

LESAUK TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

March 14, 2023

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 that copies of the agenda for the meeting were available with the back side of the agenda containing information for township residents regarding contact names & numbers, building permit information, meeting times etc., She suggested keeping it for future reference since there are many times throughout the year a township resident may need the information. Also available were the 2022 Annual Report booklets. She introduced the present board members and asked residents in attendance if they would sign the attendance sheet since she needs to keep a written copy of those attending the meeting. 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 vote on all motions at the annual meeting. She told the residents that all 2022 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. DAN HEIM NOMINATED BENNO KUHLMAN AS MODERATOR FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

READING OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

JOSH BENTLEY MOTIONED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, SECOND BY MARY BARRON-TRAUT, MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REGULAR BOARD MINUTES FOR 2022

MARY BARRON-TRAUT MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE REGULAR BOARD MINUTES OF 2022, SECOND BY KURT RASMUSSEN, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF 2022 – READING OF REPORT OF AUDIT & MOTION

Treasurer Vikki Dullinger reported the ending balance of the township's treasury on December 31, 2022 was \$1,024,258.34, an increase of \$272,107.64 from the 2021 ending balance.

Sue Symanietz, 2979 Winnebago Rd & Lloyd Traut, 1315 Southbridge Ave. – Ms. Symanietz & Mr. Traut both questioned the ARPA & COVID funds that were received, is there a time frame for spending the money and what it can be spent on? Treasurer Dullinger stated the funds were at first limited to what they could be spent on, such as broadband expansion, but legislation has been passed allowing townships with less than \$1 million in tax revenues to spend the funds on all township expenses other than debt and pension benefits. Treasurer Dullinger also said there is no time frame for spending the money.

Jon Dennis, 32170 County Rd 1, Kurt Rasmussen, 389 Pine Ridge Rd & Sue Symanietz, 2979 Winnebago Rd – Mr. Dennis, Mr. Rasmussen & Ms. Symanietz all questioned whether research has been done trying to find and determine a bank that would give the township the highest interest rate and at a bank that will keep the money secure, while allowing the township to use and withdraw the money if needed without penalty. Treasurer Dullinger stated that presently a good

portion of the township's funds are in a program called R & T Banking Solutions through Falcon National Bank and the interest is 1.51%. The funds are in different banks throughout the country, being handled by Falcon, and no more than \$250,000 is located in any one bank in order for the funds to remain FDIC insured.

Benno Kuhl, P.O. Box 292, Sartell, - Mr. Kuhl questioned how much has been spent throughout the year on Road & Bridge. Treasurer Dullinger stated that in 2022, \$109,292.56 has been spent on roads & bridges.

Kurt Rasmussen, 389 Pine Ridge Rd – Mr. Rasmussen questioned what are franchise funds. Treasurer Dullinger explained the township receives a portion of the fees charged to township residents for the cable services which equates to just over \$12,000.00 per year.

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE TREASURERS REPORT OF AUDIT FOR 2022, SECOND BY PAUL WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEVY FOR 2024 – SUPERVISORS ESTIMATE OF FUNDS FOR ENSUING YEAR

Dan Heim, Supervisor on the Town Board, spoke on behalf of the Town Board. He stated that when the Town Board held their annual audit meeting in February, they discussed what they would recommend for the 2024 levy. The Town Board is planning two road projects in 2023; overlay of 22nd Street & Rodeo Road and overlay of Winnebago Road. In July of 2022, proposals for those projects were \$150,000 (22nd St. & Rodeo) and \$185,000 (Winnebago Road). Mr. Heim also discussed the most recent information he received from Representative Tim O'Driscoll and Senator Jeff Howe, who reported to him they are very hopeful the legislation may finally act on funding of \$7.5 million for the reconstruction of 30th Avenue/Townline Road. Mr. Heim stated Stearns County will take the lead with bids for the project and that engineering & right-of-way costs would be incurred by the jurisdictions involved on 30th Avenue. He stated this has been a project the township has been working on for many years, trying to receive funding from the state. 30th Avenue is in very poor shape, but without funding from the state, the township is not in a financial position to do a lot, other than band-aid treatments.

Mr. Heim informed the residents in attendance, it was the consensus of the Town Board that due to the two upcoming road projects, possible reconstruction of 30th Avenue along with deciding what the future holds for a town hall, they would suggest the 2024 levy remain the same @ \$350,000 - General Fund, \$60,000, Fire Fund, \$40,000 and Road & Bridge at \$250,000.

Benno Kuhl, P.O. Box 292, Sartell – Mr. Kuhl questioned whether 30th Avenue would be widened and if the possible money received from the legislature would cover the entire cost of reconstruction. He also questioned how the cost of the project is split? Equally between the jurisdictions?

Josh Bentley, 2605 7th Ave. No. – Mr. Bentley also questioned whether the cost is split evenly between the jurisdictions. Mr. Bentley also questioned whether the ARPA funds need to be spent by a particular date and if they are not spent, will the township need to reimburse the funds not spent. Treasurer Dullinger stated the funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026. She was not sure about whether they need to be reimbursed.

Mr. Heim reviewed some previous numbers from Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Engineer. Ms. Teich estimated the engineering costs would be roughly \$450,000 and the right-of-way acquisitions approximately \$250,000. The split of these costs would be done according to the amount of roadway each jurisdiction owns. LeSauk Township owns roughly 2 miles of 30th Avenue, so our portion would be higher.

Shawn Christen, 2255 Riverside Ave, Kurt Rasmussen, 389 Pine Ridge Road – Mr. Christen questioned how many miles does the project cover, where does it begin and end and which jurisdictions are involved.

Mr. Heim stated it would be approximately 5 miles beginning at County Road 4 and continuing north till the St. Stephen city limits. The jurisdictions involved are the city of Sartell, St. Wendel Township, LeSauk Township and Brockway Township.

LeSauk Town Hall – During the discussion of the levy, the residents questioned where the Town Board stood on a new Town Hall. Jeff Westerlund asked for a show of hands whether they thought a new town hall should be built. Many residents were in agreement that with the cost of construction today and acquisition of land, a new town hall would be very expensive. The possibility of renting a space may be a better option or just continue using the community center for the monthly meetings and using the Park Fellowship Church for elections and our township clean-up day activity.

Clerk Plante is in agreement that to spend money on a new town hall wouldn't make sense financially, but it would be nice to have a "home" for the township. She noted that trying to schedule meetings, the storage of election equipment and other various township items is difficult when you don't have a home for those items. The township is currently renting a 16 X 20 storage unit, but current files, office equipment etc. is housed in her home. The township supervisors asked those in attendance to inform the board if they become aware of or hear of any possible rental space or property for sale that would suit the township.

JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT THE 2024 LEVY AT \$350,000 AS SUGGESTED BY THE TOWN BOARD, SECOND BY LLOYD TRAUT. Mr. Dennis was asked if he would like to amend his motion to include the division of the funds be done by the Town Board. Mr. Dennis amended his motion as follows: TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT THE 2024 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 LLOYD TRAUT, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

TRI-REC PROGRAM/SARTELL SUMMER REC PROGRAM

Josh Bentley introduced himself stating he has been hired by the City of Sartell for a part time position to help set up the Sartell Summer Rec Program. Previous District 748 Community Education Director, Kristine O'Brien, has left the district to become the community education director at the Paynesville School District. Approximately 3000 students participated in various programs during the summer of 2022 and he hopes to increase those numbers this summer.

Mr. Bentley reported he is in the planning stages right now and discussed various programs they plan to offer to students. Swimming lessons, soccer, T-ball and various day camps will be some of the available sessions.

Sue Symanietz, 2979 Winnebago Road – Ms. Symanietz questioned when the information will be out since she has already seen information for other local school districts and we do not want to lose our local students to them. Mr. Bentley said information will be coming out in the April 21st Sabre Spotlight. Ms. Symanietz suggested doing some advertising prior to that date by using local billboards, the Newsleader, district website etc. Just even stating that information for summer rec will be coming soon so that people are aware it is being worked on. Mr. Bentley will look into those

possibilities.

SUE SYMANIETZ MOTIONED TO CONTRIBUTE THE DONATION OF \$3000 TO THE SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM BY LESAUK TOWNSHIP FOR 2023, SECOND BY SHAWN CHRISTEN, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Clerk Plante asked Mr. Bentley to send an invoice for payment as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Annual Meeting – JOSH BENTLEY MOTIONED TO SET THE TIME OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IN 2024 TO BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M., SECOND BY JON DENNIS, 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Department Update – Peter Kedrowski, Fire Chief of the Sartell Fire Department, spoke to the residents in attendance. Mr. Kedrowski is in his second year as the full-time fire chief, reporting he presently has 32 volunteer fire-fighters on staff and has been approved to have 35. He said the department is a very young department with most fire fighters having 5 years or less of experience. Bruce Rieland is a full-time fire inspector for the area and they are presently advertising for a part-time fire inspector. He stated he is a firm believer in having an active inspection program, especially for fire codes in rental facilities.

He reported the township had 21 calls during 2022, or 11% of the total call volume for the fire department. In total, there were 186 calls during 2022, with no major fire loss of property within the city of Sartell or the township.

The fire department also received funding through ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) which allowed the fire department to purchase a 2nd set of gear for firefighters. This is very important since it allows the gear to be cleaned properly between fire calls. It has been noted and found that many firefighters have been diagnosed with cancer which is being related to carcinogens on firefighter's gear as well as what they may inhale while fighting fires.

During the past year, the fire department purchased a new ladder truck and are now working to replace the older water tanker truck which was originally owned by the township. The department has been given a FEMA grant of \$325,000 for the purchase of a new water tanker truck. The old fire tanker can no longer be used and hopefully could be used on a farm.

Jon Dennis, 32170 County Road 1 – Mr. Dennis questioned whether the fire department is equipped to handle the type of railroad accident that has recently occurred with the east side of Sartell having railroad traffic continuously. Fire Chief Kedrowski stated he felt they would be equipped since St. Cloud Fire Department has a hazmat team. Our firefighters would need to respond and also pointed out that with the Mississippi River close to the railroad tracks, it would make for another complicated clean-up and containment procedure.

Township Clean-Up Day – Jeff Westerlund stated the annual township clean-up day will either be held on Saturday, April 22nd or April 29th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Park Fellowship Church located on County Road 4. Further information will be mailed to all township residents. Included in the mailing, will be a list of items that are allowed to be brought as well as the cost of items such as refrigerators, TV's etc. He did inform those who were present the clean-up day was started to clean

township roads by providing orange vests, garbage bags & gloves. These will be provided for township residents who would like to clean up their township street by contacting either himself or the Town Clerk. The clean-up day has grown into a chance for township residents to get rid of items they have in their garage at a small cost to them. The Town Board feels that it also may help deter people from throwing items in the township ditches which the township is obligated to pick up. The township hopes to again work with Opatz Recycling of Holdingford.


Snowplowing – The question arose whether township residents are allowed to plow snow across a township street onto other people's property. If this is happening, the Town Board asked to be made aware of the situation and a letter will be sent. There is a state statute which states it's a misdemeanor to plow snow onto another person's property or a public street.

Orderly Annexation Agreement – Margaret Starry, 3rd St. So. – Ms. Starry questioned whether their property can be annexed to the city of Sartell without their consent. They live on 3rd St. So. and it is in an encompassed area. When the Town Board worked with the City of Sartell on revisions to the Orderly Annexation Agreement, encompassed areas (those township properties that are completely surrounded by city property), will be annexed to the city three years after the adoption of the agreement which was signed in August of 2021. Clerk Plante will email Ms. Starry a copy of the orderly annexation agreement and after she reviews it, she can contact the board or attend a meeting with further questions.

There being no further business, JON DENNIS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING, SECOND BY MARGARET STARRY, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk


Benno Kuhl
Annual Meeting Moderator