Joint Planning Board Meeting May 23, 2023

The meeting of the Joint Planning Board of LeSauk Township and the City of Sartell was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:00 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center, Liberty Room.

PRESENT: LeSauk Township Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, City of Sartell Joint Planning Board member Tim Elness and Jed Meyer, Recording Secretary Marlyce Plante and 3 interested parties.

AGENDA: DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

APPROVAL OF 2-28-23 JOINT PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the 2-28-23 JPB meeting will be tabled to the next meeting when a quorum of those attending the meeting can approve the minutes.

Public Hearing – Rezoning, Preliminary & Final Plat of DSF Acres – Friedrich Properties – 3714 Riverside Ave. North, Sartell, MN

Chairman Dan Heim opened the public hearing to the floor:

Craig Wensmann, surveyor for Doug Friedrich presented the new plans and a survey for a 5-acre parcel being split from a 42.3-acre parcel. Previously Mr. Friedrich had requested a 6.25-acre parcel to be split off. The parcel is under Friedrich Properties and is owned collectively by the family of Lucille Schreiner. Mr. Friedrich's plans remain the same, to construct a single-family residence on the parcel after removing the home that is located on the parcel. The 5-acre parcel will be rezoned from the A-20 zoning to A-20/RO-5, Residential Overlay.

Dan Heim consulted Dave Blommel, the township engineer, who had no concerns, but if there were further development of the remaining parcel, there would be more engineering concerns.

DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TIM ELNESS MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REZONING OF THE FRIEDRICH 5 ACRE PARCEL, THE PRELIMINARY & FINAL PLAT NAMED DSF ACRES RESOLUTION 2023-01 FOR DOUG FRIEDRICH, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0. Mr. Friedrich and his surveyor, Craig Wensmann, will now attend the township meeting for final approval of the rezoning, preliminary & final plat.

Evan Carlson – Solar Garden Information – Mr. Carlson asked to discuss with the Joint Planning Board the upcoming changes the legislation has made regarding solar gardens and farms. Mr. Carlson owns Enterprise Energy which installs solar gardens. He noted that solar gardens were limited in how much megawatts they could be. The new law will allow up to 100 megawatts. He also discussed ways to improve the "sight" of solar gardens by added pollinator seeding under the panels.

Mr. Carlson is aware of the recent moratorium the city of Sartell has placed on solar garden construction, along with LeSauk Township only allowing solar panels on residential homes. He feels it is now a perfect opportunity to allow solar gardens/farms since it will bring needed tax revenues to jurisdictions.

Dan Heim, township supervisor, stated he has been invited to attend the planning meetings the city of Sartell will be having to revise their solar garden ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECOND BY TIM ELNESS, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyce L. Plante,

Joint Planning Board Recording Secretary

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