

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
August 22, 2023

The Regular Township 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, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Treasurer Vikki Dullinger, Josh Bentley and two interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING SHIRLEY AND STEVE THOMAS TO OPEN FORUM, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Shirley & Steve Thomas, 32502 County Road 1 – Property Clean-Up – The Thomas's came to the meeting to discuss with the Town Board the continuing progress of the clean-up of their property in order to avoid returning to court at the county level. They stated the lawn mower, 2 boats and car have been removed and some miscellaneous items in the front of the garage have been removed. Supv Heim had taken pictures of the progress and Steve Thomas also sent some recent pictures. Mr. Thomas said the white vehicle is currently being worked on so his brother has a car that is drivable and the silver vehicle belongs to Shirley and is also being worked on. The town board is requesting that all of the abandoned items in the driveway be removed. Supv Heim stated the property looks better but they will be given one more month to finish clearing everything in the driveway, remove the vehicles that are not currently licensed or that are not in working & running condition.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Douvier Site Plan, 3962 Riviera Road, Site Plan – The first site plan for the Douvier property had been approved at a previous meeting but it did not include the rip rap they intended to place on the shoreland alteration. A new site plan had been received which included the rip rap, but was needed to be reviewed by Stephen Gritman, shoreland consultant for the township. Mr. Gritman reviewed it and stated it needed to be reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources due to the placement of the rip rap from the highwater mark. Nicole from the DNR emailed Supv Heim, after she reviewed the site plan, stating no permit would be required from the DNR since the rip rap is only 6-30 inches in size, it is being loosely laid and they are not using any soil and it is being placed on a 3 to 1 slope.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DOUVIER SITE PLAN FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE RIP RAP ON THEIR SHORELAND, CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING THE APPLICATION FEE FROM JK LANDSCAPING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE 8-8-23 REGULAR MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Park Fee Usage – Supv Heim reported that Attorney Gilchrist is making the necessary deletions/revisions in the township ordinances regarding the requirement of a park fee when platting

property in the township. Atty Gilchrist also stated he is hesitant to use the present funds in the park fund to cover the townships contributions to the Sartell Summer Recreation (formerly the Tri-Rec) program. He did state however, the park fund money could be donated to other jurisdictions for park equipment etc. and approval from township residents at the annual meeting would not be needed.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Building Inspector Barsody emailed Supv Heim regarding a site plan he received from Jon Dennis, 32170 County Road 1 for placement of solar panels on his roof. Mr. Dennis is having Wolf River Electric design and place the panels on his roof. No site plan has been received yet.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Claim vouchers and invoices were reviewed by the Town Board. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$669.86 (CHECK #14087 THRU 14089), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Dullinger resigned as of August 31, 2023. Josh Bentley, former township treasurer, has accepted the appointed position of treasurer. Mr. Bentley was in attendance at the meeting and spent the evening with Treasurer Dullinger reviewing different changes and procedures of the township treasurer's position.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Jeff Westerlund –

Brian Schoenecker, 322nd Street Bid – Supv Westerlund has been in contact with Mr. Schoenecker who works in the public works department for the city of St. Cloud. A bid has been received by the city to overlay and widen the shoulder on 322nd Street for \$204,000. Supv Heim will contact Mr. Schoenecker to verify the amount of the bid, whether it is an overlay with shoulder widening etc. He will also question whether other jurisdictions portions of 322nd (St. Wendell, LeSauk & St. Cloud) are included in this project.

Shannon Sullivan, 1954 4th Ave. No. – Yard & Weed Clean-Up – Supv Westerlund spoke with Shannon Sullivan who informed him they plan to clean up their property by September 1st. The yard will be viewed during the next monthly road inspection.

Jodi Wilken, 2660 7th Ave. No. – Removal of dead trees – Ms. Wilken contacted Supv Westerlund questioning when the township was going to remove two dead trees in her yard which she believes are in the road right of way and have died due to the emerald ash borer. Minutes from previous 2022 meetings, stated a town board supervisor would come out and measure whether the trees are in the road right of way and if so, the township would be responsible for their removal. No follow up report was done. Ms. Wilken emailed Clerk Plante requesting to be placed on the September 12th meeting agenda.

Zander Property Clean Up, 271 27th St. No. – Supv Westerlund spoke with Angie Zander and her son, Hunter Olson, who live at this property. He requested permission to take pictures of the abandoned vehicles and junk, both in the front and rear yard of this parcel. Supv Westerlund reported there are 8 vehicles, 4 unlicensed and 4 licensed, but just 2 that are in working condition. Supv Westerlund also gave Ms. Zander a copy of the townships abandoned vehicle and property ordinances and informed her the town board will again view their property in one month. He also showed her a copy of the certified letter that was returned. In the letter, the town board asked that they attend the next township meeting to discuss the clean up of the property as well as a time line for the clean-up.

Dan Heim –

Zander Property Illegal Burning, Junk Vehicles Etc. – Supv Heim received an email from a couple of township residents stating concerns about items being illegally burned on the Zander property as well as the accumulation of unlicensed vehicles and property.

Gail Schneider, 1105 County Road 120 – Supv Heim contacted Ms. Schneider informing her there have been no discussions by the Town Board regarding the possible annexation of their property, as well as other township parcels located in her area.

Area Planning Organization (APO) Assessments – Supv Heim received an email which listed the approved assessments to jurisdictions belonging to the APO. They were similar to the previous year since the APO decided against adding an assessment for an environmental study for an upcoming bridge project.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for 30th Avenue – Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Department has sent out RFPs after a meeting with MnDOT. This will begin the process for planning of the reconstruction of 30th Avenue.

Township Road Project Time Line - Supv Heim was contacted by David Blommel, township engineer, who informed him the township road projects for 22nd Street & Rodeo Road will hopefully begin shortly after Labor Day. S.E.H. will be sending notifications to parcel owners regarding this project.

Deer Crossing Signs on Pinecone Road – Mary Barron-Traut had sent an email to the town board requesting possible deer crossing signs placement near their property located on Pinecone Road. She said there is a lot of deer in the area due to a water source, feeding area on fields as well as tree cover. Supv Heim had researched whether the deer crossing warning signs help to reduce the possibility of hitting a deer by motorists. Articles he read all stated that signs did not make a difference and it was the consensus of the town board to not place signs in this area. If the township already has deer crossing signs located in the storage unit, they may reconsider placing them in the area.

Paul Wagner – No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – No new information at this time.

Ordinance Revisions – Revisions to the ordinances are being drafted by Atty Gilchrist and may be ready for reviewing and approval by the September Joint Planning Board meeting.

Township Clean-Up Day – No further information at this time.

Thomas Property Clean-Up – Discussed earlier in the meeting, but will remain on the agenda until the property is satisfactorily cleaned up.

Beaver Dam Removal – Supv Heim received information from Jeff Smith who removes beaver dams. Mr. Smith uses dynamite and is concerned about damage to the bridge due to the rock content under the bridge and dam. Supv Heim has emailed Joe Lahr regarding the cost of removing the dam.

Speed Sign on 1st Street – SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO PLACE 40 MILES PER HOUR SPEED SIGNS ON THE EAST & WEST ENDS OF 1ST ST. NORTH, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante will email John Peterson of Sign Solutions when this could be completed the next time he is in the area. He will also be asked if a “T” sign near the Hengel property on 30th Avenue could be straightened.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer Appointment – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPOINT JOSH BENTLEY AS THE

LESAUK TOWNSHIP TREASURER FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023 UNTIL THE 2024 QUALIFICATIONS MEETING WHICH IS HELD THE FIRST MONDAY OF JANUARY, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DSF Acres Certificate – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SIGN A CERTIFICATE STATING THE DSF ACRES PLAT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE STEARNS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ROAD REPORT: Supv Westerlund reviewed his monthly road inspection report with town board members. Many of the items in the report are in the process of being handled such as the road condition of 22nd Street and Rodeo Road, 322nd Street, 30th Avenue etc. In general, all township roads are in good driving condition and the ones that have significant issues are in the process of being worked on.

He viewed the Kirby home in the BonHomie Valley Addition which has been cleaned up and looks good. The Rosenow property has been cleaned up and the house is being remodeled and updated. The Thomas property is still in poor condition but it was discussed with them earlier in the meeting. He visited with Angie Zander at the Gloria Zander property, providing her a copy of the abandoned vehicle and property regulations so they can see they are in violation of the township regulations.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE & REPORT:

ASTECH Snow Plow Bid – Supv Heim reviewed the increase in the snowplowing bid received from ASTECH Inc. The town board also discussed the possible use of Brockway Townships snowplowing company as well as St. Wendel's. After discussion, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SNOWPLOWING BID FROM ASTECH FOR THE 2023-24 SNOW SEASON, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Emergency Management Training – Clerk Plante reminded the town board members to register for the training that will be provided by Erin Hughes from the Stearns County Emergency Management Department.

SCORE Grant Application – Clerk Plante informed the board she has sent in the township's application for reimbursement of the expenses for the township clean up day held in April. A maximum of \$3000 can be reimbursed through the SCORE grant. Expenses incurred by the township were just over \$3200.00.

Returned Certified Letters - Both the certified letters sent to Gloria Zander and Kerry Sullivan were both returned without either party signing for the certified letters. The letters were sent to them requesting both parties to attend a township meeting to discuss their property clean up issues.

John Uran – Church Signage – Mr. Uran emailed Clerk Plante and called Supv Westerlund regarding the name change of their church from Park Fellowship to Faith Journey. Mr. Uran questioned whether there were any regulations regarding changing the sign located by their church. Clerk Plante will research the storage unit for the file from when the original owners and developers of the church came before the town board.

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

