

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting
December 12, 2023

The regular 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, Paul Wagner, Treasurer Joshua Bentley, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and 8 interested parties.

AGENDA APPROVAL: SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Jeff Heitzman, 31267 Cty. Rd. 133, St. Joseph, MN – Mr. Heitzman is seeking reimbursement from the township for damages to his tire after hitting a pothole near 6755 322nd Street since it is the township's duty to fix them. Supv Heim had contacted the township attorney Troy Gilchrist about the issue and advised Mr. Heitzman to submit a claim to MAT (Minnesota Association of Townships) though no promises can be made about the reimbursement. Supv Heim asked Mr. Heitzman to send copies of estimates and other information to Clerk Plante or himself.

Steve Loehlein, 6204 322nd Street, St. Cloud, MN – Mr. Loehlein had contacted Clerk Plante about sending township ordinances to residents of Pleasantdale regarding building permits, accessory buildings, junk cars, pets, and garbage. Mr. Loehlein is concerned that there is building going on that does not meet township regulations, and that residents don't realize that there are rules regarding those things. Supv Heim affirmed that permits are needed for new buildings and fences, and that if a complaint is made, the township would investigate. Board members stated that they would discuss it and determine the best course of action.

A second concern from Mr. Loehlein was a rather large pothole on 61st Street - 3rd house down on the right. He is wondering if something can be done about it because it's a problem every year. Supv Heim stated that the township board would look into it.

Lloyd Traut, 1315 Southbridge Ave. N., Sartell – Mr. Traut asked that the board members walk his property so that they know what his property is like for assessment. Mr. Traut also questioned the size of the lot being divided on the Steve Carlson property. Supv Heim explained that the Carlson property is zoned A20 with a residential overlay of 1, 5, or 10 acre lots within the A20.

Kathleen Fenlason, 1320 Southbridge Ave. N., Sartell – Though Ms. Fenlason's property is no longer in the township, she just wanted to ask that the township stays with the times, and that they should hold their residents accountable to regulations.

Shirley Thomas, 1006 Riverside Ave N., Sartell – Ms. Thomas and her son Steve came to the board to report on the progress of the clean-up of their property. The two of them are doing their best to do their part, but it's the other son, Ted, that keeps bringing more items onto the property. The board offered ideas about where to dispose of household appliances. Ms. Thomas stated that she was aware of Stearns county's plan to widen Riverside Ave and knew that her house would probably be demolished within several years. The board advised her to consult the county website for future meeting dates.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Supv Heim emailed Attorney Gilchrist inquiring as to whether other townships have rental ordinances. Attorney Gilchrist responded that he knew of none and that rental agreements are only needed for populations of 29,000+. Also, he informed Supv Heim that costs could get expensive. Supv Westerlund suggested that the board not pursue a rental agreement, and the rest of the board concurred.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: None**TREASURER'S REPORT – Claims & Vouchers:**

Treasurer Bentley reported that he has registered the township board with the Social Security business office portal for the year; the reporting threshold had decreased so online reporting is required when filing over ten returns, and that all is set to report in January. Also, though the township has not received the bills for Xcel and TMobile billing, Treasurer Bentley has them ready to be signed because there would be no second meeting in December and per MAT presentation utilities are eligible to be prepared prior to receiving the bill. He confirmed that the township is tax exempt.

Treasurer Bentley had attended the MAT annual meeting earlier in the month and was pleased with the state auditor's presentation. He stated that he had learned quite a lot about cyber security and AI.

With the CD investment and cash balance, the township's balance is \$953,610.40.

Treasurer Bentley gave an updated report on the township funds: General = \$347,942.14; Road & Bridge = \$550,021.55; Fire = \$25,989.30; Park = \$29,658.41.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6366.01 (CHECK #'s 14139 THRU 14148; EFT272 AND EFT 273), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund – None

Dan Heim –

Mary Zeleny, Riverside Ave., Sartell — Supv Heim called Ms. Zeleny to inform her that a sign had been ordered. She said this was the second time it had been damaged.

Erik Faue, 32101 61st Avenue, St. Cloud – Supv Heim received a voice mail from Mr. Faue inquiring about replacing a garage on his property that had been removed by the previous owner. Supv Heim explained to the board that Dave Gilchrist had stopped by the Faue residence to stop the building of the garage because no permit had been issued. Mr. Faue had bought the property as a foreclosure and a shed had been on a slab but

was removed. Mr. Faue shared a site plan with Supv Heim. Mr. Faue stated he was able to locate the pins and that it met the setbacks from neighbors. Supv Heim suggested that Mr. Faue get it surveyed, which he did. Supv Heim is waiting on approval of the Joint Planning Board.

Waters Church, Pinecone Road, Sartell – Steve of Cole Architects he is working on the drawing for the Water's Church child care addition. They would like to add a playground, and the architect is wondering about setbacks.

County Road 1 Project – Stearns County is planning to widen the road from the County Rd 120 roundabout over the Sauk River to 9th Avenue. They had just released the plans, and Supv Heim noted the county had agreed on a three-lane expansion with a trail.

Paul Wagner –

Deer pick up on townline road. Supv Wagner inquired as to whether other townships pick up deer.

MAT Meeting – Supv Wagner attended the annual meeting with Treasurer Bentley.

OLD BUSINESS –

Zander property – Still several vehicles there, and the township will continue to monitor.

NEW BUSINESS –

Reorganization Meeting – It's usually the first Monday of January, but that falls on New Years day.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO RESCHEDULE THE DATE OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 6:30 PM, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER.

Park fund and clean-up – *Place under Old Business.*

Tri County Humane Society contract – *Place under Old Business.*

322nd Street – Dan had emailed the engineer about 322nd Street. The project is still being discussed internally. They stated they might not be eligible for LRIP funding and they are wondering if other funding might be available. They are currently focusing on funding any excess that state funding doesn't cover. Supv Heim asked if St. Cloud would be interested in helping. *Place this under Old Business.*

Townline Road Resolution – Still working on the language for the resolution. Anna Gruber, city of Sartell, is writing it up. There will be a meeting with Brockway on Dec. 14, 2023. Contributions to the project, so far: Sartell - \$150,000; LeSauk - \$600,000 or percentage; Brockway - \$250,000; St. Wendel - \$125,000. The first payment would be due in 2025 when the \$7.5 million bonding runs out. An Active Transportation Grant will be applied for in order to trim some of the cost.

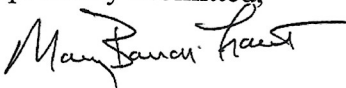
Sign on Townline Road – Supv Heim noticed a "Watch for Children" sign that is not the townships. Decision was made to leave it.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE REPORT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Barron-Traut,
LeSauk Township Deputy Clerk