

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
April 9, 2024

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, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and three interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING JOHN & MARY LOU UDERMANN SITE PLAN TO NEW BUSINESS AND SHIRLEY & STEVE THOMAS TO OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Shirley & Steve Thomas, 32502 County Road 1 – Property Clean-Up – The Thomas’s had been sent a letter by the township requesting they attend a meeting to again discuss the condition of the Thomas property. Abandoned vehicles and property have again been accumulating throughout the front and side yard. Ms. Thomas owns the property, but does not reside at the property. Her son, Ted Thomas, lives in the home.

Supv Heim informed the Thomas’s that a similar situation in the township is being handled by the township attorney through a summons and complaint process due to minimal clean up by the property owners. The Thomas’s have attended meetings to discuss the clean-up and have made some progress in the past, but the property continues to revert back to the same mess it was. Steve Thomas sent current pictures he took and feels there is somewhat of an improvement and the summer will bring more progress. He said it is difficult working with his brother, Ted, who does not see the many abandoned items and cars as junk or a problem. Supv Heim will contact Ted Thomas and inform him of the process of the summons and complaint procedure so he is aware of it if the town board chooses to proceed with it. Clerk Plante was asked to keep this issue under old business. The board viewed pictures that were taken by Supv Heim as well as pictures that were sent by Mr. Thomas.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Stephen Carlson is expected to attend the meeting at some point this evening for signing of the mylars for the Fenlason Woods Plat 2 addition.

MINUTES:

The town board reviewed and corrected typing and grammar errors in the March 12th, 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. These minutes are approved by township residents at next year’s annual meeting.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Town Code Violations – Supv Heim reported that Attorney Gilchrist is working with County Attorney Chad Perius incorporating the town code violations in the county violation system. Once these code violations are in place, it will allow the sheriff’s department to write tickets for township residents who are in violation of the particular codes.

Zander Summons - Supv Heim received an email from Bob Alsop, Kennedy Graven Attorney Firm. Mr. Alsop received a call from Angie Zander questioned when the summons and complaint of her mother's property is due by. Atty Alsop told her it was due by April 4th, but as a courtesy, gave her until April 9th. After that time, the town board could enter the property for inspection, eliminate the violations and then assess the property for the cost of the clean-up. Supv Westerlund questioned whether attorney fees could also be recouped, which they can be.

Udermann Plat – Supv Heim contacted Atty Gilchrist & Engineer David Blommel, to discuss repercussions for allowing John Udermann to fill in a ditch area along 17th Street which is the townships road right of way. Engineer Blommel had concerns regarding drainage and also suggested a concrete culvert pipe for the Uderman driveway entrance. It was the consensus of the town board to not allow John Udermann to fill in the ditch (road right of way) and/or level it from their new driveway entrance to the Udermann barn.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT:

Houle-Bradford Home (Former “Poseidon” House) – Supv Heim reported the former “Poseidon” home is for sale but was notified by building inspector David Barsody, that a building permit received in March of 2022 has expired and had not been finalized. Prior to selling the home, the permit must be completed and finalized.

Udermann House Site Plan, 2621 17th St. No. – Building Inspector David Barsody contacted Supv Heim questioning whether the Udermann house site plan had been approved by the Town Board, which it had not been. The Town Board reviewed the site plan for the new 3-bedroom home that is planned, noting where the septic & drain field will be located as well as setbacks set forth in the variances the Udermann's received prior to being allowed to construct the home. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR JOHN & MARY LOU UDERMANN WHICH MEETS ALL SETBACKS, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MARCH TREASURERS REPORT & CLAIM VOUCHER PAYMENTS:

Treasurer Bentley reported he has finalized reports and met the deadline for the State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). He will be contacting Paula of Falcon National Bank on or around April 22nd questioning what the new percentage will be for CD interest at Falcon. The townships CD matures on May 4th, 2024. He will report and discuss at the next meeting.

He reviewed the revenues received in March as well as expenditures. The expenses included election judge wages and meal reimbursements for the Presidential Nomination Primary. These expenses will be reimbursed to the township by the political parties represented on the ballot. Also, among the expenses paid out was a final payment to Knife River for the road project on 22nd, Rodeo Rd & Winnebago Rd.

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

Treasurer Bentley presented the claim vouchers for payment. He noted there were more than usual the number of checks etc. since our March 26th meeting was cancelled. He reported to the board that he paid necessary bills online with Supv. Heim's credit card in order to avoid any late fee charges.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS & VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,204.84 (CHECK #14220 THRU 14233, PLUS EFT'S 281, 282 & 283), SECOND

BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Treasurer Bentley received ASTECH Inc. proposal for sweeping township platted areas in 2024. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE SWEEPING OF TOWNSHIP PLATTED AREA PROPOSAL FROM ASTECH INC WITH NO MONETARY CHANGES FOR 2024, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Carlson Mylar Signing – Stephen Carlson presented his mylars which must be signed by the town board for recording. Chairman Heim and Clerk Plante signed the mylars.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund –

District 5 Meeting – Supv Westerlund received information on the upcoming bi-annual District 5 meeting for Stearns County Township Officers. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ALLOW ALL BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT 5 TOWNSHIP OFFICERS MEETING IN FREEPORT ON APRIL 18, 2024 AT THE REGULAR RATE OF PAY, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Summer Rec Program Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended the Summer Recreation Program meeting which he is the township representative. Jenny Traver, community education director, reported on the upcoming pamphlet listing all the summer programs that will be offered to students. She did also state there are many employment opportunities for students etc. for the many classes and programs that will be offered.

CMWEA – Supv Westerlund attended the latest CMWEA (Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance) Meeting. He reported that no further action is needed on the townships MS4 permit this year.

Township Day (s) at the Capitol – Supv Westerlund attended the township day at the capitol which was held over two days. He stated it is very interesting to listen and learn about how our representatives are working to get more funding for Minnesota townships. Townships throughout Minnesota maintain 40% of all roads in the state, but receive minimal amount of funding to maintain those roads. He provided the board with information compiled about townships in the state.

Dan Heim –

Tom Skaj, 2655 17th St. No. – Mr. Skaj contacted Supv Heim requesting a copy of the variance resolutions received by John Udermann. Supv Heim provided him a copy.

Tad Farris, 3776 Riviera Road – Shoreland Work – Mr. Farris contacted Supv Heim regarding possible shoreland alteration work on his property. Supv Heim returned the call and left a message but Mr. Farris has not returned the message yet.

Elizabeth Haws – Carpet – Ms. Haws contacted Supv Heim questioning whether carpet can be brought to the township clean up day for disposal. He informed her it could not be brought.

Jamie – Stearns County Environmental Services – Udermann – Jamie of the Stearns County Environmental Services contacted Supv Heim questioning the Udermann house plan approval. Mr. Udermann was applying for a septic permit for the new home he will be constructing.

Debbie & Kevin Traut, Parcel #17.09610.000 – Supv Heim was contacted by the Traut's who own a parcel north west of BonHomie Valley Addition. The Traut's were contacted by a company who would like to construct a solar garden/farm on the parcel. Supv Heim explained that solar gardens/farms are not allowed in the township even with a variance.

Roger Frie – Supv Heim contacted Mr. Frie relaying to him the township will not be doing anything (grading or fill being brought in) to 17th Street No. (Pinecone Rd area). Supv Heim did have pictures

of the culvert at 17th St. & Pinecone Road which Mr. Frie said is collapsing. The pictures indicated that it is a concrete culvert. Supv Westerlund will view it during his monthly road inspection during April and report at the next meeting.

Jeremy Mathiasen – Stantec – Zoning Map – Jeremy of Stantec sent Supv Heim updated zoning maps and a zoning map book which included the township property annexations to the city of Sartell. Mr. Mathiasen will provide smaller maps for the town board members as well as a large zoning map.

Nicholas Justus – Mr. Justus is considering the purchase of a home in the township and questioned whether a detached garage could be built on the property. The address of the property is 2260 Rodeo Road which is located on the Mississippi River and will need to go through the proper procedures to construct an accessory building on the river and be reviewed by our shoreland consultant.

Halstrom Deck Site Plan, 2234 Rodeo Road – No site plan has been received as of yet for the deck construction at the Mark Halstrom house. Stephen Gritman, Township Shoreland consultant, has viewed this property but will need the site plan to complete his review.

Solar Garden/Farm on Roys Traut Property, 3872 Pinecone Road – Supv Heim received a call from Rachel of a solar energy company questioning whether a solar garden/farm would be allowed on the Traut property. She was informed they are not allowed in the township even by variance. Mary Barron-Traut, also stated they were directly contacted by her also.

Sundial Energy – Steven Roering of Sundial Energy, contacted Supv Heim, questioning whether solar gardens & farms are allowed in the township, which they are not.

Sam DeLeo, KDL Engineering, Windschitl Property, 2654 Winnebago Road - Supv Heim was contacted by Mr. DeLeo questioning the process of splitting the Windschitl property located on the west side of Winnebago Road. The Windschitl's own a parcel that is under one parcel number, but says it is six (6) lots. Supv Heim will discuss this with Stearns County Assessors Office and check with the township attorney on the correct procedure for this and if it is possible to split the parcel.

Chad Spoden, 3826 Riviera Road – Deck Construction – Mr. Spoden would like to construct a new deck but will need to present a site plan which then will be reviewed by our Shoreland consultant, Stephen Gritman. The Department of Natural Resources will also have to be contacted prior to continuing with this project.

Bridge Inspection Letter – Clerk Plante set a copy of a letter she received from Stearns County which stating the township needs to view and take care of debris on the deck of the bridge, repair conduit on the railing and fix the guardrail on the northeast corner. Supv Westerlund will view and handle during his monthly road inspection.

Paul Wagner –

Township Clean-Up Day - Supv Wagner delivered vests, gloves & garbage bags to Lloyd Traut

Township Day at the Capitol - Supv Wagner attended the township day at the Capitol event. He discussed the number of roads the townships in the state have to maintain and only receive roughly \$42 million dollars. MAT (Minnesota Association of Townships) have a lobbyist that works with legislators trying to secure more funds for townships to cover the cost of maintaining township roads.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Zander Property Clean-Up – Discussed under the attorney report.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – Review during the road inspection meeting.

Website Redesign – Clerk Plante stated she has not researched yet. Supv Wagner provided a contact for website design whom he met during the township day at the capitol.

Park Fund – No action as this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cats at the Charles Ehlen home; 2920 Winnebago Road – Clerk Plante received an email stating the cats are back at the Ehlen house, possibly 10 or more. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE CLERK PLANTE SEND A LETTER TO CHARLES EHLEN REQUESTING HIM TO ATTEND THE NEXT REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING TO DISCUSS THE REMOVAL OF THE CATS AT HIS HOME, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Board of Equalization Meeting – The board was reminded the Board of Equalization meeting will be held tomorrow, April 10, 2024 beginning at 6 p.m. Currently only one township resident has asked to attend the meeting to discuss his valuation.

ROAD REPORT:

322nd St. Overlay Project – No further contact or information has been received from the city of St. Cloud representative, Luke Langer.

March Road Report – Supv Heim discussed his road inspection report. He had viewed the roads after the snowfall, but roads were melted and in good driving condition. Several areas of small potholes exist but will be filled by Supv Westerlund once the weather warms a bit and roads are dry with no snow impact. Many smaller potholes are located on 7th Avenue, 322nd Street and in the BonHomie Valley Addition.

Supv Heim also provided the pictures of the Zander and Thomas properties which were discussed earlier in the meeting.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE & REPORT:

Stearns County Officers Meeting – This was discussed during Supv Westerlund's report.

March Fine Reimbursement – The fine reimbursement for February was \$129.98.

Waters Church Building Permit – Clerk Plante just wanted to verify with the town board who was issuing the building permit for the Waters Church addition since information she received sounded like the city of Sartell was.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk