

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

The regular township meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:00 p.m. in the LeSauk Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and Treasurer Josh Bentley plus 3 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING JEFF BERTCH TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Brian Gibson – Area Planning Organization (APO) Director – Belt Line Cost Sharing Resolution

Mr. Gibson asked to attend a meeting explaining to the entire board the beltline cost sharing roadway corridor and requesting the township's participation in the project. Mr. Gibson explained the project has been in the transportation vision for the region for decades. The beltline corridor is a circular, 4 lane, 45 mph roadway around the St. Cloud surrounding area. Several aspects of the beltline:

- Cost of the planning phase for any beltline project is cost-shared among the jurisdictions according to the normal APO cost distribution formula;
- The local-match costs when a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or other scoping document that uses federal or state funds plus Tier 2 EIS and other aspects of project development which is the sole responsibility of the jurisdiction.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPROVING THE BELTLINE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR LESAUK TOWNSHIP, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Jeff Bertch, Kevin & Deborah Traut Solar Farm Interim Use Permit – Mr. Bertch came before the board to request a change in the interim use permit that was approved for the Traut Solar Farm. The original permit was approved to connect the solar farm on Pinecone Road. Using that route, power lines were planned to be buried from the solar farm to Pinecone Road to accommodate the pivoting irrigation system in the area. Mr. Bertch requested the condition #7, which states that power lines from the solar farm to Pinecone Road must be buried, be removed from the interim use permit. They now plan to connect the solar farm to County Road 1 and use a dedicated roadway for public use which is part of the original Traut Valley Farm plat done by Delores & Edwin Traut.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO AMEND THE KEVIN & DEBORAH TRAUT INTERIM USE PERMIT REMOVING CONDITION #7, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. A new permit will be printed, signed and emailed to Mr. Bertch.

Bob Dunning, Stearns County Agricultural Inspector – Mr. Dunning was asked to attend a meeting to discuss noxious weeds within Stearns County and LeSauk Township. He stated the one area that he has received complaints about was the property owned by BK Properties, the former site of Tri-City Paving. The complaint was received in 2024 at which time Mr. Dunning contacted the property owners and they did cut the noxious weeds. The property contained Canadian thistles. Another property that had some thistles was the G & M Dehler property on County Road 120. He suggested sending a letter to both property owners.

The town board discussed the Sullivan property located in the township with Mr. Dunning. The front yard has been mowed but the back yard has not been cut. Mr. Dunning will view the property and contact Clerk Plante whether the area contains any type of noxious weeds. He said if there are no noxious weeds, if the township has a lawn-height ordinance, a letter could be sent on that basis. Otherwise, it may be difficult to

enforce. He did state a weed inspector can enter a property if complaints have been received, but to use caution when doing so.

MINUTES:

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2025 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2025 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-0. Supv Wagner was absent at this particular meeting and therefore could not vote.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Atty Gilchrist continues to work on the Town Code provisions with Stearns County and the orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud. Atty Gilchrist also drafted a letter to Gloria Zander stating the amount that will be assessed to her property for the clean-up that was completed last fall. Supv Heim will contact Atty Gilchrist to send the letter, since the Zander's may open a letter from our attorney versus a letter from the township.

Cannabis Ordinance - When a clean copy of the cannabis ordinance is received, Supv Heim will have it signed by Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Building Inspector David Barsody drafted a letter to Mike & Karen Lee, 32688 River Vista Lane regarding the demolition and removal of their home. An email has been received from the contractor.

MAY TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Bentley reviewed the May Treasurers Report. He noted that since we currently have enough cashflow, he rolled over the certificate of deposit at Bank Vista (\$210,600) at 4.075% for 12 months – Expenses totaled just over \$65,000, but the majority of that was the park fund donation to the Inclusive Playground Restroom fund. Larger expenses were the county assessment fees & sweeping of township platted areas.

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

CLAIMS & VOUCHERS: Treasurer Bentley discussed the invoices & claims presented which included the monthly payroll, monthly utilities & credit card plus PERA contributions etc. totaling \$7060.55.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE OF \$7060.55 (CHECK #14495 THRU 14506 PLUS EFT'S 318 & 319), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Cold Patching of Township Roads – Supv Westerlund reported he placed 400# of cold patch on town line road/30th Avenue. He will complete other pothole areas as noted in the annual road inspection minutes within the week if weather cooperates. Supv Westerlund is scheduled to also do the June Road inspection.

Lawn Mowing at Town Hall – Supv Westerlund has cut the town hall grass twice. When cutting the drainage area, some rocks were hidden, which caused some damage to his mower. He had David Plante fix the mower along with welding the wheel rod back on.

Compost Site – Supv Westerlund spoke with Anna Gruber, City of Sartell Administrator, regarding the amount of township residents who have purchased compost site permits. She reported that 114 township

residents have purchased permits this year at \$80 each. He discussed with her the board's conversation to possibly pay a portion of the permit. This will be discussed at the next annual meeting in 2026.

Dan Heim –

Ron & Marti Bunde, 32467 County Road 1 – Supv Heim received notification from Stearns County the Bunde's have applied for a variance to place a new septic system within 75 feet of the Mississippi River. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th.

Hudson, WI Township Clerk – Supv Heim briefly discussed a news story on KSTP Channel 5 regarding the large salary of a part-time township clerk in Hudson, WI.

Dennis Traut, Margaret Traut Property Split – Supv Heim received a call from Dennis Traut regarding the splitting of the Margaret Traut property and questions regarding the deferred assessments on properties. He suggested he contact Scott Hemmesch, Stearns County Assessor for LeSauk Township, who may have answers regarding the deferred assessments.

Parking of Vehicle's with Junk – Supv Heim received both an email and phone call from a township resident regarding parking of trucks w/junk material in them on 27th Street by a neighbor. He emailed Craig Pogatschnik, Stearns County Deputy Sheriff, questioning him regarding the process to handle this complaint. He suggested to inform the township resident to contact the sheriff's office directly when it happens.

Kyle Puckett, 144 County Road 120 – Mr. Puckett contacted Supv Heim regarding the regulations regarding a detached accessory building. Township regulations were sent to Mr. Puckett along with the requirement of site plan approval by the town board, but Supv Heim has not received any further information.

Rylee Molitor, Mel Preusser Property – Mr. Molitor may purchase the Mel Preusser parcel located east of the Majestic Woods Plat. Currently the property only has an accessory building on it and Mr. Molitor questioned whether that could be converted to a shouse. Supv Heim received information from Building Inspector David Barsody regarding the regulations to use an accessory building as a house but must prove the structure meets all requirements of a house. A septic plan and certification must also be obtained. The information was sent to Mr. Molitor but Supv Heim has not received any further information.

MS4 Training – Supv Heim reminded Clerk Plante to have paper copies or certificates of all board members taking the required MS4 training videos. Clerk Plante has not received a list of Sartell Police & Fire Department members who have taken the Illicit Discharge Training. She will email them with a reminder to forward a list. MS4 salt training for ASTECH personnel also must be re-certified each year by taking a refresher course. Supv Heim and Supv Westerlund will be named as contact people on the Illicit Discharge pamphlet being drafted by Supv Heim.

Shoreland Permits in LeSauk Township – Supv Heim discussed his work on shoreland permits in the township. The permits are time-consuming with contacts having to be made with several parties; the property owner, township engineer; township shoreland consultant and landscape company. It was the consensus of the board to allow Supv Heim to approve the shoreland permits unless a site plan would need to be approved. The site plan will need to be approved by all town board members.

Udermann Email & Text – 17th Street Grading – Supv Heim received a text from Alex Udermann and an email from Mary Lou Udermann requesting the grading of 17th Street. Supv Heim drove 17th Street and said it is washboard on the west end and has several potholes the length of the street. The street was recently graded (May 5th) for \$330.00 and in 2024, 250 tons of class 5 was placed on the street to upgrade the road and grade a "crown" on the road a couple of years ago. Supv Wagner will contact Lance at ASTECH to discuss grading the street as well as what could be done to improve the road. Within the last couple of years, an estimate was received from ASTECH for upgrading and resurfacing the road for approximately \$600,000, which the township cannot afford. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO HAVE ASTECH GRADE 17TH STREET (UDERMANN AREA), SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Paul Wagner – No Report.

Clerk Report –

Minnesota Flag – Clerk Plante questioned the town board whether they would like the previous or “old” Minnesota Flag. It was the consensus of the board they would also like to have the “old” Minnesota flag,

Shelving in Township Garage – Clerk Plante informed the board that shelving was placed in the garage using the shelving material previously used in the building. The work was completed by David Plante.

Stearns History Museum Membership – Information was received for becoming a business member of the Stearns History Museum. It was the consensus of the board to place this on the annual meeting agenda to discuss with township residents.

State Demographer Report – Clerk Plante received the 2024 Minnesota Demographer report which estimates the townships population at 1286 and households at 582.

Minnesota Association of Township (MAT) Membership Cards – Clerk Plante distributed MAT membership cards to board members. It was noted there was no expiration date on the cards and the email address on the back was incorrect.

Downstairs Fire Extinguisher – The Sartell Historical Society has purchased a fire extinguisher for downstairs which needs to be hung up – which will be done by volunteer, David Plante.

Flag holder by Entrance – Clerk Plante had volunteer, David Plante, hang the flag holder near the north entrance. This will be used when future elections are held at the town hall and the United States flag is required to be flown outside at all elections.

Lawrence Traut Parcel – Clerk Plante received a call from Steve Legatt questioning the process to annex the 35-acre Lawrence Traut parcel to the city of Sartell. She gave him Jill Hollenkamp’s name as well as Kari Haakonsen.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thomas Property – The Thomas’s have until the end of June to complete all required clean-up of their parcel located on Riverside Ave/County Road 1.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will be viewed by Bob Dunning, Stearns County Agricultural Director.

Website Redesign – No update as of yet.

Fee Schedule – No further information.

Townline Road Update – No further information has been received or meetings are scheduled.

322nd Street Update – Supv Heim has emailed St. Cloud

New Business – Supv Heim suggested placing the Snow & Ice Policy on the agenda for review. The policy hasn’t been reviewed since 2019-2020. Clerk Plante will place this on the next meeting’s agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk