

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting
November 22, 2022

The regular 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, Shawn Omann and Jeff Westerlund, Treasurer Vikki Dullinger, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut, Supervisor-Elect Paul Wagner and 7 interested parties.

AGENDA APPROVAL: SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING ED TRAUT TO THE OPEN FORUM AND LINDA TREB TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR WITH GARY & LINDA REHNKE, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Tom Frericks, 3231 321st St., St. Cloud – Variance – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-08 GRANTING A VARIANCE TO TOM FRERICKS, DBA AS OPPORTUNITY REAL ESTATE TO CONSTRUCT AN ACCESSORY BUILDING 3 FEET FROM THE PROPERTY LINE, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Tom Frericks – Site Plan – SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR TOM FRERICKS, 3231 321ST STREET, ALLOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESSORY BUILDING 3 FEET FROM THE SIDE YARD WITH THE BUILDING HAVING SIMILAR KIND AND COLOR SIDING TO THE MAIN HOME ON THE PARCEL, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Ed Traut, 3845 Pinecone Road, Sartell – Mr. Traut is part owner of the Bluebird Hollow LLC 120-acre parcel located on the west side of Pinecone Road. He would like to split a 20-acre portion of the property into two 10-acre parcels to construct a new home. Mr. Traut is working with Sam DeLeo, a surveyor with KLD Surveyors. Mr. Traut and Mr. DeLeo were informed they would need to plat and rezone the property and would require a Type 2 review where a public hearing would be held by the Joint Planning Board who would recommend on the application & plat and the Town Board would have final approval. They are in the beginning stages of platting etc., and will contact the township when they are ready to move forward with the rezoning and platting process.

Supv Westerlund noted that Mr. Traut has contacted the township many times in the last few years regarding the split of this property and questioned whether Mr. Traut would still consider splitting another 2 or 3-acre parcel for purchase by the township for a town hall which was also discussed with him in the past. Mr. Traut stated he would look into it.

Gary & Linda Rehnke, 1643 6th St. So. & Linda Treb, Victory Ave., Sartell – County Road 133 Realignment Concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Rehnke and Ms. Treb came before the board to discuss their concerns with the City of Sartell and Stearns County leaning towards Option C for the realignment of County Road 133. Option C, as noted by Ms. Treb, would go through her neighborhood of 15-17 homes. She stated it would cause significant difficulty for seniors who live in the Grand View Estates to navigate a left turn onto the road. It is also intended to have a 45-mph speed limit on the road. She said that when Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Department, was asked about the issues concerning the residents in this area, she stated she studies and cares about traffic and not necessarily residents. Both Ms. Treb and the Rehnke's felt the

repayment of the \$270,000 refund to the city for the road was minimal, compared to the expected cost of \$2.3 million for the ½ mile of road reconstruction of Option C, which may possibly increase.

Supv Omann feels the town board should take a stand for Option D, the “no-build” option, which keeps the traffic currently on Pinecone Road to the roundabout to County Road 133. Supv Heim also noted the minimal inclusion of the township who has property owners in the Option C who will be significantly impacted by Option C.

SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO HAVE ATTORNEY GILCHRIST SEND A LETTER TO BOTH THE CITY OF SARTELL AND STEARNS COUNTY STATING THE TOWNSHIP IS STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF THE “NO-BUILD” OPTION D AND ARE OPPOSED TO OPTION C NOTING BOTH THE SAFETY ISSUES, COST OF THE PROJECT AND IMPACT ON TOWNSHIP & CITY RESIDENTS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTIION CARRIED 3-0.

Clerk Plante will email Atty Gilchrist to draft the letter as soon as possible to the City of Sartell and Stearns County Highway Department. The final decision is expected to be discussed and voted on during their upcoming December meetings (12th & 13th).

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS PRESENTED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022 BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Nicholas & Ann Gruber, 301 21st St. No. – Supv Heim received an email from Attorney Gilchrist regarding a question Supv Heim had regarding the Grubers inquiry whether they can construct an accessory building on a vacant lot. They own the vacant lot and it is adjacent to the parcel they have their primary home on. Atty Gilchrist suggested the Gruber’s combine their lots to allow the accessory building without applying for a variance. He stated in the R-1 zoning district “No accessory structure shall be allowed in the residential district without a primary structure.

Supv Omann researched the city of Sartell’s accessory building definition which states a building on a same lot or immediate adjacent if owned by the same party. The township definition of an accessory building is not the same. He will contact Ms. Gruber and suggest she combine the lots to allow the accessory building.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:

Deb McCarl & Marilyn Skurdahl, 32130 County Road 1, New Concrete Slab – Supv Heim received an email from Scott Saeher, City of Sartell Assistant Administrator, questioning whether the township was aware of a new concrete slab for an accessory building just outside of the right of way on County Road 1. Supv Heim informed Mr. Saeher the township is aware of the construction of the building, having

approved it in July, 2022. It is replacing a building damaged when a car ran into the building in the fall of 2021. The property owners are replacing the building on the same footprint as the previous building; therefore, it is allowed under the shoreland ordinance regulations.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Dullinger questioned whether the township was going to pay Park Fellowship Church for use of their building for the November Election. The town board stated it was part of the agreement with the church to pay \$400 for each use of the church. Treasurer Dullinger then requested an invoice be prepared in order to pay them. Clerk Plante will draft an invoice and send to her.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9171.18 (CHECK #'s 13900 THRU 13902), SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Chuck Ertl – Brush Cutting – Supv Westerlund spoke with Chuck Ertl regarding the brush cutting that has not been completed. Mr. Ertl said his brush cutter is not fixed. Supv Westerlund informed him the township will remove the \$300 from the proposal he gave the town board, pay the ditch mowing portion of the proposal at their December 13th meeting. He also told Mr. Ertl the township may pursue other contractors to cut the brush in the future.

Sheriff's Call – Car Accident on 40th & 30th – Supv Westerlund received a call from the Stearns County Sheriff's office regarding a car in the ditch at the intersection 40th Street and 30th Avenue. Supv Heim also was aware of the issue since he was in the vicinity.

Mary Kay Huhne – Ms. Huhne who attended a previous township meeting, has contacted Supv Westerlund regarding information she and others discussed regarding the Green Steps programs local cities are taking part in.

Dan Heim –

Brian Fasen, 494 30th Ave. No. – Post & Mailbox – Supv Heim received a call from Brian Fasen regarding damage to his mailbox post. It was determined he is responsible for replacing the post.

Greg Smith, Little Falls Township Resident – Supv Heim was contacted by Mr. Smith who is interested in our township ordinances regarding solar use. Supv Heim directed him to our township website which he can access the portion pertaining to solar panels/gardens & farms.

Ryan Fitzthum Email Regarding Solar Garden/Farm – Supv Heim shared with town board members the email he received from Mr. Fitzthum regarding the townships decision to not amend the township ordinances to allow solar gardens and or farms. Supv Heim read his answer he sent to Mr. Fitzthum stating the townships reasons for choosing not to amend the township ordinances.

Scott Saehr, City of Sartell – Hagen Parcel Annexation – Mr. Saehr contacted Supv Heim regarding the Hagen parcel located on County Road 1. The property is on the market and has failed a septic recertification. It will be annexed to the city of Sartell and will need a permit for right of way access.

Skurdahl/McCarl Garage Replacement – Supv Heim reported on this during the building inspector report. The garage/accessory building that is being replaced was approved by the Town Board.

Arvig Communications – Supv Heim received an email from Lynn of Arvig Communications. She informed him they planned to reroute where fiber optic lines will be placed, one along 27th Street and north on County Road 1. Both new routes are not located on township roads. The new routes are (27th Street – City of Sartell and County Road 1 – Stearns County). Supv Heim questioned whether the one permitting fee of \$400 should be refunded to Arvig.

Bryan Bidinger, 1167 3rd St. So. – Mr. Bidinger contacted Supv Heim informing him he is having Steve Feneis appraise his property and his parent's property at 283 Pinecone Road So., both for a residential use and a commercial use. Mr. Bidinger was contacted earlier about the possibility of the township purchasing his parent's property for a town hall.

Shawn Omann –

Ed Traut, 3845 Pinecone Road – Mr. Traut spoke earlier questioning the process of splitting a 20-acre parcel into two 10-acre parcels.

Duane Rasmussen, 3348 Riviera Road – Sod damage – Supv Omann was contacted by Mr. Rasmussen regarding the sod damage that was done on his property during the last snow plowing event. There is little that can be done since the sod/grass is within the road right-of-way.

Jason Dale, 391 17th St. No. – Manhole Grate Cover – Mr. Dale contacted Supv Omann regarding the manhole grate cover that is located in the road right-of-way on his property. He stated the grate has a lot of erosion on it and the shape creates a possible hazard. He questioned why it was placed in his yard by the township when he is in the city of Sartell and whether it can be removed or replaced. The manhole is part of the Kutzman Drainage project that was done by the township in 1986 due to continuous water issues in the Kutzman Addition. The drainage project allowed water drainage to the Mississippi River. Supv Omann will inform him the manhole grate cover will need to remain.

OLD BUSINESS –

Town Hall – The Town Board discussed the 5.31-acre Roth parcel located on County Road 4 for a possible site for a town hall. With the amount of property needed for a town hall, the wetlands on the parcel and the remaining area for the Roth home, it was the consensus of the Town Board the parcel would not be large enough to consider for a town hall. Supv Omann also suggested looking into the Pinecone Vision building.

Thomas, Theisen, Rosenow & Weyer Property Clean-up – It was the consensus of the town board to remove all clean-up properties from the agenda but to view them during future monthly road inspections.

MS4 Permit/Ordinance Update – This will remain on the agenda until all board members have read and reviewed the updates.

Solar Garden Ordinance Amendment – This can be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS –

Noise Complaint at 2620 7th Ave. No. – An email was received from neighboring property owners near 2620 7th Ave. No. They have made calls to the sheriff's office regarding the continued loud noise late into the evening and excessive speed within the addition from the renters of this parcel. It was the consensus of the Town Board to have Clerk Plante send a letter to the property owners, Tony Leiser who resides in St. Joseph, MN, regarding the issues at their rental home.

Chad & Nicole Perius, 3324 Riviera Road, Sartell – LeeAnn of JK Landscaping, contacted Clerk Plante regarding the procedure for a minor shoreland alteration the Perius's would like to do. Clerk Plante informed her of the procedure & fees. The application has been received but no payment as of yet.

NOVEMBER ROAD REPORT:

Supv Heim reviewed his monthly road report with the town board. Most township roads were in good winter driving conditions. He noted a pothole on River Vista Lane that was filled with ice, 30th Avenue has many small cracks and is the township's worst road. The townships portion of 35th Street near the Lloyd Traut property has many small cracks.

As noted earlier in the meeting, he viewed the township properties that were being assessed for property clean-up, provided pictures of each and will now be removed from our old business. The properties will be continually assessed during future monthly road inspections.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: Emails and phone calls received by Clerk Plante were discussed and handled with Supv Heim which he has reported on.

Election Equipment Storage – Clerk Plante spoke with John Uran of Park Fellowship, who informed her it would be fine to store the large election counter clam shell in the office where other election equipment had been stored during the 2022 elections. All other equipment, voting booths, misc. election supply boxes will be returned to the storage unit. The swing sign has been picked up and returned to the storage unit.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk