

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting  
November 7, 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 and 5 interested parties.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING SANDY KLOCKER, MARY KAY HUHNE & LINDA TREB TO OPEN FORUM, ANNA GRUBER ACCESSORY BUILDING ON NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ROAD 133 TO OLD BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** Clerk Plante informed board supervisors that Gary & Linda Rehnke would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

**OPEN FORUM:**

**Sandy Klocker, Mary Kay Huhne & Linda Treb – County Road 133 Realignment & Misc Concerns** – Ms. Klocker spoke on behalf of herself, Ms. Huhne & Ms. Treb regarding several items of concern they had regarding the overtaking of townships by cities & counties. Ms. Klocker discussed the “Green Steps” program that cities are taking part in, including the city of Sartell. She suggested the town board read about this program who she feels are allowing cities to apply for different grants, which gives them the opportunity to take over property owner's rights of their own property.

Ms. Klocker discussed the plans of the city of Sartell and Stearns County to realign County Road 133 through a developed neighborhood, where Ms. Treb owns property, without considering the surrounding property owners. Several township properties are also involved with the option that is being considered for realignment of County Road 133. She also questioned whether the township has a comprehensive plan, which the township does not.

**Evan Carlson, Enterprise Energy & Ryan Fitzthum – Solar Garden Discussion** – The solar garden discussion was placed under old business on the agenda, but since Mr. Carlson and Mr. Fitzthum were in attendance, the board was open to discussing the topic with them.

Supv Westerlund attended the Stearns County Township Association Meeting at which 27 townships were represented. Stearns County has 34 townships. Five townships had solar garden ordinances but the other 22 townships did not. The township officers were hesitant to get involved with solar gardens due to the aesthetics, administrative issues, long term contracts for solar gardens as well as handling the decommissioning of a solar garden after its life span has expired. It was also noted that Clerk Plante contacted Margaret Stang, Brockway Township Clerk. Brockway has a solar garden and she stated they followed Stearns County Ordinances.

Mr. Carlson addressed several of the concerns, especially the decommissioning of a solar garden which requires a bond by Stearns County which would cover the cost of dismantling a solar garden should the company/developer no longer be in business etc. The panels are made of recyclable material for ease of removing if the garden is no longer viable. He also discussed the power they produce, bill credits which are sold to subscribers and responsibilities of the developer when constructing and maintaining a solar garden.

The board thanked him for the information and will discuss at a later time.

**MINUTES:**

SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2022 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** No report.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:** No report.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer Dullinger gave the present balance in township funds: \$899,684.41. She informed the board there will be a slight interest increase to 1.1% at Falcon National Bank. She also noted the township should be receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of real estate settlements the first part of December.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5125.42 (CHECK #'s 13889 THRU 13899 PLUS EFT 238, 239 & 240), SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

**Jeff Westerlund –**

**Stearns County Township Officers Meeting** – Supv Westerlund & Treasurer Dullinger attended the Twsp Officers meeting in Freeport. Discussion was held earlier in the meeting regarding the solar garden ordinances other townships had. Also discussed was the broadband throughout the county which should be completed by 2025-26. Township officers were reminded of the Stearns County Courthouse Centennial which will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

**Brush Cutting on 40<sup>th</sup> St. & 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge** – The brush cutting on 40<sup>th</sup> & the 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge has yet to be completed. Supv Westerlund will contact Chuck Ertl questioning whether his brush cutter has been repaired or whether the township needs to find someone else to do this work. The invoice Mr. Ertl presented to the township included \$300 for the brush cutting, if not done, the \$300 for the brush cutting should be removed and the invoice paid for the ditch mowing which has been completed.

**Dan Heim –**

**Brian Donnay, 422 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. So., - Horse Barn**– Supv Heim provided the regulations regarding feed lots to Mr. Donnay. A variance will be needed for a feedlot in order for Mr. Donnay to have horses on this 11-acre parcel.

**Sam DeLeo – Tom Frericks – Garage Replacement, 3231 321<sup>st</sup> St.** – Supv Heim reported that he has received no information, application or public hearing fee for the variance Mr. Frericks needs to rebuild his garage on his parcel. Mr. Frericks would like to construct the garage 3 feet from his property line.

**John Traigi – Realtor for Scott Anderson – Splitting of Property – 1693 35<sup>th</sup> St. No.** – Mr. Traigi is the realtor for Scott Anderson who owns a 20-acre parcel on 35<sup>th</sup> St. Mr. Traigi was inquiring about how the Anderson property can be split, whether 2-, 4- or 5-acre parcels could be platted. He also questioned how the parcels would be zoned and noted some concern about getting water to the parcels since this area is known to have granite under the soil. No specific plans have been made for the parcel yet.

**Tom Barrett, 237 Heritage Drive** – Supv Heim had Building Inspector David Barsody review pictures he had taken of the building Mr. Barrett is having constructed. Mr. Barrett attended a previous meeting questioning whether two separate utility buildings with one roof could be constructed on his property. According to Mr. Barrett, they would be a “he shed” and a “she shed” with the same roof. Mr. Barsody, after viewing, felt it was one 20 X 20 building which would require a building permit. Two buildings require a minimum of 5 feet between them for fire separation. Mr. Barsody had his associate stop at the Barrett home to discuss this issue. Mr. Barrett agreed that it became one building and he will submit an application for a permit & plans.



**Shawn Omann –**

**Ed Traut – Splitting of Property** – Supv Omann was contacted again by Ed Traut who had questions regarding the splitting of the Floyd Traut property on Pinecone Road. Mr. Traut still has no definite plans how and what size the parcels would be. Supv Omann suggested he work with Sam DeLeo who knows the township ordinances regarding the splitting and platting of property.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

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

**Thomas, Theisen, Rosenow & Weyer Property Clean-up** – Supv Heim received an email from Troy Freihammer, Stearns County Environmental Services, informing the township the Thomas's have cleaned up their property to the satisfaction of the county. The board were in agreement that the property looks much better.

**MS4 Permit/Ordinance Update** – Supv Omann & Supv Westerlund have not had a chance to completely review the MS4 ordinance drafts, so this will remain on the agenda.

**Solar Garden Ordinance Amendment Discussion** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting with Mr. Carlson & Mr. Fitzthum. Supv Heim questioned whether board members would like to continue discussion or review at a later date. The board members were in agreement to discuss it this evening. Supv Westerlund was in agreement with the information he received from township officials at the Stearns County Township meeting. All board members were in agreement that amending an ordinance could lead to potential changes to the character of our township, how do we address the issue in the A-20 and or the U-1 zoning districts, trying to handle the de-commissioning of a solar garden as well as the esthetics of a solar garden.

The consensus of the Town Board was to not pursue an amendment to our ordinances allowing solar gardens and or farms in the township.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Patrick Michaud, 2741 Winnebago Rod – Exercise Room Site Plan** – Mr. Michaud plans to convert a portion of his present garage into an exercise room and add on a 30 X 26 garage addition in 2023. present garage. Supv Heim noted the site plan for the additional garage addition will not exceed the footprint of the house, so he will be allowed that construction. Scott Saehr, City of Sartell Assistant Administrator, reviewed the site plan, stating the city of Sartell staff had no concerns regarding the site plan. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MICHAUD SITE PLAN AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Anna Gruber – Accessory Building** – Ms. Gruber contacted Supv Heim regarding their potential plans to construct an accessory building on a lot they own that is adjacent, but separate from the lot their home is located on. The lot is .75 acres which would be accessed from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and would be either 30 X 30 or 40 X 20 square foot accessory building. The Grubers would be allowed the accessory building if they combine their two lots, but if they choose not to, they would need to apply for a variance. The lots are located in the R-1 zoning district.

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

**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

*Marlyce L. Plante*