LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm October 24, 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 four interested parties.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING THE WATERS CHURCH EXPANSION AND DAVID AND JOANNE MENDEL TO THE OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

The Waters Church Expansion Site Plan – Waters Church Pastor, Doug Vagle and Joe Lahr came before the Town Board to review their site plan. The Waters Church is planning an addition which will house a new daycare center and gymnasium. Supv Heim reviewed with Pastor Vagle and Mr. Lahr that the church property is in the U-1 zoning district and is subject to the #3 review procedure. The Town Board recommends the request and the Joint Planning Board has the final decision.

The site plan provided by Pastor Vagle & Mr. Lahr, showed all setbacks were met and the addition will be below the maximum height of 35 feet. Mr. Lahr has been in touch with Tim Hage of the Stearns County Environmental Services Department regarding the septic, sewer and well systems for the church which at this time, meet the requirements plus an alternate site is possible.

The site plan will be placed on the upcoming Joint Planning Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 28th.

David & JoAnne Mendel, 3257 321st St. – Orderly Annexation Agreement w/St. Cloud-Sartell The Mendel's attended the informational meeting held for township residents at the Whitney Senior Center held on October 19th. The meeting was held to give affected township residents information about a possible orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud. The agreement was being discussed since the city of Sartell cannot provide services to this area and St. Cloud services are already in the area. What brought this orderly annexation agreement up for discussion, was the planning phase of the reconstruction of County Road 1. This reconstruction may involve the placement of utilities in the area.

The Mendel's came before the board to inform them they are not in favor of any annexation agreement and asked the board to look out for the township residents. Discussion was held briefly regarding the presentations made at the meeting comparing taxes between the two cities and the township. Supv Heim did inform the Mendel's the township would like an orderly annexation agreement that would not have a "sunset" date for township residents and annexation would only happen when and if the township resident requests annexation.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: No business from the floor was on the agenda.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE

10-10-23 REGULAR MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Gloria Zander Property Clean Up Letter – Supv Heim informed the town board that township attorney, Jason Hill, sent the letter regarding the removal of the abandoned vehicles and property as well as the removal of a person that is possibly living in a shed in the Zander back yard. Within the contents of the letter, Ms. Zander was also requested to attend the November 14th township meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

CLAIMS & VOUCHERS:

Treasurer Bentley requested the board approve a transfer from the general fund to the fire fund to pay the second half of the fire contract. After review of disbursement records, previous treasurer Vikki Dullinger, paid both half assessments (\$20,000 per half) in January & July. Treasurer Bentley also discussed a higher interest rate of 1.25% at Bank Vista. In order to automatically receive increased interest rates, it would involve creating an IntraFi Network account which would automatically give you the higher interest rate but would adjust the account in order to be covered under the FDIC \$250,000 limit. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE TREASURER BENTLEY CREATE AN INTRAFI NETWORK IN ORDER TO BE COVERED UNDER THE FDIC LIMIT AMOUNT OF \$250,000 AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR INTEREST RATE INCREASES, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley researched the sale price of the HP Pro Book laptops the township will put up for sale. Possible pricing would be \$300-\$350. One of the Pro Book laptops will be kept as a spare. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO HAVE TREASURER BENTLEY SELL 2 OF THE 3 HP PROBOOKS AVAILABLE, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley reviewed the claims & vouchers payable this evening which came to \$225,545.65. Payments to Knife River & S.E.H. Engineering for the overlay road projects were included in this amount. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE PAYMENT CLAIMS & VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,545.65 (CHECK #14116 THRU 14121), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund -

Stearns County Meeting in Freeport – Supv Westerlund attended the semi-annual Stearns County Township Officers Meeting in Freeport on October 19. A report on the progress of expanding broadband to all areas of the county was discussed. The planned completion of the broadband implementation is 2025. He also spoke with Brian Schoenecker, city of St. Cloud highway department, regarding the improvements of 322nd Street. Supv Westerlund questioned whether St. Wendell Township could also be involved with the cost of the improvement of this street. Brian Gibson, Director of the Area Planning Organization, stated it is much easier for one entity/jurisdiction to apply for funding for a road project, especially a city. Supv Westerlund will contact Brian Schoenecker to request the numbers he is compiling regarding the cost of improving 322nd Street. This street is a very heavily traveled road as it serves a shortcut to St. Joseph.

Other information Supv Westerlund gave the Town Board was possible funding available for township residents should they need to update their septic system.

Dan Heim -

St. Cloud/Sartell OAA Informational Meeting – Supv Heim received calls from Meg Flynn and Suzanne Aho, both residents on County Road 1 who attended the informational meeting regarding the possible Orderly Annexation Agreement with the city of St. Cloud.

Udermann Plat, 17th **St. No.** – Supv Heim received a packet of information from Matt Welinski, surveyor for the Udermann's. Also included were completed applications for the minor subdivision, rezoning and variances etc. and a check to cover those applications. However, the escrow amount of \$3000 had not been included. Supv Heim will contact Attorney Gilchrist to see whether the 60-day processing time begins on the date the applications were received (October 17th) or when the payment for the escrow account is received.

Jim Anderson Zoning – **1101 35th St. No.** – There was a question whether Mr. Anderson's property should be zoned commercial or U-1. Urban Service District. It is U-1 with a conditional use permit for Mr. Anderson's Fabricating business.

Faith Journey Church Sign, 32932 County Road 4 – Faith Journey Church would like to construct a new sign that is the same size but a couple of feet higher. Supv Heim consulted with Kari Theisen, Sartell Project Planner, who felt there would be some issues with the sign being higher. This would require the church to apply for a variance - Since it is in the U-1 zoning district, it would be a Type 4 review with the final approval being done by the city of Sartell and the township board would recommend. John Uran, elder of the church, informed Supv Heim, they will just replace the sign at the same height and size.

Town Line Road Meeting – Supv Heim met with committee members to review the RFP's (Request for Proposals for the Town Line Road project completed by 6 of the 8 engineering firms the RFPs were mailed to. After discussion and review of scoring sheets each member did on the RFP's, the decision to use Houston Engineering out of Maple Grove was made. Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Director will sign the necessary papers.

Each entity/jurisdiction of the town line road must prepare a resolution stating how much money they will plan to spend towards this project to cover engineering fees, road right-of-way acquisitions etc. Supv Heim has asked Attorney Gilchrist to draft this resolution which will be placed on the next meeting's agenda. It was the consensus of the board to allocate \$175,000 for 2023 and \$225,000 for 2024 to cover our township's share of the extra costs.

Jodi Teich will draft a letter of interest for possible grant funds from the Active Transportation Grant.

Support Letter for LRIP Funds – Kari Theisen, City of Sartell Project Planner, contacted Supv Heim requesting a letter of support for an application she is completing for a grant to improve Leander & Scout/Dehler Drive. Portions of these roads are in the city of Sartell with township properties adjacent to the roads. Supv Heim completed a letter for the board to review. It was the consensus of the board to have Supv Heim send the support letter to Ms. Theisen.

Paul Wagner –

Dead Deer, 40th Street - Supv Wagner received a call from Don Tamm who lives on 40th Street regarding a dead deer at this intersection. Supv Wagner did pick up the deer and disposed of it. Supv Westerlund will show Supv Wagner where future dead deer can be taken.

Street and Stop Sign at 30th & 35th – Supv Wagner noted the dual street sign (30th Ave. & 35th Street) was replaced on the Stop sign at the intersection.

Jodi Wilken, 2660 7th Ave. No. - Tree Removal & Street Sign Question — Supv Wagner spoke with Ms. Wilken who was pleased with the tree removal job on her property but in the road right-of-way and done by Able Tree Service. She thanked Supv Wagner for his work on this and also questioned him whether the street sign on her property but in the road right-of-way, could be removed. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have the street sign remain.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Township Clean-Up Day – Supv Wagner will contact Glen Lauer, township supervisor for St. Wendell Township to inquire about their township clean-up day.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Discussed by board earlier in the meeting. A letter from the township attorney has been sent requesting the clean-up of the property, removal of abandoned vehicles and removal of a possible person living in a shed in the rear yard. Within the letter, Ms. Zander was also requested to attend the next meeting on November 14th.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – No further progress has been made – this will remain on the agenda to view in the spring due to the winter months coming up.

Sartell-St. Cloud Land Split & Orderly Annexation Information Meeting – The informational meeting was held on Thursday, October 19th from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Whitney Senior Center. Supv Heim and Supv Wagner attended the meeting and representatives from the city of St. Cloud and Sartell were in attendance. It was attended by 24 township residents of which the majority were not in favor of the possible orderly annexation with the city of St. Cloud. This may be due to the fact they understood it was happening in the near future with the realignment of County Road 1 that is being planned by Stearns County. They were given information on which city can provide them services should they need them. Sartell will be unable to extend services to them.

Supv Heim informed them the township will look at an agreement that would not include a "sunset" date for residents to annex and annexation to the city of St. Cloud when only occur if they want to be annexed.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO HAVE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TROY GILCHRIST DRAFT AN ORDERLY ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS AND PARCELS LOCATED SOUTH OF THE SAUK RIVER, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cameron & Maureen Schreifels, 3630 Riviera Road – Minor Shoreland Alteration Application – Supv Heim received the review of this shoreland alteration from Stephen Grittman, Shoreland Consultant. Mr. Grittman's review stated the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) would also need to review and approve. Supv Heim contacted Nicole at the DNR who gave the township the approval for this shoreland alteration. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINOR SHORELAND ALTERATION APPLICATION FILED BY CAMERON & MAUREEN SCHREIFELS WHICH MEETS NECESSARY SETBACKS AND REQUIREMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ROAD REPORT:

Supv Heim provided his monthly road report to the board. He noted the hole by the street sign on 40th Street was filled, but wasn't sure who filled it. He asked Supv Westerlund to fill apron areas at the intersection of Pinecone Road & 40th Street and intersection of 1st Street and 30th Avenue.

Several roads have small cracks and shallow potholes. 22nd Street North, Rodeo Road & Winnebago Road, which have been overlayed, look great. He also provided pictures of several parcels the township board is working with to clean up their properties. The Thomas property is relatively clean for the time being. He noted a fence has been constructed at the end of 321st Street assuming by the property owner who lives in the Kellor Development and previously attended a meeting requesting the township consider replacing the end of road signs that were previously there. John Peterson of ID Sign Solutions did replace the "End of Road" signs and cut brush around the "Dead End – No Thru Traffic" sign in this area. Mr. Peterson moved the Dead End-No Thru Traffic sign closer to the road and used a new tele spar pole system.

In general, all the township roads are in good driving condition.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE & REPORT:

Resolution for Polling Place Name Change – Clerk Plante was in contact with Roxanne Gerads, Stearns County Election Office, questioning whether a new resolution for the townships polling place would be needed since the present polling place has changed the name of their church. Ms. Gerads said a resolution is needed for both the county and they will then forward to the State of Minnesota Election Offices. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-10 CHANGING THE POLLING PLACE CHURCH NAME TO FAITH JOURNEY CHURCH KNOWN PRIOR AS PARK FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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

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