

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting
March 7, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Shawn Omann, Treasurer Josh Bentley, Clerk Marlyce Plante and 6 interested parties.

AGENDA APPROVAL: SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Brian Gibson – Area Planning Organization

Mr. Gibson was not able to attend the meeting. Supv Westerlund will contact him regarding attending the next regular meeting to discuss with the Town Board whether the townships membership in the APO is worth the membership paid by the township each year.

Rory Mrozek – Park fee charge for Monarch Meadows Plat 3

Mr. Mrozek received the escrow statement for Monarch Meadows Plat 3 and was concerned about the amount he was charged for the park fund. Mr. Mrozek stated that since it was not discussed at the public hearing or Joint Planning Board meeting, he should not have to pay the park fund. He was informed it was part of the resolution that was passed during both the township meeting and the Joint Planning Board meeting, but the amount was not determined at that time.

Discussion was held regarding whether the township has an option to charge a park fee in lieu of park land or is it mandatory by state statute. Also discussed was whether Monarch Meadows Plat 3 was two or three lots which may change the amount of the park fee. It was the consensus of the Town Board there were three lots created, two new lots and one lot which had the existing home on it.

Supv Heim suggested calculating the park fee on just the three lots and not the entire parcel which would reduce the park fee to around \$1880.00. Mr. Mrozek was not in agreement with that amount either, strongly stating there should be no fee since it was not discussed at the public hearing. The Board did inform him the fee was discussed at the 1-24-17 meeting at which time they should have invited him to the meeting to discuss the amount.

It was the consensus of the Town Board to have Attorney Troy Gilchrist clarify the legal position of whether the Township must charge a park fee in lieu of park land. Mr. Mrozek will be placed on the 3-28-17 meeting agenda.

Brent & Nicole Burgardt – 461 Spruce Court – Construction of Accessory Building

The Burgardt's came before the Town Board to discuss their options for constructing a larger accessory building. They have an approximate 24 X 30 accessory building presently, plus a small utility shed. They would like to add on to the present accessory building with a breeze way in between the existing building and the new one. They were informed a pole-type building would not be allowed, all siding would need to match their home and the maximum size would be 3600 square feet.

The Burgardt's stated they would remove the small utility shed if it is not allowed or they would go over the allowable size or coverage of property. Supv Heim will contact David Barsody, the townships building inspector, to check how or if a breezeway built between the present accessory building and a new addition, would be considered one accessory building or two.

JOE PERSKE – STEARNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Mr. Perske was present at the meeting to discuss the importance of the Area Planning Organization with Brian Gibson, but since Mr. Gibson could not attend, Mr. Perske spent some time discussing with the Town Board the need for a long-term investment for all jurisdictions involved in area projects. Namely, 30th Avenue and the need for the upgrades of Pinecone Road and 27th Street. Supv Heim stated Pinecone is scheduled for upgrades, widening etc., in 2018 with the upcoming construction of the new Sartell High School. 27th Street North is planned for 2019.

He suggested the township have road projects w/engineering stats & bids in place, especially 30th Avenue, so that when money is available, the jurisdictions who have their road project bids in place would be awarded the money for the project. 30th Avenue is a road that is used by many people other than township residents. Mr. Perske was surprised it was downgraded to a minor collector road. He suggested having a traffic count done each year and when the count is at least 2000 cars, apply again for the road to become a major collector road.

Mr. Perske also suggested the Town Board be in touch with Congressman Tom Emmer who is a supporter of townships and may be able to help. He stated the jurisdictions need to work together and get everyone “on board” to upgrade 30th Avenue.

Briefly discussed was the meetings that have been held regarding the 15th Street Corridor Study. A map of three separate possible corridors has been made available to the township which were reviewed. All three corridors are very expensive and it will be a massive project that will affect many township residents.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF 2-14-17, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Feedlot Ordinance – Supv Heim had Clerk Plante forward the letter that was drafted by Attorney Gilchrist to Supervisors Omann and Westerlund which suggested the feedlot ordinance stay within the county ordinances for implementation.

Bromenschenkel Conditional Use Permit – Atty Gilchrist & Atty Harnett drafted new resolutions for the John & Kathreen Bromenschenkel conditional use permit to include Leann Platz and Mike Bromenschenkel as Power of Attorney and son of John & Kathreen Bromenschenkel instead of putting the permit in Mike Bromenschenkel’s name who is not the owner of the property and does not carry the power of attorney authority.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: None

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Brian Fasen – Supv Westerlund received a call from Mr. Fasen to be placed on the next meeting’s agenda to discuss the moving of a pole shed from his father’s property to his property. Supv Omann stated he may need a Conditional Use Permit according to Section 15.070 of the townships ordinances. This will be reviewed and discussed with Mr. Fasen at the 3-28-17 meeting.

Eric Emslander - Supv Westerlund received a call from Eric Emslander questioning the process to split off

a 5-acre parcel from his father's (Ed Emslander) 10-acre parcel then added to Eric's property. Mr. Emslander will be placed on the 3-28-17 agenda.

15th Street Corridor Study – Supv Westerlund reported to the Town Board that roughly 25 people attended the Town Hall held on Tuesday, February 28th between 5-7 p.m. Property owners that would be affected by this possible corridor was invited to the open house to ask questions and see proposals of the street. The next information meeting will be held on 3-22-17 at the Sartell City Hall and it is open to the public.

Rich Winter – Sand in Pleasantdale Addition – Supv Westerlund received a call from Rich Winter who resides at 32185 62nd Avenue in Pleasantdale Addition. He stated there was an excess amount of sand that was dropped on the streets during the snow & ice storms. Supv Westerlund contacted Doug Welk of ASTECH Inc. to check the area out and return the call to Supv Westerlund to discuss the amount of sand that was placed in the area. Supv Westerlund informed Mr. Winter the township sweeps the roads in platted areas and the amount of sand is reported in our annual storm water permit report.

Township Day at the Capital - Supv Westerlund attended the township day at the capital on 3-1-17 with 15 other townships being represented. A little bit of information: there are 1300 townships in the State of Minnesota and there are more township roads than all the state and county highways combined in Minnesota. Townships consist of anywhere from 130 residents to 13,000 residents. Discussion was held regarding the proposed commuter rail from St. Cloud to the Twin Cities area, the reconstruction of Hwy 94, widening it to three lanes and of course, the Sunday Liquor Store Sales which was passed and will be in effect on July 1, 2017.

Shawn Omann –

Kris O'Brien – Sartell Community Ed & Recreation Director – Supv Omann is a representative on the Sartell Recreation & Park Advisory Council and has left a message with Ms. O'Brien to contact him regarding the next scheduled meeting.

Dan Heim –

LeAnn Platz – Power of Attorney for John & Kathreen Bromenschenkel – Supv Heim contacted Ms. Platz informing her the township would like to have her name listed as Power of Attorney on the Conditional Use Permit granted to John & Kathreen Bromenschenkel. She said that was fine and requested a copy once the resolutions have been signed.

Feedlot Ordinance Meeting - Supv Heim reported earlier on the meeting he attended with Attorney Troy Gilchrist and Anita Archambeau, Sartell City Planner. Supv Heim discussed his phone call with Alex Udermann questioning whether he could live in a loft above the barn located on the Udermann farm and only one more home would need to be built for Jake Udermann and his wife. Supv Heim informed him feedlot setbacks would still need to be met. The Udermann boys, Alex & Jake, are working with Mark Traut, a neighbor, to purchase land.

Brent & Nicole Burgardt – Supv Heim received a call from the Burgardt's regarding the accessory building plans they are considering. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

30th Avenue Pothole – Supv Heim received a call from the Stearns County Sheriff's department regarding a pothole on 30th Avenue. Supv Westerlund was aware of the pothole and has placed cold patch in it, stating it was very difficult to apply the mix since it was quite cold outside.

Jeff Rasmussen, Zoning Map – Supv Heim received an updated zoning map from Mr. Rasmussen with just a few parcels left to be reviewed with Sartell City Planner Anita Archambeau. The zoning map was forwarded to town board members by Clerk Plante.

Township Internet – A new router for faster internet in the Town Hall has been put in place by Claude Dingman, Assistant Fire Chief.

OLD BUSINESS

Then & Zimmerman Property Clean Up – Supv Westerlund will discuss during his road report.

30th Avenue Bridge – Will be viewed during the annual road inspection in the spring.

Striping of Township Roads – This item will be left on until spring of 2017 at which time bids will be received.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE –

Government Center Meeting Dates – Clerk Plante received correspondence from Mary DeGiovanni stated the dates given to the Sartell City Council were not workable and asked whether new dates could be suggested. After review of the calendar, April 3, 4, 6 and 13th were suggested. Clerk Plante will email Ms. DeGiovanni with those dates.

Levy for 2018 - The Town Board discussed at length the upcoming plans for upgrading of township roads. Three main roads, Pinecone, 40th and 30th Avenue, are areas of the most concern. Pinecone & 40th may be driven by the construction of the new high school. Upgrading of the townships portions could be piggy-backed with the City of Sartell. 30th Avenue is a road that needs an enormous amount of work, an expense the township cannot afford. This was also discussed earlier in the evening with Commissioner Joe Perske suggesting all jurisdictions of 30th Avenue be on board to possibly get some federal and state funding for the reconstruction of the road.

It was the consensus of the Town Board to suggest to the constituents at the Annual Meeting to leave the levy for 2018 the same at \$290,000. Treasurer Bentley will review with township residents at the annual meeting, the projects that were completed in 2016. He will also answer questions regarding Pinecone if they are brought forward.

ASTECH Sweeping Proposal – Treasurer Bentley received ASTECH's proposal for the sweeping of township roads. He stated there was an increase of \$5.00 per hour across the board for all equipment used in the sweeping of the roads. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT ASTECH'S 2017 SWEEPING PROPOSAL, SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

FEBRUARY ROAD REPORT

Supv Westerlund provided copies of the February road report to board members and reviewed with them his concerns. He stated most township roads are in good winter driving condition with some potholes coming out on 30th Ave & 40th Street.

He felt after viewing the Then property, it has been the cleanest he has seen it. There are a few items that are still in need of clean up, but it is a work in progress and they have made some progress.

The Thomas property on County Road 1 has an increased number of vehicles and junk in the area. An email was received by concerned neighbors and they stated they are willing to contact the PCA regarding the property to get it in compliance. Supv Westerlund will contact them allowing them to do so as private citizens since as of right now, nothing is being taken care of by Stearns County Environmental Services who enforce the Shoreland Ordinance and septic systems along the Mississippi River.

The Annual Road Inspection meeting will be placed on the next meeting's agenda to schedule. At that time, the board should be able to choose a date that would not fall on a date the Sartell City Council can meet for the Government Center Annual meeting.

Supv Omann questioned whether as town board supervisors, we can enter private properties when doing the monthly road inspections. Supv Heim will contact Attorney Troy Gilchrist to get a clarification of the legality of entering private properties.

FEBRUARY TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the Town Board the revenues during February and the expenses that would be paid this evening. Treasurer Bentley stated he is still working with Xcel Energy on the correction of the townships invoice for the correct amount of street lights we are being billed for. Supv Omann gave him a contact name at Xcel if Treasurer Bentley has not received a return call from the gentleman he has been dealing with.

SUPV OMANN MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY TREASURERS REPORT AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

VOUCHERS

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10648.13 (CHECK #12587 THRU CHECK #12602 PLUS EFT74), SECOND BY SUPV OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyce L. Plante

Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk