

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
October 10, 2023

The Regular Township Meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:30 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 five interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING JIM ANDERSON SITE PLAN TO NEW BUSINESS AND JON DENNIS, DECK & VARIANCE UNDER THE BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Craig Pogatshnik, Stearns County Sheriff's Department – Deputy Pogatshnik briefed the Town Board on the sheriff calls in the township for the last several months. He stated the calls are the usual nuisances, speed limits, noise etc. He did question the board whether they are considering placing the township's ordinances into the county's electronic ticketing system. This would allow citations to be issued to township residents for items such as a dog at large, noise ordinance violations etc. He was informed the township attorney is working with the county attorney to get these types of items into the system.

Deputy Pogatshnik also told the board an electronic speed sign could be mounted on a telespar pole in any area of the township where speed is an issue. It automatically shows people the speed they are traveling and the data is calculated for the sheriff's department to study. The township would just need to request the placement and a community service officer would take care of it.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Doug Vagle & Joe Lahr, Waters Church Addition, 1227 Pinecone Road – Doug Vagle, pastor of the Waters Church and Joe Lahr, came before the board to present plans for a new addition to the Waters Church. The plan includes an addition that would be approximately 65 feet wide and 350 feet long on the west side of the church. The addition would include a daycare area for 110 children and a new gym.

The board reviewed the plans and discussed the U-1 (Urban Service) zoning of the church property. Supv Heim informed them he will contact Kari Theisen, Sartell Project Planner, and discuss with her whether this new addition would require annexation to the city under the orderly annexation agreement signed in August of 2021.

Brian Gardner, 2043 Forest Court – Barricade Removal – Mr. Gardner recently purchased his home located at the end of 321st Street on the former Ferber property. The Ferber property was purchased by Al & Tyler Kellor who annexed it to the city of St. Cloud and are constructing patio homes on the property.

Mr. Gardner informed the board the End of Road signs and a cement barricade at the end of 321st street were removed during the construction of the patio homes. He is very concerned for his safety and his families safety if someone should drive off the west end of 321st Street and straight into his back yard and home. He also informed the board the "Dead End" & "No Thru Street" sign that is still located in

the area is hidden by brush and trees and is bent. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Town Board to have Clerk Plante contact John Peterson of ID Sign Solutions view the area since he will be doing other road sign maintenance for the township.

Julie Fischer, 1925 Forest Drive – St. Cloud-Sartell Land Split Informational Meeting – Clerk Plante received a call from Ms. Fischer who planned to attend this evening's meeting to voice her concerns regarding the upcoming informational meeting regarding a possible St. Cloud-Sartell Land Split and Orderly Annexation between the two cities and LeSauk Township. Ms. Fischer was not in attendance at tonight's meeting. Clerk Plante asked Ms. Fischer to attend this meeting and if she could not make it, to bring any legal materials pertaining to the future annexation of 321st Street residents, to the information meeting.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE 9-26-23 REGULAR MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Gloria Zander Property Clean Up Letter - Supv Heim received a letter to Ms. Zander drafted by Attorney Jason Hill regarding the clean-up of her property and removal of abandoned vehicles and property. The board reviewed the letter and will ask Atty Hill to remove Arlen Zander, who has passed away, and change the deadline date from October 27th to November 14th. This will allow the Zander's a couple more weeks to take care of the various vehicles and abandoned property. Ms. Zander will also be asked to attend the November 14th meeting to discuss this situation with the Town Board. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE ATTORNEY HILL SEND A LETTER TO GLORIA ZANDER REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VEHICLES AND PROPERTY, CHANGING THE DATE TO NOVEMBER 14TH AND INCLUDE A REQUEST THAT SHE ATTEND THE TOWNSHIP MEETING ON 11-14-23 TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. The letter will be sent both by USPS mail and Certified Mail.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:

Jon Dennis, Deck & Solar Panel Placement, 32170 County Road 1 – Supv Heim stopped at the Dennis home to view and discuss with Mr. Dennis two projects he is doing at his home; a new 8 X 10 greenhouse on his deck and rooftop solar panels. There was a misunderstanding regarding the greenhouse which was assumed to be placed on the Dennis's current deck. In actuality, a new deck was constructed and the greenhouse placed on it. The new deck would have required a building permit which was not issued.

Regarding the rooftop solar panel project, Supv Heim had made several attempts to contact Megan from Wolf River Electric regarding the solar roof panel placement. Supv Heim was informed that Ben Struwve from Wolf River Electric took over the project. When viewing the deck, it was found the solar panels had already been put on the roof, without a building permit. Mr. Dennis was not aware that Mr. Struwve did not get a building permit. Building Inspector, David Barsody, also stated the solar panels that were placed on the roof were only 18 inches from the peak of the roof and township regulations state the panels can not be closer than 3 feet from the top, so a variance would have been needed.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR PLACEMENT CLOSER THAN THE THREE FEET REQUIREMENT AS STATED IN TOWNSHIP REGULATIONS EVEN THOUGH THE 18 INCHES MEETS BUILDING CODE FOR THE JON DENNIS PARCEL, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Building Inspector Barsody will charge Wolf River Electric-Jon Dennis double the cost of the permit since the work was done and completed before a building permit was issued. There will not be a building permit charge for the deck that was constructed since that was a misunderstanding on the part of Supv Heim.

SEPTEMBER TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the Town Board the account balances and revenues that were received throughout September, the majority being building permits and the Friedrich Park fund deposit. Expenses were just over \$19,000 which included a large payment to the building inspector who sends his invoices every 3 months. Total township fund balance is \$1,023,834.75. Copies of the building permits for the past month were reviewed by the board.

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

CLAIMS & VOUCHERS:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the board all invoices and vouchers. Included in the invoices, were payroll vouchers, miscellaneous expenses and an invoice from Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer for election costs of \$1850.00. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7630.52 (CHECK #14104 THRU 14115, PLUS EFT'S 267, 268 & 269), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Clerk Plante asked the Town Board to consider a half a month's salary for the month of August for John Bentley since he took over all treasurer's duties August 22nd including month end reports, changeover of all township accounts, post office runs etc. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY TREASURER BENTLEY ½ OF THE TREASURERS MONTHLY FEE FOR AUGUST (\$210.00), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Treasurer Bentley informed the board he will keep the post office box for the time being, but prefers all checks etc. be mailed to his home address to avoid another trip to the bank etc. He will also keep using and answering the township treasurer's email and another email address he had established when he was formerly the treasurer.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund –

Tree Removal Bids – Wilken Property, 2660 7th Ave. No. – Supv Westerlund presented copies of two bids for the removal of two trees located in the road right-of-way on the Wilken property. Able Tree Service bid was for \$800 and Carr Tree Service bid was for \$900. The board discussed whether the stump removal included removing of the ground wood chips etc. since it wasn't clear on the bids, though on the Carr Tree Service bid the box was checked to "Leave Stumpage". SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR \$800 FROM ABLE TREE SERVICE TO REMOVE THE TWO TREES ON THE WILKEN PROPERTY ALONG WITH REMOVING THE STUMPAGE,

SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Stearns County Meeting in Freeport – St. Cloud-Sartell OA Information Meeting – Supv Westerlund informed the board members the Stearns County Township Association Meeting at Freeport is being held on the same night as the informational meeting regarding the St. Cloud/Sartell Split of Property – Orderly Annexation Discussion. He stated he would like to attend the meeting in Freeport. Supv Heim would like the entire board at the information meeting to answer township residents questions regarding this issue and to make sure all board members were informed of what this would entail for township property owners. Supv Westerlund felt that with representatives there from the city of St. Cloud, Sartell and two of the township supervisors, that would be sufficient representation and he could represent the township at the Stearns County Township Association Meeting in order to report any new projects and information that impacts the township. It was the consensus of the board that Supv Westerlund will attend the Freeport meeting and Supervisors Heim and Wagner will attend the informational meeting at the Whitney Senior Center. Clerk Plante will post on the website and community center there will be a quorum.

Steve Schwartz, 2695 7th Ave. – Street Light – Supv Westerlund questioned the other board members whether they had driven the intersection of 7th Avenue and 27th Street at night in order to determine if a street light is needed. Supv Heim had video of the area, which is dark without car headlights. The board also questioned Treasurer Bentley who lives on the east side of Mr. Schwartz's property whether it is dark, and whether they have had any theft. He stated it is somewhat dark and they have not experienced any theft. The board reviewed the topographical map showing where present utility poles are located in order to see if a street light could be mounted on one. The poles located in the area are to far away to be an advantage for lighting the intersection. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have Supv Westerlund visit the surrounding neighbors and question them about theft in the area and whether a street light would be advantageous. This will remain on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Dan Heim –

Bob Heim – Heim Milling – Supv Heim received a call from Bob Heim who received the notice for the October 19th informational meeting regarding the Sartell-St. Cloud Split of Land. Mr. Heim was given some misinformation regarding the annexation of the mill property. This led to a visit and tour of the mill by Sartell Fire Chief Peter Kedrowski and the St. Cloud Fire Chief.

Zander Property Information – Supv Heim received a call regarding a police presence at the Zander property and possible repossession of a stolen vehicle and someone living in a shed in the back of the Zander property.

Terry Thene, 1665 1st St. No. – Mr. Thene contacted Supv Heim questioning markings that were being placed on 1st St. No. He was informed that 40 mph speed limit signs were being placed on the street. He thanked the township for responding to his and his neighbors concerns regarding the speed on 1st Street North.

Jamie – Stearns County Environmental Services – Udermann Plat, 17th St. No. – Supv Heim was contacted by Jamie with the Stearns County Environmental Services regarding the split of property by John Udermann for the possible construction of a new home. Supv Heim informed them even though the Udermann's have questioned the township about the possible split of property, there has been no further information brought before the town board.

Charles Bradley – Shady Oaks Manufactured Home Park – Mr. Bradley is the owner of the Shady Oaks Manufactured Home Park. He contacted Supv Heim regarding the upcoming informational meeting regarding the Sartell-St. Cloud Split of Land & Orderly Annexation. He was quite upset regarding this possibility and very discourteous to Mr. Heim.

Steve Carlson, 2013 35th St. No. – Split of Property – Supv Heim reported there has been no further

information received from Mr. Carlson regarding the possible split of his 10-acre parcel.

Matt Hanson – Deck Contractor for Mark Halstrom, 2234 Rodeo Road – Supv Heim has yet to receive a site plan for a deck the Halstrom's would like to construct on their property. Since this is located on the Mississippi River, a review will need to be done by the townships shoreland consultant, Stephen Grittman also.

Udermann Plat Etc., 17th St. No – Supv Heim was contacted by Matt Welinski, surveyor for the Udermann's, whether all of the applications needed to split off a parcel from the Meadowbrook Farm could be done on one application. Supv Heim informed him that a separate application must be done for each one; minor plat, variance etc.

Paul Wagner – Supv Wagner discussed his conversation with Jodi Wilken regarding the removal of trees that are located in the road right-of-way on her property. She asked that the town board not consider the Carr Tree Service bid to remove the trees.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Township Clean-Up Day – This will remain on the agenda until a date can be set up to specifically discuss possible changes to the clean-up day process.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Discussed by board earlier in the meeting. A letter from the township attorney will be sent to Ms. Zander with a November 14th deadline for removal of abandoned vehicles and clean-up of property.

Beaver Dam Removal – Joe Lahr has removed the beaver dam under the 30th Avenue bridge. An invoice has been sent to the township.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – Supv Westerlund viewed this property and no further progress has been done.

Sartell-St. Cloud Land Split & Orderly Annexation Information Meeting – This informational meeting is set for Thursday, October 19th from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Whitney Senior Center. Supv Heim stated that Matt Glaesman, City of St. Cloud, will have maps available with township parcel owners indicated on the maps. He is working on a spreadsheet of various parcels in the area comparing the taxes of LeSauk Township, City of St. Cloud and City of Sartell. These tax comparisons will be calculated with today's rates. Supv Heim also informed Mr. Glaesman that he would prefer an orderly annexation agreement modeled after the current orderly annexation agreement the township has with Sartell which does not contain a "sunset" date for parcels to annex to the city.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cameron & Maureen Schreifels, 3630 Riviera Road – Minor Shoreland Alteration Application – JK Landscape had provided the application and site plan for a minor shoreland alteration applied for by the Schreifels. The site plan and application were given to Stephen Grittman, shoreland consultant, but no review and answer had been received.

Faith Journey Church Sign Change, 32932 County Road 4 – Faith Journey Church is the former Park Fellowship Church. They would like to replace the present sign for the church, same size and back lit, but they would like to increase the height of the sign by two feet. Supv Heim reviewed the regulations regarding signs in the U-1 zoning. They will need a variance for the height increase. Clerk Plante emailed John Uran, representative from the church, this information.

ROAD REPORT: Both items under the road report, street light at the 27th Street & 7th Avenue

intersection and the tree removal on the Wilken property were discussed earlier in the meeting.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE & REPORT:

Annual Weed Report – The annual weed report is due, but an invoice has not been received from Chuck Ertl for the mowing of township ditches. Clerk Plante will contact him so the annual report can be completed.

Peter Kedrowski, Sartell Fire Chief – Rental Inspections – Chief Kedrowski emailed Clerk Plante requesting to be on the agenda for November 28th, at which time he will discuss with the Town Board his rental inspection policy he has developed for the city of Sartell and possibly for township rental properties.

Laptop Purchases – Clerk Plante discussed whether laptops the township had purchased and are not being used, could be put up for sale. The laptops are already 2 years old and with having no place to store them, with no town hall, they could be of use to someone who would use them. Treasurer Bentley will research the resale value of the laptops and report at the next meeting.

Presidential Primary – Clerk Plante received information from Roxanne Gerads, Stearns County Election Services, that training for the upcoming Presidential Primary will be scheduled after the new year. The primary is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

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