a temporary stop sign. The sign could be stored in the storage unit while not in use.

**Joe Lahr – Relevant Life Church Septic Upgrade Etc.** - Supv Heim received an email from Joe Lahr regarding the Relevant Life Church Expansion. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Kurt Durrwachter, 2489 35<sup>th</sup> St. No. - Accessory Building** – Mr. Durrwachter contacted Supv Heim regarding the construction of another accessory building on his property. The property is 14.4 acres and currently zoned A-20/R-10, allowing one accessory building up to 5000 square feet. The Durrwachter's already have a 30 X 40 (1200 square feet) and would like to construct a 36 X 48 (1728 square foot) accessory building. He will need to apply for a conditional use permit to construct another building and provide a site plan. Mr. Durrwachter would like the hearing etc. to be held at the February Joint Planning Board meeting. No plans etc. have been received yet.

**Adam Laidlaw, 3898 Riverside Ave – Remodel** – Curt Fernholz contacted Supv Heim regarding a remodel planned for Adam Laidlaw at 3898 Riverside Ave. The footprint of the house is not being expanded, the front porch is being redone with new siding and interior remodeling. Mr. Fernholz provided plans which the town board reviewed. SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR THE LAIDLAW PROPERTY, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**Shawn Omann –**

**5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stop Sign** – Supv Omann placed the temporary stop sign at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 27<sup>th</sup> Street which was discussed earlier in the meeting. The stop sign that was damaged, would not be able to be replaced until spring.

**Slush Removal on Township Roads** – Supv Omann received a couple of calls questioning whether the township could remove the amount of slush on township roads which occurred during the warm weather. Supv Omann contacted Doug Welk of ASTECH who dispatched their driver to go out and remove the slush before the next cold spell occurred.

**Joe Lahr – Relevant Life Church** – Supv Omann also spoke with Joe Lahr regarding the concerns whether the Relevant Life church property would need to be annexed to the city of Sartell if they expanded and the cost of city services. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Town Hall** – No further information at this time.

**Thomas & Rosenow Property Clean Up** – Supv Heim provided pictures he took during his road inspection. The board were in agreement that not a lot can be pursued due to the snow cover, but the clean-up of these properties will remain on the agenda and looked at later in the spring.

**Tree Trimming on 30<sup>th</sup> Street** – This will remain on the agenda to discuss in the spring of 2022.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ARPA (America Recovery Plan Act) Fund Spending & Resolution** – Clerk Plante provided town board members with information to review the webinar provided by the Minnesota Association of Townships regarding the spending of ARPA funds townships applied for. A copy of the resolution a township should have on file was also sent to the board. This will be placed on the next meeting's agenda when all members will be present in person and have viewed the webinar regarding the spending of ARPA funds.

**COVID Preparedness Plan** – Supv Heim updated the townships COVID Preparedness Plan to include updated guidelines by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and MDH (Minnesota Department of Health). SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE UPDATED COVID PREPAREDNESS PLAN, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**JANUARY ROAD REPORT:**

Supv Heim viewed all township roads and provided a report to all board members. He stated most township roads were snow packed, but in good driving condition. He provided pictures of township parcels of concern with abandoned property and vehicles located on them.

Supv Heim discussed with the board the advertising sign now located on the Wayne Paquin parcel. The sign advertised Mikes Dirtwork. It was the consensus of the board to have Supv Heim contact Mr. Paquin regarding this advertising sign since Mr. Paquin's parcel was authorized to advertise his lawn care business & storage in the outbuildings he currently has.

**CLERK CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Mailbox Damage on 322<sup>nd</sup> St.** – Clerk Plante received a call from Renee Kunkel who reported her mailbox was damaged by the snow plow. Clerk Plante assumed the property was located on 322<sup>nd</sup> Street west of County Road 4 and contacted the Brian Schoenecker at the City of St. Cloud Public Works department. The property is actually in the Pleasant Dale Addition. She then contacted Doug Welk who sent someone out from ASTECH to repair the mailbox.

**Oberg Roofing Permit** – Clerk Plante received a phone call from Oberg Roofing Company requesting a copy of a roofing permit done in LeSauk Township. As it turned out when investigating the permit with David Barsody, Township Building Inspector, the permit was actually for a roofing job in the city of St. Cloud.

**Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) Spring Legislative Meeting** - The MAT Legislative Meeting will be held virtually, on February 24, 2022 from 9 a.m. 3 p.m.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting** – Clerk Plante reported the city of Sartell will be conducting a special election for a food & beverage tax increase on February 8<sup>th</sup> and the community center is one of Sartell's precinct locations. She will contact Steve Fenske, Attorney at Minnesota Association of Townships, whether the township meeting can still be held since the election is only for city residents and does not involve the township. In



case it cannot be held, an alternate date for the meeting should be discussed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HOLD THE FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT THE SAME TIME IF THE TOWNSHIP IS UNABLE TO CONDUCT THE MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

**Township Laptops & Surface Pros** – The Town Board discussed the price to sell the old laptops & surface pros used by the town board. Since the laptops & surface pros are 6 years old or older, SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SELL THE LAPTOPS & SURFACE PROS FOR \$50 EACH, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED. The laptops or surface pros cannot be sold to a board member as stated by Steve Fenske, attorney from the Minnesota Association of Townships.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, UPON ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:

HEIM – AYE, OMANN – AYE, WESTERLUND – AYE, the motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante  
LeSauk Township Clerk