

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
November 28, 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 two interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Peter Kedrowski, Sartell Fire Chief – Rental Inspection Program: Fire Chief Kedrowski came before the town board to discuss a rental inspection program the city of Sartell uses for inspection of rental properties in the city. Presently, the city has 365 rental buildings they inspect; 101 multi-unit buildings and 264 single family buildings.

He discussed the process that is used by the present inspector Butch Rieland. The process would begin with a notification letter, scheduling the inspection with the owner, then inspection of the site with a checklist review. The checklist would include such things as: electrical, plumbing, smoke & fire alarms in the correct areas. It would also include an inspection of the outside of the property: egress windows, sidewalks etc.

A big concern in the township would be to identify the properties that are rental units plus adopting a rental ordinance since presently the township does not have one. It was the consensus of the board to discuss with the township attorney and receive a recommendation from him. Supv Heim will contact him.

Brian Donnay, 476 19th Ave So. – Variance & Site Plan – Mr. Donnay has applied for a variance to place a 40 X 60 sq ft accessory building in his front yard. Since Mr. Donnay's parcel is located in the U-1 zoning district, the variance request is recommended for approval by the Joint Planning Board with City of Sartell final approval. The site plan is recommended for approval by the Town Board and the final approval is done by the Joint Planning Board.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL THE DONNAY SITE PLAN PRESENTED BY BRIAN DONNAY WHICH MEETS ALL NECESSARY SETBACKS LOCATED AT 476 19TH AVE. SO., TO PLACE A 40 X 60 SQ FT ACCESSORY BUILDING IN HIS FRONT YARD, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE 11-14-23 REGULAR MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT: No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURERS REPORT - CLAIMS & VOUCHERS:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the board the present balance in the townships bank accounts: \$795,516.85. Invoices to be paid this evening are \$1814.31. The engineer invoice included a credit of \$64.00 for reproduction services.

He also informed the board he has established escrow accounts for both the Udermann and Carlson minor subdivisions. He estimated that around December 1st the township should receive their second half of real estate tax settlement which will be approximately \$153,947.00.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS & VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1814.31 (CHECK #14135 THRU 14138), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund –

Dead Deer Pick Up – Supv Westerlund received a call from the Stearns County Sheriff's Department regarding two dead deer north of the compost site on 30th Avenue. He went to pick them up for disposal, but only found one, which he took care of.

Road Grading of 17th Street – Supv Westerlund contacted ASTECH regarding the grading of 17th Street (Udermann area). He was informed they will grade the road sometime next week (Dec 4-8)

Dockendorf – 40th St. No. – Moving of Car for Sale - During his road inspection, Supv Westerlund spoke with a resident of this parcel requesting him to move the car that is for sale at the end of the driveway. He informed him the car is parked too close to the road and in the road right of way.

Steve Schwartz, 2695 7th Ave. No. – Street Light – Supv Westerlund contacted Mr. Schwartz informing him that due to the cost of installation of a street light at this intersection, it was the consensus of the board that it is too expensive with a continued cost each month. It was suggested that Mr. Schwartz place a light on his garage or the pole in his front yard which may be a better option.

Dan Heim –

Zander Property Clean-Up – Supv Heim has spoken to neighbors keeping them updated with the progress of the clean-up of the Zander property. Supv Heim has given them Supv Westerlund's contact information since he has worked directly with the Zanders. He was also informed that whoever was living in the shed moved out since there is now a boat in the shed.

Mary Zeleny, 1690 Riverside Ave – 911 Sign – Supv Heim was contacted by Ms. Zeleny who owns the property on Riverside. She sent a picture of her damaged 911 sign which she said was damaged possibly by someone mowing the ditches. Supv Heim contacted the city of Sartell, Stearns County and Chuck Ertl, but all said they did not mow the area. A new sign will be ordered from M-R Sign Company which Ms. Zeleny will be responsible for.

Park Fund – Supv Heim received an email from Attorney Troy Gilchrist who stated that use of the townships park fund to donate to the construction of a restroom at the Inclusive Playground would be fine under state statutes for use of park funds. Kari Theisen, city of Sartell project planner, also sent a list of park projects the city currently is working on if the township wanted to divide the park fund money to other projects and not just one project.

December 12th Meeting – Supv Heim reviewed with town board supervisors the schedule for the

December 12th meeting which includes two minor subdivisions and 3 variances. Both the Joint Planning Board and a Regular township meeting will be held that evening. The second meeting in December has been cancelled due to the holiday.

County Road Reconstruction Meeting – The final public meeting regarding the reconstruction of County Road 1 from County Road 120 to 9th Avenue will be held on Monday, December 11 from 4-7 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center.

Paul Wagner –

Township Clean-Up Day Information – Supv Wagner contacted Margaret Stang, Brockway Township Clerk, questioning what they do for a clean-up day in their township. Ms. Stang stated she has been on the board for 6 years and no clean-up has ever been held and at their board meeting, the supervisors thought it has been at least 12 years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Township Clean-Up Day – Supv Wagner reported on – no clean-up is held in Brockway Township. LeSauk must hold a clean-up day to fulfill their MS4 permit requirements which is something Brockway may not have to do.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Supv Westerlund will report on during his road report.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – No progress is expected but this will stay on the agenda so that it can be addressed in the spring of 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ROAD REPORT:

November Road Report – Supv Westerlund drove all township roads other than 17th Street (Pinecone area) which is a minimum maintenance road. He stated that other than 30th Ave/Town Line Road and 322nd Street, township roads are in great driving condition at this time. He reported that St. Wendel fixed their portion of 322nd Street, but rest of the street is in poor condition. 30th Avenue/Town Line is in the planning stages for full reconstruction in 2025 and until then, potholes and other issues will be taken care of. He also walked the area around the 40th Street guardrail and did not see what area of the guard rail was in poor condition.

Supv Westerlund provided pictures of the Thomas & Zander properties. The Thomas property has returned to the mess it was in prior to some clean up by Steve Thomas and family members. Steve Thomas along with his mother, Shirley Thomas, attended several township meetings until receiving an OK from the board that it was sufficiently cleaned up. Supv Heim has contact information for Shirley Thomas and will get in touch with her regarding the continued collection of vehicles and abandoned junk in the Thomas front yard.

The Zander property had moved a couple of vehicles, but there has been little change other than that. A boat has been placed inside a shed. Of the many trucks and vehicles in the front yard, a couple have been moved to the back, but even though currently licensed, they are undriveable and owned apparently by Angie Zander. The Zanders will be given two more weeks, then the board will decide whether to continue with removal of the vehicles per the township attorney letter that was sent to them. Supv Heim will contact Township Attorney Jason Hill and Troy Gilchrist to see whether the next

procedure should be taken as written in the letter to the Zanders.

Town Line Road Resolution – Supv Heim attended a virtual meeting with representatives from jurisdictions involved with the town line road reconstruction: Anna Gruber, Kari Theisen, City of Sartell, Margaret Stang, Brockway Township & Scott Volkers, St. Wendel Township. They discussed how much money each entity would earmark for costs over and above the \$7.5 million from the Transportation plan. LeSauk Township has discussed setting aside within 3 years, \$600,000 which would cover their share of expenses for our portion of 30th Avenue. Sartell, \$150,000, Brockway \$250,000 and St. Wendel who did not give an amount. At one time a former St. Wendel Township Supervisor suggested \$125,000, though their actual amount would be similar to LeSauk since they (LeSauk & St. Wendel) own roughly the same amount of road.

Joint Powers Agreement for Town Line Road Cost Sharing - Since no definite numbers for the cost sharing of this road project have been decided on, no further action can be taken.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE & REPORT:

Weyer Annexation – Clerk Plante reported that she received a letter stating the annexation of the Weyer Family Partnership parcel has officially been annexed to Sartell. The 80-acre parcel located north of 17th St. (Pinecone Road area) has been purchased by Empire Solar Energy for a solar farm.

Minnesota State Highway Department Draft Plan – Clerk Plante had forwarded an email to town board members to comment on the survey for the Minnesota State Highway Draft Plan.

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