

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting
June 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the LeSauk Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 6:00 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center – Liberty Room.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund, and Paul Wagner, Treasurer Vikki Dullinger, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and 3 interested parties.

AGENDA APPROVAL: SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING MARY SAKRY AND DOUG FRIEDRICH SITE PLAN TO OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Mary Sakry – 2668 Winnebago Road, Sartell, MN – Ms. Sakry had contacted Supv Heim wondering if her building permit had expired. Supv Heim consulted the minutes from the August 2021 township meeting to confirm that a site plan had been approved for an accessory building with 16’ sidewalls; it was a variance and a conditional use permit. In July of 2022, Ms. Sakry had asked the town board for an extension; the extension had been approved until September 28, 2023. Supv Heim consulted Dave Barsody who stated that Ms. Sakry had only submitted the site plan, and that a building permit had not been applied for nor a fee paid; therefore, there is no expired permit. Ms. Sakry was informed that she would need to apply for a permit and send it to Dave Barsody, who would inform her of the necessary fee. Ms. Sakry is hoping to have the project complete by September 28 barring delays on the part of the builders.

Pamela Evans-Otto – 3160 Riviera Road, Sartell, MN – Mrs. Evans-Otto informed the town board that on Friday, June 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m., she fell as a result of one of the potholes on Riviera Road. The fall was witnessed by a neighbor who was walking nearby. Mrs. Evan–Otto sustained abrasions to her chin and to her knees, as well as a wrist injury; she walked back to her home with the assistance of the neighbor. After a call to her doctor, it was determined an examination was needed, and she now receives physical therapy as a result of the fall. Ms. Evans-Otto questioned the town board about who is responsible for the maintenance of Riviera Road. Supv Westerlund stated that it is the township’s responsibility and that quite a bit of pothole patch had been applied over the past year. Supv Westerlund discussed doing future patching. Mrs. Evans-Otto questioned when Riviera Road would be redone because her neighbors and she are not happy with its condition. Treasurer Dullinger also expressed concerns about the safety of the road. Supv Westerlund explained the process by which township roads were slated for repairs. After further discussion, the town board decided to contact Astech about blow patching Riviera Road. Supv Heim will update Mrs. Evans-Otto with an update for blow patching.

Doug Friedrich – 5211 399th Str, Rice, MN 56367 – Craig Wensmann, surveyor for Mr. Friedrich, had shared the site plan for the construction of a new home with Supv Heim. Supv Heim had questioned the locations of the proposed well and septic, and measurements on the setbacks were also needed. Supv Heim questioned the square footage of the house versus the garage and received answers. Supv Heim determined that all setback requirements had been met. SUPV HEIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED NEW HOME FOR DOUG FRIEDRICH, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3–0.

Mr. Friedrich questioned the Parks fee since the township has none of those. The Town Board explained that the money is placed in a fund which can only be used for specific things. Supv Heim stated that the fee could be discussed during a special hearing, but because it is in our ordinance, it must be followed.

Mr Friedrich also questioned the board about the balance of the original escrow sent for the project. Supv Heim explained that once all the necessary bills had been paid, Treasurer Dullinger would issue a check for any remaining balance to Mr. Friedrich.

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:

James Lauer – 909 Cty Rd. 120, St. Cloud, MN – Mr. Lauer had requested information from Clerk Plante about an accessory building. The discussion was moved to Old Business because Mrs. Lauer had not agreed to the building.

Jesse Douvier – 3962 Riviera Road, Sartell, MN – Mr. Douvier is seeking permission to build a deck. Steve Grittmann reviewed the shoreland implications informing Supv Heim the deck meets the 100-foot setback and that Mr. Douvier does not need a shoreline permit. Since the property is zoned R-1, Supv Heim contacted Kari Theisen, Sartell’s Project Supervisor, who stated she had no issues. SUPV WESTERLUND MOVED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED DECK FOR JESSE DOUVIER, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Travis Abe – 32625 50th Ave. N, St. Cloud, MN – Supv. Heim stated that the township can’t take action on Mr. Abe’s request for a lean-to because it’s zoned U- 1 which requires a type 3 site plan. The township can recommend, but the Joint Planning Board would give the final approval. David Barsody informed Supv Heim that a permit would be needed. Supv Heim emailed Mr. Abe informing him about the need for a permit, the necessary setbacks, and a site plan. Mr. Able did not respond to Supv Heim’s emails.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2023 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 2-0 (Supv Wagner abstained since he was not present at this meeting).

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

Judith Thoele – 128 Heritage Drive, Sartell, MN – Ms. Thoele contacted the township board seeking information about re-roofing her home, specifically with metal. Supv Heim consulted David Barsody who stated it was permissible. Mr. Barsody stated that he would contact Ms. Thoele.

Patrick and Dawn Michaud – 2741 Winnebago Rd, Sartell, MN – David Barsody contacted Supv Heim to see if the township had approved construction of a 30x26 structure at this address. Supv Heim confirmed that approval had been given November 2022. The Michauds had not yet started the project but planned to start now.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Dullinger updated the Town Board of the township's fund balance (\$875,047.11). Balances of the specific funds were shared: General=\$297,398.46; Road & Bridge=\$547,970.44; Fire=\$5430.20Park=\$24,225.01.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE MAY TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Dullinger had questions regarding the debits from the Swarthout escrow. She questioned whether the process would be cheaper using MAT because the Swarthout escrow has been used up.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15081.70 (CHECKS#14041 THRU #14053; EFT257 & EFT258) SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund:

Mary Sakry – 2668 Winnebago Road, Sartell, MN – Ms. Sakry had contacted Supv Westerlund regarding the validity of her building permit. Supv Westerlund invited her to tonight's meeting which she attended.

Wayne Rosenow – 2734 Riverside Ave, Sartell, MN – During the road report, Supv Westerlund noticed a dumpster and some improvements made to the property. Treasurer Dullinger noted the same.

Steve Schwartz – 2695 7th Ave N, Sartell, MN – Supv Westerlund received a call from Mr. Schwartz who was concerned about the deterioration of the apron coming out of Countryside Acres. It had deteriorated to the point that it was a safety concern. Supv Westerlund investigated and then called John Kothenbeutel, Sartell Public Works, asking if the city would consider fixing it because it's on the border between the township and city. Mr. Kothenbeutel stated that they would take care of it. Supv Westerlund reported that on the way to tonight's meeting, he drove, and the work had been completed.

Shawn Omann – 3329 Riviera Rd, Sartell, MN – Clerk Plante received a call from Shawn Omann about numerous TVs and tires being dumped along the road near the entrance to the Riviera addition. Supv Westerlund investigated and picked up nine TVs, six tires, a wicker basket, and a garden tractor seat. Supv Westerlund planned to take the tires to Northstar Auto and was deciding what to do with the rest.

APO Meeting, Thursday, June 8 – Supv Westerlund reported that there are efforts being made to classify 322nd St as a major collector within the next year so that it can get federal funding. Also, in 2027 street lights will be installed at the intersection of Pine Cone Road and 7th Street. Lastly, the old Sartell bridge is now open to cross the river though Supv Heim shared that it was not totally open on the Benton County side.

Dan Heim:

Pam Evans-Otto – 3160 Riviera Road, Sartell, MN – Mrs. Evans-Otto called to inform the township of her fall due to a pothole on Riviera Road and to share concerns about the condition of that road. Supv Heim assured her that the township would investigate. She was invited to attend the township meeting, which she did.

Doug Friedrich – 5211 399th Str, Rice, MN 56367 – Mr. Friedrich contacted Supv Heim concerning the township park fees. Mr. Friedrich wondered whether the park fee could be refunded if the township ordinance was changed. Supv Westerlund suggested that this be revisited under Old Business.

Buecker’s Property Annexation - Supv Heim and Clerk Plante signed the resolution.

Jared Festler (Surveyor) for the Nicole Skroch PID# 17.08924.0000, on 35th Street North had called regarding the setbacks for a fence installation. Supv Heim emailed the ordinance information.

Sartell City Solar Ordinance meeting – Supv Heim attended the meeting. Sartell has put a moratorium on solar gardens. Sartell is proposing a solar garden would be allowed in any district by an interim use permit up to 5 megawatts. A solar energy system on the roof of a house would be permitted use.

Stearns County Highway Dept & Townline Road – Supv Heim attended and reported the following:

- All LeSauk, Brockway, and St. Wendel townships, and the city of Sartell were represented at the meeting.
- The \$7.5 million grant for Townline Road can be used for engineering (estimated \$800,000) and construction (estimated \$7.5 Mil). No funds will be released until plans are in place; each entity must demonstrate funding via a resolution or line item in the budget set aside for the project.
- The MNDot traffic count was used showing 1400; the traffic count determines the width of the shoulder.
- The LeSauk bridge was scored as a 78 (0–100), so it’s not eligible for funding. The suggestion was to leave the bridge as is.
- There was discussion of right-of-way; the Watab River crossing as an impaired waterway; acquisition of stream mitigation credits; Wetland Conservation Act; US Fish and Wildlife - several bats and bees; MPCA and MS4 requirements... Stearns county will assist with all of these.
- Timeline: July 2023 - Requests for proposals; August 2023 - Begin engineering work; Fall 2024 - bids; Spring 2025 - construction begins.
- Breakdown of road ownership: Sartell – .32 m; LeSauk – 2 mi; Brockway – 2 mi; St. Wendel – .68 mi.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PAY SUPV HEIM THE MEETING RATE FOR ATTENDING THE TOWNSHIP ROAD CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS, SUPV WAGNER SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Paul Wagner: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information

Fee Schedule Changes – Shoreland Alterations & ROW Permits – No action at this time.

Township Clean-Up Day Changes – No action at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Senior Games – No information

Stephen Grittman – NAC Shoreland reviews. Supv Heim was informed by Mr. Grittman that his partner and he had sold their firm to a former employee. Mr. Grittman stated that he would be interested in continuing his work with the township as Steve Grittman Consulting. He would contract at \$165/hr. (previously \$151/hr.). SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO CONTRACT FOR SIX MONTHS WITH

STEVE GRITTMAN CONSULTING FOR ALL SHORELAND REVIEWS, SECONDED BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Heim will email Mr. Grittmann about the termination of the contract, and initially contract for 6 months with an annual renewal beginning in January 2024.

John Sleva – 1206 Millstone Ct, St. Cloud, MN – Mr. Sleva had contacted Clerk Plante about potholes. The supervisors discussed ordering a load of blowpatch at \$9000; Supv Westerlund would fill the deeper potholes. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE ONE LOAD TO BLOW PATCH FOR RIVIERA, 30TH STREET, 35TH STREET, AND 322ND STREET, SUPV WAGNER SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

David Blommel, SEH – Bids were received and shared with Supv Heim. Bids received were well below the engineers guesstimation.

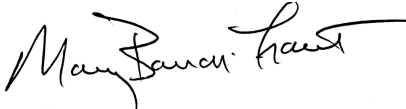
CLERKS CORRESPONDENCE REPORT:

- Borud's letter was returned. Sender error and letter was resent.
- MAT ID cards were received and will be distributed.
- Fine reimbursements \$163.
- Demographers report

ADJOURNMENT:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SUPV WAGNER SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Barron-Traut
LeSauk Township Deputy Clerk