

LESAUK TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 12, 2024

Clerk Marlyce Plante called the Annual Meeting of the Township of LeSauk to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Liberty Room of the Sartell Community Center.

Clerk Plante opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. She stated several items were available on the table including agendas for the meeting, 2024 township newsletter with contact names & numbers, building & fire permit information, meeting times etc. On the backside of the newsletter is information for the upcoming township clean-up day on April 27th. There are also 2023 Annual Report booklets. She introduced the present board members and asked residents in attendance if they would sign the attendance sheet. She also stated the board supervisors attend this meeting as a township resident and they do not make the decisions at this meeting, the township residents present vote on all motions at the annual meeting. She told the residents that all 2023 monthly expense reports and revenue reports were posted on the wall for inspection by the township residents. These reports are also available on the township website.

Clerk Plante called for nominations for a moderator for the meeting. JANE HOFFMAN NOMINATED JEFF WESTERLUND AS MODERATOR FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING, SECOND BY LLOYD TRAUT, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

READING OF MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND ACCEPT AS WRITTEN, SECOND BY LORI WAGNER, MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REGULAR BOARD MINUTES FOR 2023

Lloyd Traut questioned an entry in the August 8, 2023 minutes regarding the possible increase of the township's assessment to the Area Planning Organization for the upcoming year. The assessment fee went from \$1133 to \$3989 due to allow for an environmental study for a new bridge on County Road 75. Dan Heim explained that the amount was a projected amount only and the actual amount assessed was \$1902 for 2023. Jeff Westerlund stated the township participates in the Area Planning Organization since it involves most area jurisdictions and makes transportation funds available to the township. JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE REGULAR BOARD MINUTES OF 2023, SECOND BY LORI WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF 2023 – READING OF REPORT OF AUDIT & MOTION

Treasurer Josh Bentley began with the board in September due to the resignation of Vikki Dullinger but previously served as the township treasurer prior to Ms. Dullinger's term. He reported the township had an ending balance for 2023 of \$949,357.57, roughly \$75,000 less than the 2022 year ending balance. A significant overlay project of \$228,000 was done on Winnebago Road, Rodeo Road & 22nd Street the past year. Snowplowing costs are down considerably with the minimal amount of snow. The ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds have been used and closed out with the road projects.

Treasurer Bentley also discussed with the residents present, the township has just over \$500,000 in operating funds and \$400,000 in a CD that is accruing interest at just over 4% for a 6-month

period. The board may consider rolling it over to a 6-month CD until it is needed for payments related to the reconstruction of 30th Avenue/Town Line Road.

Lloyd Traut, 1315 Southbridge Ave. – Mr. Traut questioned the 30th Avenue/Town Line road project and who is handling the funds for that particular project. Dan Heim, chairman of the Town Board, stated that Stearns County will be handling the \$7.5 million-dollar project money awarded last year through transportation funds, as well as any other possible grant money that is being applied for at the present time.

Jon Dennis, 32170 County Road 1 - Mr. Dennis questioned whether there are any planned road projects this year in the township. Dan Heim discussed the possible overlay of 322nd Street in conjunction with the city of St. Cloud and possibly St. Wendel Township. A bid to overlay 322nd Street came in at roughly \$204,000. LeSauk Township would contribute \$100,000 towards the project, the city of St. Cloud would contribute the remainder unless St. Wendel would also contribute since a portion of the road is in St. Wendel Township.

Lloyd Traut, 1315 Southbridge Ave – Mr. Traut questioned whether the portion of 35th Street that runs along his property and is a township road. Dan Heim stated that if the township is approached to be a part of overlaying that portion of 35th Street and adding a walking & biking path as suggested by the city of Sartell, the township may ask the city to take over that portion and annex it the city since it lies between city street portions.

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE TREASURERS REPORT OF AUDIT FOR 2023, SECOND BY LLOYD TRAUT, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEVY FOR 2025 – SUPERVISORS ESTIMATE OF FUNDS FOR ENSUING YEAR

Dan Heim, Supervisor on the Town Board, spoke on behalf of the Town Board. He stated the Town Board held their annual audit meeting in February, at which time they discussed what they would recommend for the 2025 levy. The consensus of the Town Board was to suggest the levy remain the same, at \$350,000 (\$250,000 in Road & Bridge, \$60,000 in General Fund and \$40,000 in the Fire fund) Even though there is presently a healthy amount in the township funds, there will be substantial costs for the township to cover for the reconstruction of 30th Avenue/town line road. The township owns just over 2 miles of 30th Avenue and the road is planned to have 11-foot lanes with 6-foot shoulders. The \$7.5 million dollars received will not cover all of the engineering expenses. The approximate cost to LeSauk Township is roughly \$600,000. The payment of these expenses will be spread over a three-year period and the town board plans to set aside \$175,000 this year, \$225,000 in 2025 and \$200,000 in 2026. This amount of money will drastically reduce the township fund balance.

LeSauk Town Hall – During the discussion of the levy, discussion was held about where the board stood on acquisition of a new town hall. For now, no further movement has happened on the town hall. For now, the town board is concentrating on the reconstruction of 30th Avenue/Town Line Road.

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT THE 2025 LEVY AT \$350,000 AS SUGGESTED BY THE TOWN BOARD AND ALLOW THE SEPARATION OF FUNDS UP TO THE DISCRETION OF THE TOWN BOARD, SECOND BY PAUL WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

TRI-REC PROGRAM/SARTELL SUMMER REC PROGRAM

Jen Traver introduced herself as the new Community Education Director and Sartell Middle School Athletic Director. Ms. Traver has been an employee of the school district for over 25 years as a history teacher and volleyball coach. She has received her degree in community education and is learning the many aspects of handling this program that has been a part of the surrounding community for so many years.

The program has returned to a “physical” catalog that area residents receive in the mail and is available to pick up at district offices, city offices and the community center. The programs and classes are open to all area residents. Roughly 3000 kids, PreK through 8th grade participated in classes in 2023 and hopes are to increase those numbers with more swim safety classes, adaptive swim classes, pickle ball with a cop, etc. Also possible are BMX classes, coding classes & drone flying classes. You can explore the possibilities on the community ed website through the community center website and all classes can be registered for online.

Kevin Starry, 1223 3rd St. No., Sartell – Mr. Starry questioned whether this is a government run program. Ms. Traver stated that since 1971, each school district in Minnesota must have a community education program director by state statute. The city of Sartell and St. Stephen and LeSauk Township have donated funds to this program for many years.

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO CONTRIBUTE THE DONATION OF \$3000 TO THE SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM BY LESAUK TOWNSHIP FOR 2024, SECOND BY JANE HOFFMAN, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ms. Traver will send an invoice to Treasurer Bentley and also informed Jeff Westerlund the date of the upcoming meeting for the community education board.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Annual Meeting – SHAWN CHRISTEN MOTIONED TO SET THE TIME OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IN 2025 TO BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M., SECOND BY LLOYD TRAUT, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The date for the annual meeting is set by the State of Minnesota, the second Tuesday of March each year with the 3rd Tuesday being an alternate date in case of inclement weather.

Town Hall – No further information or movement has happened with acquiring a town hall. Presently all meetings are held at the Sartell Community Center and Faith Journey Church, formerly Park Fellowship Church, is used as a polling place. The cost of purchasing property and construction of a new town hall will be a very expensive undertaking.

Park Fund Distribution – Dan Heim informed the residents in attendance that town board has approximately \$30,000 that is in a park fund that can only be spent on park construction and related items. During the past year, the town board made the decision to remove the requirement in sub-division regulations requiring developers of plats to pay a park fee or donate a portion of the plat for a park. The board members wanted township residents to be made aware the town board is considering donating the money to park projects within the area since the likelihood of area parks are used by township residents.

Jon Dennis, 32170 County Road 1 – Mr. Dennis suggested looking into the construction of a walkway from the Sauk River Regional Park to the St. Cloud Whitney Park. Mr. Dennis also suggested planting of trees in the township area or a community garden. He questioned whether Dehler farm land could be used for a community park area or if they have been approached.

Lloyd Traut, 1315 Southbridge Ave. – Mr. Traut questioned whether Brockway Township has a park that can be donated to. If so, maybe they can use picnic tables or something else that may be

needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Department Update – Peter Kedrowski, Fire Chief of the Sartell Fire Department, was not available to give a report. Clerk Plante will contact Mr. Kedrowski to get a written report that she will post on the website.

Township Clean-Up Day – The residents in attendance were reminded of the upcoming township clean-up day that will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Jeff Westerlund told residents the purpose of the clean-up day began with the opportunity for residents to clean-up township roads. The township provides safety vests, gloves & garbage bags. The past couple of years, the clean-up day had become an event for residents to get rid of their old construction materials, old carpet, hazardous waste and many other items. In order to minimize this, the Town Board has limited items that can be brought to the clean-up day. Those items were listed on the flyer that was sent to all residents and is available on the homepage of the township website. Residents can contact Jeff Westerlund or Marlyce Plante for vests, gloves & bags.

County Road 1 Reconstruction – Jon Dennis questioned whether planning for the County Road 1 reconstruction is still being done with public input and are they including the township in the discussions and decisions. Dan Heim stated the final recommendation to Stearns County has been given and he believes the roundabout on County Road 1 and County Road 120 is to be completed this spring. Mr. Dennis urged the town board to stay involved with the discussion of the possible orderly annexation for township residents that are south of the Sauk River. Also of concern was the speed limit reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph on County Road 1 was rejected by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

There being no further business, JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING, SECOND BY LORI WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk



Jeff Westerlund
Annual Meeting Moderator