

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – Sartell Community Center – Liberty Rm
January 14, 2025

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 Josh Bentley, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and 3 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING PAUL THEIS SITE PLAN TO NEW BUSINESS AND TOWNLINE ROAD UPDATE TO OLD BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM: No open forum items.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

David Barsody – LeSauk Township Building Inspector – Mr. Barsody was asked to attend the meeting to discuss any questions, changes or updates to the building inspector contract. He has been our inspector since 2011 and is the building inspector for Wakefield Township plus Benton County townships as well as the cities of Cold Spring and Little Falls. He states the building permit fees are still the same and based on the 1994 universal building codes though there has been an update to the building codes in 1997, the updates made to the codes were not significant and most inspectors continue to use the 1994 codes.

It was the consensus of the town board to continue with Mr. Barsody's service, thanking him for the opportunity to work with him. He stated he will gather the townships building inspector records he has stored since the township has been without a town hall and bring them the next time he attends a meeting or will contact Clerk Plante to arrange a time to get the records.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2024 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2025 REORGANIZATION-QUALIFICATIONS MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Supv Heim reviewed with the board members that amendments to the subdivision and MS4 stormwater ordinances are complete as well as the new solar ordinance. He stated the following items will now be focused on with Attorney Gilchrist.

St. Cloud Orderly Annexation Agreement – Attorney Gilchrist is working with the city of St. Cloud and Sartell staff to complete this agreement. This agreement is being considered due to the planning reconstruction of County Road 1 from the Sauk Rapids bridge to the roundabout at the intersection of County Road 1 and County Road 120.

Cannabis Ordinance – Supv Heim discussed briefly with the supervisors the need to have this ordinance in place. He also questioned them which zoning areas of the township they felt a cannabis business could be

allowed in the township. Supv Wagner felt we should not allow them in any zone. Supv Heim stated we cannot “zone” the business out of areas of the township but the town board definitely can restrict them to the commercial (C-1) and agricultural overlay (A-20) zones, but not allow them in the residential (R-1) zoning. Supv Heim asked the board supervisors to again review the ordinance in order to act on it and possibly hold the public hearing at the next joint planning board meeting.

Town Code Provisions – Attorney Gilchrist drafted a list of town code provisions that could be added to the Stearns County Law Enforcement. Since the list was quite lengthy, Supv Heim asked him to choose and reduce the most significant codes related to our township. Atty Gilchrist has completed that list and Supv Heim will let him know so the township can then proceed with the next step to have these added to the Stearns County Law Enforcement.

In-Law Suite Ordinance Amendment – Attorney Gilchrist drafted an ordinance amendment for “In-law Suites” in the township code. Supv Heim has not had a chance to review it and will have Clerk Plante forward it to the town board members so they can review it also.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Building Inspector Barsody was in attendance earlier in the meeting to discuss his contract with the township.

DECEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley provided copies of the December treasurers report to board members. He reviewed the revenue the township has received during December which included the final real estate settlement of approximately \$139,000 plus building permits and reimbursement from the SCORE grant for the township clean-up day. Ending balance in all funds along with the \$400,000 investment balance is \$1,021,186.03. Expenses during December, included payroll, road plowing, MS4 audit charges and basic monthly charges. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE DECEMBER 2024 TREASURERS REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley presented all claims and vouchers to the town board. There is some catch up from only having one meeting in December. Invoices and EFT’s totaled \$31,767.26. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL INVOICES AND EFT’S IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,767.26 (CHECK #14397 THRU 14412 PLUS EFT’S 306, 307 & 308), SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Area Planning Organization (APO) Meeting – Supv Westerlund attended the APO meeting of which he is now vice-chairman and will be chairman next year. He informed the board the APO is changing their publication paper to the St. Cloud Live paper since it has been found to charge much less than the St. Cloud Times. The St. Cloud Live paper comes out once per week. Clerk Plante will research when the paper comes out and deadlines for placement of an ad and report at the next meeting. Supv Westerlund also reported that Minnesota Department of Transportation was to do a presentation at the meeting, but due to the weather could not attend.

Town Hall Parking Lot – Supv Westerlund reported he snowplowed the town hall parking lot after the latest snowfall.

Office Solutions Furniture – Supv Westerlund met with Chris Henry to get estimates of tables and chairs for the new town hall. He reported that a folding table similar to the tables at the community center were roughly \$700 each with non-folding tables approximately \$350 each. Plastic chairs for the seating area were roughly \$60 each. More research will be done – he took a picture of the chairs in the seating area at the

community center and will get an estimate for similar ones. This will be discussed at the next meeting. If the board resumes meetings at the new town hall prior to purchasing chairs and tables, the folding tables and chairs the township has will be sufficient. The large table used by the town board previously, may not fit into the remodeled meeting area, and even if it does, it may not fit through the doorway.

Dan Heim –

James Vearrier, 32157 County Road 1 – Sewer Hook-Up – Mr. Vearrier contacted Supv Heim questioning whether his property would have access to sewer hook-up. Supv Heim referred him to Matt Glaesman, city of St. Cloud, since this property will be in the orderly annexation area to the city of St. Cloud who may be able to provide services.

Peter Koenig, 902 Terry Lane – Split of Parcel – Mr. Koenig contacted Supv Heim questioning whether he would be able to split a parcel he owns on Terry Lane. Supv Heim referred him to Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell project planner, since this property is listed as one of the encompassed properties that will be annexed to the city of Sartell.

Right-of-Way Permit – Xcel Energy – 17th St. North (Pinecone) – The right-of-way permit application fee was received from Xcel Energy and permission given to Xcel to begin their planning for power poles on 17th Street for the upcoming construction of a solar garden.

Kevin & Deborah Traut – Solar Garden Conditional Use Permit Application – The application and fee was received on December 12th from Ken & Deborah Traut and Solar Stone Energy. With the 60-day rule to act on a conditional use permit, and the inability to have the public hearing within the 60 days, Supv Heim will contact the Traut's and Solar Stone to request a 60-day extension. The public hearing for the permit will be held by the Joint Planning Board and scheduled for February 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Deck Replacement – Supv Heim has been working with Mike Nielsen, contractor for Jeremy Sand, on the replacement of a deck on the Sand home. Since the proposed deck is being enlarged from the original, a shoreland review was needed and completed by Stephen Grittman, shoreland consultant for the township. No further information is needed in order for Mr. Nielsen to continue with the replacement of the Sand deck.

David Blommel, S.E.H. Agreement Renewal – Mr. Blommel, engineer for the township, sent an agreement renewing S.E.H.'s services for the upcoming year, requesting approval and signature by the board. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR S.E.H. ENGINEERING, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

David Traut – Ghost Plat/Site Plan – Supv Heim had just received a ghost plat of the Traut plans for the construction of their new home on 19th Avenue No. No action is required at this time and the plat/site plan will be reviewed by the town board when it has been finalized.

Kent Davis, 3514 Riviera Road – Boat House Expansion – Supv Heim has been in contact with Jerry Konz of JK Landscaping regarding the removal and replacement of a boathouse located on the Davis property. Our shoreland consultant, Stephen Grittman, has stated that this will be a major shoreland alteration and the boathouse cannot be expanded without a permit. The OHWL (original high-water level) has been determined but alterations will require permits.

Minnesota Department of Human Services – Waters Church Daycare Application-Zoning – Supv Heim received an email from Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell project planner, who had received an email requested the zoning approval of the Waters Church Daycare Facility they are currently constructing. Supv Heim will let the human services department know they property is in the township and the zoning is approved.

Tim Mann & Jodi Teich – Mailbox Destruction – Mr. Mann, who lives at 2460 35th Street, contacted Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Department and Dan Heim regarding the destruction of his mailbox by a snowplow. Supv Heim contacted ASTECH Inc., who informed him the city of Sartell plows 35th Street. Supv Heim then contacted Anna Gruber, city administrator for the city of Sartell, who will contact their

public works department to handle this issue.

City of Sartell Joint Planning Board Members for 2025 – Supv Heim has contacted Kari Haakonson questioning the joint planning board members for 2025. Ms. Haakonson did know that Ryan Fitzthum & Tim Elness have both been assigned as members, but wasn't sure of the third member and who were names alternates. She will let Supv Heim know as soon as she finds out.

Paul Wagner –

Township Day at the Capitol – Supv Wagner questioned whether this has been approved to attend, which it has been. He and his wife Lori, plan to attend, but wasn't sure of the transportation yet since a Minnesota Association of Township bus has not had significant people sign up to use the bus transportation.

Clerk Report –

February 11 – Sartell School District Referendum – Clerk Plante informed the board that she will be an election judge at Sartell City Hall on February 11th. With the referendum election being held that day, the regular township meeting will not be able to be held. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO CHANGE THE FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 BEGINNING AT 6 P.M., SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante will let the board know whether a room will be available at the community center on the 10th at the next scheduled meeting.

St. Cloud School District Referendum – Clerk Plante just received an email from Christine Hatch of the St. Cloud School District, requesting the use of Faith Journey Church for the St. Cloud school district referendum vote on April 8th. Clerk Plante will contact Ms. Hatch as well as the church to see if the church is available etc. Clerk Plante stated she will not be able to work that particular election since she will be unavailable.

Name Change of Hardrives – Clerk Plante received a letter stating that Hardrives Inc. will now be known as Minnesota Paving & Materials.

TV Cart @ Community Center – Clerk Plante was contacted by Ann Doyscher-Domres of the Sartell Community center questioning whether the township plans to use the TV cart and if not, they would like to purchase the cart. The board were of the consensus that it is planned to take the cart to the new town hall when it is completed. Clerk Plante will pass the information along to Ms. Domres.

Jim Zehn – Appraiser – Mr. Zehn contacted Clerk Plante regarding a property located on River Vista Lane which was damaged by a fire in mid-2024. He questioned whether the house could be repaired or completely torn down and rebuilt and wanted information on whether this would require site plan approval or any other necessary permits. Mr. Zehn will be in touch when it is determined what the homeowner plans to do – since this house is located on the river, it may need shoreland approval also.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – The town board discussed the carpet placement in the new town hall. The carpet layers will determine the size of the carpet that was left in the basement to see whether it would cover the meeting area and whether patching of the bare spots from the removal of the walls would look reasonable. It was also the consensus of the board to not change out the light fixtures in the kitchen area. Supv Heim gave a brief synopsis of his emails and discussions with Jason Dale regarding the unpaid invoice for design plans Mr. Dale had drawn up even though he was not awarded the remodeling bid.

Zander Assessment – After discussion, SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION 2025-01 FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ZANDER PROPERTY FOR \$14,504.67 FOR A TERM OF 5 YEARS AT 5% INTEREST, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Attorney Gilchrist will draft the new resolution with the necessary information.

Thomas Property – The Thomas property continues to collect abandoned junk and vehicles. Supv Heim

has still to hear from Tim Oswald of Stearns County whether they have viewed the property to determine if the Thomas's have complied with their clean-up provisions.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will remain under old business and viewed in the spring and summer.

Website Redesign - This will remain on the agenda to begin after the new town hall is complete.

Fee Schedule – Discussion was held by the town board regarding the fees charged for conditional use permits, variances, plats etc. Treasurer Bentley was asked to review the last several applications for these to determine whether the application fee covers the actual costs the township ends up spending. He will report on this in the near future so a determination can be made whether our fees should be increased.

Cannabis Ordinance – This was discussed earlier in the meeting but also mention was the fact that the joint planning board will be meeting for the Traut solar farm conditional use permit on February 25th and hopefully the cannabis ordinance public hearing can be held at this meeting also.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim reviewed with the board members the zoom meeting that was held in October. Permitting from the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and the COE (Army Corp of Engineers) is almost complete. Approximately 90% of plans are now complete and Jodi Teich, Stearns County Highway Director, plans to set up a meeting to go over other areas of the project. The plans right now would be to finalize all permits & plans some time in late summer of 2025, with bids going out in early 2026 and construction beginning in the spring of 2026.

MS4 Annual Assessment – SUPV HEIM MADE THE MOTION THAT LESAUK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD THEIR ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM DETERMINING NO CHANGES ARE NECESSARY AT THIS TIME, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED THAT THE LESAUK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD THEIR ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINED THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE MS4 PERMIT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MARCH, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stearns County Agreement for Registration, Compliance & Enforcement of Cannabis Retail Businesses

– Attorney Gilchrist reviewed the agreement sent by Stearns County and determined it would not be needed by the township.

Paul Theis Site Plan, 3675 Spider Court – Mr. Theis provided a site plan which indicates additions to his present accessory building which is 1080 square feet. Mr. Theis plans to add to the west side and the north side of the building. There will be a "lean-to" construction on one side with the other side enclosed and sided with the same siding as the original building. The enclosed area will also have a bathroom. The addition will place his building at approximately 2400 square feet. The allowed size in the R-1 zoning is 3600 square feet. The impervious coverage is also under the 40% allowed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR PAUL THEIS WITH ADDITIONS TO TWO SIDES OF THE EXISTING ACCESSORY BUILDING, MAKING SURE SIDING MATCHES, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Dave Blommel, Township Engineer – Solar Inspections – It was the consensus of the town board that engineer Dave Blommel, will do the solar inspections for the township when solar garden/farm conditional use permits are applied for in the township.

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