

**LE SAUK TOWNSHIP  
STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
Ordinance No. 26-01**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE  
REGARDING THE PARKING AND TOWING OF VEHICLES**

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Le Sauk ordains:

**ARTICLE I. Parking Restrictions and Towing.** Chapter III of the Le Sauk Township Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 303 as follows:

**Section 303 – Parking Restrictions and Towing**

**General Provisions**

303.01. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Section is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, those traveling on town roads, those maintaining town roads, and Town property by regulating parking, abandoned and junk vehicles, prohibiting the placement of objects on town roads, and providing for the towing of vehicles determined to be in violation of this Section. The prohibitions and regulations contained herein are in addition to, and are intended to supplement, state regulations. To the extent this Section may be more or less strict than any applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances, the stricter provision shall apply. This Section applies only to town roads and town property within Le Sauk Township. This Section expressly does not authorize or apply to the towing of vehicles located entirely on private property or public rights-of-way under the control of other road authorities.

303.02. **Authority.** The Town Board adopts this Section pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168B, Minnesota Statutes, sections 169.04 and 164.36, and such other law as may apply to regulate the parking of vehicles on town roads and town property, and to provide for the towing of vehicles in certain situations as described herein. Nothing in this Section limits the authority of law enforcement officers in their ticketing or towing of vehicles within the Town.

303.03. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the meaning given them in this subsection.

Subdivision 1. “Abandoned vehicle” shall have the meaning given the term in Minnesota Statutes, section 168B.011, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. “Junk vehicle” shall have the meaning given the term in Minnesota Statutes, section 168B.011, subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. “Motor vehicle” or “vehicle” has the meaning given motor vehicle in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.011, subdivision 42.

Subd. 4. “Object” means any natural or artificial material or thing that may reasonably be deemed as interfering with the maintenance or safe use of a town road if placed or deposited, and allowed to remain, within a town road.

Subd. 5. "Parking enforcement officer" means a duly elected supervisor of the Town Board and any law enforcement officer.

Subd. 6. "Person" means a natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or other form of business entity.

Subd. 7. "Snow season" means from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> each year as well as any days before or after that period during which one or more inches of snow has accumulated.

Subd. 8. "Trailer" means a device with wheels that is towed by a motor vehicle and is used to carry property or passengers. The term includes, but is not limited to, boat trailers, snowmobile trailers, motorcycle trailers, towable icehouses, and towable campers.

Subd. 9. "Truck" shall have the meaning given the term in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.011, subdivision 88.

Subd. 10. "Towing company" means a person engaged in the business of towing or recovering vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bar, tow line, or dolly.

Subd. 11. "Town property" means any property owned, or directly managed, by Le Sauk Township and includes, but is not limited to, parks, open spaces, utility easements, and the town hall property.

Subd. 12. "Town road" means the entire width between the boundary lines of any way or place under the Town's jurisdiction or dedicated to the public by plat within the Town when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purposes of vehicular traffic. Unless expressly indicated otherwise in this Section, the term includes all portions of the right-of-way including, without limitation, the travelled surface, shoulders, ditches, and the remainder of the easement area regardless of whether it is regularly brushed, mowed, or otherwise maintained by the Town.

303.04. **Parking Enforcement Officers.** The duly elected supervisors of the Town Board are individually designated parking enforcement officers for the purposes of this Section and shall have all powers provided such officers under this Section, as well as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168B, and are authorized to act on behalf of the Town. Law enforcement officers shall have all the powers of a parking enforcement officer under this Section and are authorized to tow vehicles from town roads in accordance with their usual procedures.

303.05. **Designating a Towing Company.** The Town Board may designate one or more towing companies that a parking enforcement officer may contact to tow a vehicle in accordance with this Section. If one or more towing companies are designated, a parking enforcement officer shall use a designated company to the extent reasonably possible under the circumstances. The Town Board may enter into such agreements with the towing companies as it deems necessary to provide for the timely towing and storage of vehicles. A towing company towing or impounding a vehicle pursuant to this Section shall be responsible for impounding and properly storing and safekeeping the vehicle and its contents. Any towing company towing a vehicle upon order of the Town shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in the towing, storage, and sale or other disposal of the vehicles it tows.

## Parking Restrictions

303.06. **Compliance.** Every vehicle parked upon a town road shall comply with the provisions of this Section. Parking or placing a vehicle in a location or under the circumstances prohibited hereunder is a violation of this Section and such vehicle is subject to towing and impoundment. Junk, abandoned, and unlicensed vehicles are subject to the regulations in Section 405 of this Code and may be towed and impounded in accordance with the procedures established in this Section.

303.07. **Prohibitions.** It is unlawful for a person to park a vehicle, or any portion of a vehicle, whether attended or unattended, on a town road in way which violates any of the following:

- (a) In a place designated no parking;
- (b) In a place prohibited by Minnesota Statutes, section 169.32;
- (c) In a place prohibited by Minnesota Statutes, section 169.34;
- (d) In a place or manner described in Minnesota Statutes, section 168B.035, subdivision 3(b);
- (e) So as to interfere with the maintenance of a town road by the Town or its authorized contractor. For the purposes of this prohibition, maintenance includes, but is not limited to, snowplowing, grading, seal coating, and bituminous overlay; or
- (f) For longer than 72 consecutive hours from May 1st through October 31st each year.

303.08. **No Parking Designation.** The Town Board may, by resolution, designate any portion of a town road as no parking. The resolution shall describe the no parking area and indicate if the designated is for a limited period or year-round. The Town shall provide for the posting of appropriate signs at all designated no parking areas. Parking is prohibited in any portion of a town road the Town has designated and signed as no parking.

303.09. **Snow Season Parking.** It is unlawful for a person to park a vehicle, whether attended or unattended, during the snow season in a way which violates this section. Each of the following constitute snow emergency regulations for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168B.

Subdivision 1. **Snow Accumulation.** No parking is allowed on a town road when there is an accumulation of 2 or more inches of snow until after the Town has completed plowing it.

Subd. 2. **Time Parked.** During periods when less than 2 inches of snow has accumulated, or after the snow has been plowed and the snow event has ended, no vehicle may be parked on a town road for more than 12 consecutive hours.

303.10. **Truck Parking.** It is unlawful for a person to park a truck on a town road longer than 12 consecutive hours, except when loading or unloading is actively taking place.

303.11. **Trailer Parking.** It is unlawful for a person to park or place a trailer on a town road longer than 12 consecutive hours, except when loading or unloading is actively taking place.

303.12. **Placing Objects Prohibited**. It shall be unlawful to place or leave any object or property, except a vehicle, on any portion of the travelled surface or shoulder of a town road. The Town may cause any object or property placed or left in violation of this section to be immediately removed and the person who caused or allowed the object or property to be placed or left within the town road shall be responsible for fully reimbursing the Town for all costs it incurs to remove and dispose of the object or property.

### **Towing and Impounding Vehicles**

303.13. **Towing Authorized**. The Town may tow and have impounded a vehicle parked or abandoned in violation of this Section as provided in this section.

303.14. **Procedure for Towing Vehicles**.

Subdivision 1. **Procedures**. A parking enforcement officer shall comply with the following procedures before ordering a vehicle towed pursuant to this Section.

Subd. 2. **Citation and Towing Report**. A parking enforcement officer shall issue a citation and towing report regarding the vehicle in violation of this Section. The towing report shall describe the vehicle, the license plate number, and the reasons for towing. The citation and towing report may be on the same form. The parking enforcement officer and the tow driver shall both sign the towing report.

Subd. 3. **Waiting Period**. If the vehicle is not moved or otherwise made to comply with this Section within four hours of the issuance of the towing report, the parking enforcement officer may order the vehicle towed and impounded.

Subd. 4. **Immediate Towing**. A parking enforcement officer may order the immediate towing and impoundment of a vehicle, upon the issuance of a towing report and without allowing for a waiting period, if it is parked or located so as to:

- (a) Violate the snow season parking prohibition contained in this Section;
- (b) Interfere with snowplowing the traveled portion of a town road;
- (c) Block a driveway, alley, town road, or fire hydrant;
- (d) Be within 30 feet of a stop sign and visually blocking the stop sign;
- (e) Be within a designated no parking area;
- (f) Constitutes an accident or traffic hazard to the traveling public as determined by a parking enforcement officer;
- (g) Prevent egress by a lawfully parked vehicle; or
- (h) Violate state law allowing the immediate towing of a vehicle.

Subd. 5. First Notice. Within five days of towing a vehicle, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the Town or the towing company shall mail or otherwise deliver written notice of the towing to the registered owner and all lienholders of the vehicle. If the Town provides the notice, it shall provide a copy of the notice to the towing company and if the towing company provides the notice it shall provide a copy to the Town. If the owner or lienholders cannot be identified, the notice required by this subdivision shall be published at least once in the Town's official newspaper. The notice shall include the following information:

- (a) The date the vehicle was towed;
- (b) The place the vehicle was towed from;
- (c) The reason(s) the vehicle was towed;
- (d) The year, make, model, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle;
- (e) The place where the vehicle is being held;
- (f) Information about the right to reclaim the vehicle and who to contact; and
- (g) The failure to reclaim the vehicle constitutes a waiver by them of any right, title, and interest in the vehicle and its contents and consent to dispose of both.

Subd. 6. Second Notice. If the vehicle remains unclaimed after 30 days from the date the first notice was sent, the Town or towing company shall send the owner and lienholders a second notice. The notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

303.15. **Retrieving Impounded Vehicles**. An owner shall contact the towing company directly in order to reclaim a vehicle towed and impounded pursuant to this Section. The towing company may charge the reasonable costs of services provided in the towing, storage, and inspection of the vehicle before releasing the vehicle. The towing company shall be responsible for requiring sufficient proof of ownership before releasing a vehicle or its contents. A registered owner of a vehicle may retrieve the contents of a vehicle without charge and without retrieving the vehicles when authorized to do so pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 168B.07, subdivision 3.

303.16. **Disposal of Unclaimed Vehicles**. The towing company shall be responsible for properly disposing of the unclaimed vehicles and their contents impounded pursuant to this Section in accordance with the authority provided to impound lots under law to sell or otherwise dispose of impounded vehicles. The towing company shall not dispose of or sell an unclaimed vehicle for at least 45 days after the first notice and 15 days after the second notice.

303.17. **Penalty**. Violation of this Section is a petty misdemeanor and the cost of prosecution may be added to the penalty imposed. A vehicle found in violation of this Section is subject to towing, impoundment, and sale or other disposal as provided herein and as authorized by law. The Town may take such actions as allowed it under law to enforce this Section and to recover the costs incurred related to the enforcement, towing, impoundment, and disposal of vehicles including, but not limited to, placing a lien on a vehicle and certifying the costs as a service charge against the vehicle owner's property that is collectible under Minnesota Statutes, section 366.012 and such other authority available to the Town under law.

**ARTICLE II. Impounding Vehicles.** Section 405.05 of the Le Sauk Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

**405.05. Impounding of Vehicles.** The Town may take into custody and impound any abandoned, unlicensed, unauthorized or junk vehicles that are being stored or parked in violation of this Section. The Town shall follow the procedures established in Section 303 of this Code for towing and disposing of a vehicle.

**ARTICLE III. Repealer.** Sections 405.06, 405.07, 405.08, and 405.09 of the Le Sauk Township Code are hereby repealed in their entirety.

**ARTICLE IV. Effective Date.** This Ordinance is effective on the first day of publication of an approved summary.

**ARTICLE V. Incorporation of Amendments.** The Town Attorney is authorized and directed to incorporate these amendments into the Town Code. This authorization includes incorporating any prior amendments that have not been incorporated, updating indexes, and making any typographical or other non-substantive corrections as may be needed. The updated document shall constitute the official Le Sauk Township Code.

Adopted this 16th day of March 2026.

**BY THE TOWN BOARD**

  
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Dan Heim, Chairperson

Attest:   
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Marlyce Plante, Clerk

