

LeSauk Township Regular Meeting
June 27, 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, Clerk Marlyce Plante and 3 interested parties.

AGENDA APPROVAL: SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING DAVE BLOMMEL AND MARY SAKRY TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR AND TOWNLINE ROAD BUDGET TO TREASURERS REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: None.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Dave Blommel, Township Engineer, 2023 Road Project Bids: Mr. Blommel informed the town board they held bid opening on June 13th. There were 3 bidders, Knife River, MN Paying & Materials and ASTECH. The top two bids were within \$30.00 of each other: Knife River was \$245,772.00 and ASTECH was \$245,801.85. The two projects are 22nd Street and Rodeo Road plus Winnebago Road.

Mr. Blommel stated it may possibly be done towards the end of July at which time they will grind up the pavement, pull out extra, then lay down new asphalt. Both roads will be done the same way. 22nd Street only will also be striped. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO AWARD THE BID TO KNIFE RIVER FOR \$245,772.00, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Westerlund questioned Mr. Blommel which jurisdiction would the intersection of Rosewood Rd & County Road 1 belong to. He reported there is some breaking away of pavement. Mr. Blommel said if it is in the road right of way, it would be the responsibility of Stearns County. He will speak with Matt who is with the county highway department about checking the intersection and possibly fixing it if it is the counties.

Mary Sakry, 2668 Winnebago Road – Ms. Sakry came before the board to discuss her building permit for an accessory building she is constructing. She has the building permit completed and needs to know the cost of the permit. She questioned whether she could just pay the township instead of sending it to David Barsody. She was informed it should go to David Barsody.

Jesse Douvier, 3962 Riviera Road – Site Plan – JK Landscaping has been contracted to replace 3 retaining walls on Mr. Douvier's parcel located on the Mississippi. Stephen Grittmann, shoreland ordinance consultant, viewed the property and sent a report for the minor shoreland alteration. Mr. Grittmann stated no variance would be needed before the shoreland alteration is done. The check for the application fee, \$400, was sent by JK Landscaping. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINOR SHORELAND APPLICATION AND SITE PLAN FOR JESSE DOUVIER, REPLACING THREE RETAINING WALLS AT 3962 RIVIERA ROAD, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Travis Abe, 32625 50th Ave – Lean-To Construction – Mr. Abe would like to construct a lean-to on the present accessory building on his property. The size of the lean-to will be only 16 feet from the rear yard and the rear yard setback is 30 feet in the U-1 zoning district. This will be placed on the July 11th meeting agenda since the Town Board is the recommending board for this request and the Joint Planning Board has the final decision. The Joint Planning Board will meet on July 25th at which time they will discuss it.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2023 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Bob Schefers, 463 19th Ave. So. – Overweight Permit – Mr. Schefers came before the board to request overweight permits for his business, Schefers Excavating and K & L Excavating, due to the extensive detour they have because of the intersection of County Road 4 and County Road 133 being closed for construction of a roundabout. The permit will allow them to drive on 30th Avenue which has a weight restriction on it. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ISSUE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS FOR BOB SCHEFERS, SCHEFERS EXCAVATING AND K & L EXCAVATING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Mr. Schefers stated one permit could be done for all three businesses. Clerk Plante printed and signed 3 permits so each person/business can carry the permit in their vehicle.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Township Code Violations – Supv Heim has been in contact with Attorney Troy Gilchrist regarding the township code violation prosecution process. Atty Gilchrist will review the townships ordinance and code the ordinances that may prompt issuing a citation by the Stearns County Sheriff's Department. An example would be a dog running at large.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: David Barsody, township building inspector, had been in touch with Supv Heim on several issues.

Justin Doyle, 32202 County Road 1 – Mr. Doyle has applied for a building permit to replace the front stoop of his home. Mr. Barsody questioned whether this needs to be reviewed by the township shoreland consultant. The front area of the home is not within 300 feet of the river, so no review is necessary.

Traese Kuhl, 1448 Riverside Ave. – Mr. Kuhl is closing on this property on June 29th and would like to demolish several things on the home on June 30th. He is replacing the awning in the rear of the house making it 2 feet wider and placing 6-foot posts in the rear of the house. The parcel is in the R-1 zoning district. The town board has the final approval for the permit. The home is located on the Mississippi, but not within 300 feet of the river. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PERMIT FOR TRAESE KUHL TO REPLACE THE AWNING ON THE REAR OF THE HOME AND PLACEMENT OF 6 FOOT POSTS IN THE REAR, SECOND BY WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Dullinger updated the Town Board of the townships fund balances.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2669.88 (CHECK #14054 THRU #14058) SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supv Heim discussed with the board, information he received from Jodi Teich, Stearns County Project Engineer, requesting the jurisdictions involved in the town line road project, complete a resolution by August 18, 2023, stating the amount of funds they can budget towards the project in 2023 and 2024. After discussion regarding the balances presently in the road & bridge fund, plus what we will receive, the board members felt that budgeting \$175,000 for 2023 and \$225,000 in 2024 would be reasonable. Supv Heim will wait to hear from Ms. Teich for further information.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund:

Jill Massey, 3933 Riviera Road – Cat Problem – Supv Westerlund received a call from Ms. Massey informing him there is a cat problem in the Via Riviera neighborhood. She took 3 kittens to the Humane Society which she was charged \$150 when she should have only been charged \$50 for kittens. Supv Westerlund will ask the Humane Society to credit Ms. Massey and then bill the township since we have a contract with the Humane Society for stray animals and the township would pay the bill.

Abandoned Junk on 30th Street – Supv Westerlund reported that he picked up TV's and tires on 30th Street. The TVs came to 438 lbs. and the township was charged \$240.90 for the recycling of them. He also took 8 tires at \$6 each to NorthStar Auto for disposal.

Complaint of Potholes on 321st/ Foley Street – Supv Westerlund received a complaint regarding several potholes on 321st Street. He will pick up cold patch to fill them. Other areas in need of some patching are River Vista Lane, 1st Street, 30th Ave. and 35th Street, the Lloyd Traut portion. These areas have several small potholes. If blow patch material is left after ASTECH does Riviera Road, they will use the remainder on 35th Street, the Lloyd Traut portion and 30th Ave.

APO (Area Planning Organization) – Supv Westerlund attended the area planning organization meeting. **CMWEA Meeting** – Supv Westerlund attended the CMWEA meeting. They have several initiatives right now which are Adopting a Drain and Dog & Cat Waste. Supv Westerlund was given information flyers to hand out to township residents. These will be available at our annual meeting.

Rich Winter, 32158 62nd Ave. – Mr. Winter contacted Supv Westerlund regarding the issue he is having with his neighbor, Brian Johnson at 32178 62nd Ave who wants to construct a fence between their properties. Mr. Winter wanted it stated in the minutes that he is opposed to putting a fence on the lot line between his home and Mr. Johnsons home.

Dan Heim:

Doug Welk, ASTECH – Blow Patching of Riviera Road – Mr. Welk was in touch with Supv Heim regarding the blow patching project for Riviera Road. It was planned to be done on June 23rd, but ASTECH was unable to do it on that day, so it will hopefully be towards the end of the first week in July.

Pam Otto, 3160 Riviera Road – Ms. Otto contacted Supv Heim questioning when the blow patching was to be done on Riviera Road. Supv Heim informed her of the upcoming possible dates.

Rich Winter, 32158 62nd Ave. – Mr. Winter contacted Supv Heim requesting the fence regulations of the township. Mr. Winter discussed his issues with a neighbor wanting to place a fence between their properties. Supv Heim sent him the regulations.

Mary Sakry, 2668 Winnebago Road - Ms. Sakry had questions regarding her building permit. Ms. Sakry was in attendance earlier in the meeting and her questions were taken care of.

Madison Deluxe Services – Supv Heim received a message with questions regarding a building permit. He returned the message, but has not heard back anything.

Bill Fasen, 30th Ave. No. – Beaver Dam – Mr. Fasen left a message informing Supv Heim that a beaver dam is being constructed by the bridge on 30th Ave. After discussion, it was the consensus of the town board to have Supv Heim request a quote from Dick's Nuisance Animal Control who took care of the beaver issue a couple of years ago along with Joe's Excavating dismantling the dam.

Anna Gruber, Lawngevity Inc. Clean-Up – Ms. Gruber, Sartell City Administrator, spoke to Supv Heim regarding a letter they received (Clerk Plante received a copy) from the Department of Agriculture regarding an abandoned facility on 17th St. North, which at one time housed the Lawngevity lawn care business and may now be in need of chemical clean-up. The owners have been notified and have also been notified of possible funding for the clean-up process.

Maureen Schreifels, 3630 Riviera Road – Ms. Schreifels contacted Supv Heim to discuss the placement of a storage building on an empty lot adjacent to the lot they own on the river and where their home is located. The board discussed whether the building was to be on the lot with their home, it would then need a variance to put the building in the front yard since they are only allowed in the rear yard. Also discussed whether it could be placed on the empty lot they own across the road since the two lots have the same PID number. Depending on what the Schreifels want to construct and where they want to put the building, the board will then decide on what is needed, a variance, minor shoreland review etc.

Stephen Gritman, Shoreland Consultant Contract – The board reviewed the contract drafted by Stephen Gritman. The term of the contract will be for the rest of the year and it will again be discussed and assigned at the yearly qualifications meeting. Supv Heim signed the contract for the rest of 2023.

Exterior Pro Trailer – The company, Exterior Pro, has set a trailer on the corner of 19th Avenue and County Road 4. It is prohibited according to our township ordinances. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SEND A LETTER TO EXTERIOR PRO REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF THE TRAILER, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Paul Wagner: Supv Wagner had thought he knew of another possibility to remove the beaver dam, but it turned out to be the gentleman from Dick's Nuisance Animal Control.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information

Fee Schedule Changes – Shoreland Alterations & ROW Permits – Township Clean-Up Day Changes
After discussion regarding fee schedule changes and township clean-up day changes, a special meeting will be held. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON JULY 19, 2023 AT 6 P.M., TO DISCUSS THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR SHORELAND ALTERATIONS, RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS AND TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY CHANGES, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante will check with the community center to make sure there is a room available for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Senior Games – Clerk Plante received information that the Senior Games will be held on August 3rd at which time a bike race will be held that will use Pinecone Road and 40th Street.

JUNE ROAD REPORT: Supv Wagner provided the Town Board members with his road report. He reviewed his report with the board stating, in general, the township roads are in relatively good shape other than the ones that were part of the road project bidding. He did say the 17th Street North, the Udermann area, has become like a washboard and maybe should be graded. No complaints have been received from township residents living on 17th Street, usually we are contacted at which time it will be graded.

The Thomas property on County Road 1 has again been filled with abandoned junk and vehicles. Clerk Plante was asked to send both Shirley Thomas and Ted Thomas a letter.

CLERKS CORRESPONDENCE REPORT:

Minnesota Association of Township Cards – Clerk Plante distributed the government I.D. cards given to the town board each year from the Minnesota Association of Townships.

Last Half of 2023 Meeting Schedule – Clerk Plante sent a list of all the remaining meetings in 2023 to the community center so the township meetings can be scheduled.

22nd Street – Clerk Plante received a call regarding the poor condition of 22nd Street. She informed the caller that it is one of the township road projects this summer and should be done the end of July or early August.

Poepping Letter – A letter was received from Nicole Poepping, River Vista Lane, regarding the drainage issue for residents of River Vista Lane since the new West Bank was constructed. The city of Sartell also received the letter and since West Bank is in Sartell, it would be their decision on how to proceed with the complaint.

Deputy Sheriff Kern Call – Hernandez – Clerk Plante received a call from Deputy Sheriff Dennis Kern regarding two complaints he received for a dog running at large which belongs to Robert Hernandez. Deputy Kern could not issue a citation since our ordinances are not E-ticketed in the county system. Clerk Plante did send Mr. Hernandez a letter informing him of the complaints along with the two police reports numbers that Deputy Kern gave her.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk