

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Tuesday, December 16, 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. in the LeSauk Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, Clerk Marlyce Plante, Treasurer Josh Bentley and 3 interested parties.

AGENDA: SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING DEPUTY SHERIFF CRAIG POGATSHNIK, RON MALESKA & BRUCE THEISEN TO OPEN FORUM AND REMOVING THE DECEMBER ROAD REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Deputy Sheriff Craig Pogatshnik – Deputy Pogatshnik has been the liaison officer for the township for the last several years. He reported the township will be assigned a new liaison officer during the next reporting period. Deputy Pogatshnik emailed the last couple months reports to Clerk Plante of all activity in the township. He briefly discussed calls the sheriff's department received on parking issues on 27th Street. He stated there is little the department can do since the street is not posted nor are there any ordinances against parking on a public street.

The board members thanked Deputy Pogatshnik for reports to the town board he has made the last several years and appreciates all the Stearns County Sheriff's Department handles in the area.

Bruce Theisen, 140 County Road 120 – Property Clean-Up – Mr. Theisen was sent a letter regarding the clean up of his property and asked to attend this meeting. Mr. Theisen informed the board he and his wife, Wendy, no longer live in the home and plan to put it on the market hopefully in the spring. He and his wife have had several medical issues the past year and are aware of the accumulation of property and vehicles. Mr. Theisen hopes to have the property cleaned up and ready for the market in 2026.

Ron Maleska – Property Split – Mr. Maleska and his brother, William, own a 120-acre parcel in the northern area of the township. They would like to split off a 40-acre parcel as part of family settlement and inheritance for his sister. Supv Heim has discussed this with township attorney Troy Gilchrist and Kari Haakonsen, city of Sartell Planning Director. After discussions, it was their consensus the split could be done by certificate of compliance with the understanding that further split of property would need to be platted. Mr. Maleska agreed to allow the township to contact Sam DeLeo, a surveyor who is well-versed in the township's regulations. Mr. Maleska also agreed to reimburse the township the cost of Mr. DeLeo drafting the correct legal descriptions for the new 40-acre parcel as well as the remaining parcel.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE CLERK PLANTE ISSUE THE CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE FOR THE 40-ACRE SPLIT OF THE MALESKA PROPERTY AND THE REMAINING PARCEL AFTER RECEIVING THE CORRECT LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FROM SAM DELEO, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante will contact Mr. DeLeo.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: No business from the floor.

MINUTES: SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2025 REGULAR TOWNSHIP MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Atty Gilchrist has completed the Town Code Ordinance Violation Regulations and has sent them to Chad in the Stearns County Attorney's Office for review. Atty Gilchrist reiterated to Supv Heim the township is responsible for cost of prosecuting these code violations should they wish to do so. He continues to work on the St. Cloud Orderly Annexation Agreement.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No Report.

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Bentley reviewed the November Treasurer's report with town board members. Ending cash balance in all accounts was \$555,810.42 plus \$424,237.56 balance in Investment accounts. Total ending balance is \$980,047.98. Expenses in November were almost \$12,000.00.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER TREASURERS REPORT AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CLAIMS & VOUCHERS: Treasurer Bentley presented the invoices & claims totaling \$178,804.44. Expenditures in November were much higher since the township received the invoice for the right-of-way acquisitions for the town line road project which was \$148,933.26, building inspector billing for \$19,041.73 plus monthly expenses and salaries. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$178,804.44 (CHECK #14602 THRU 14617 PLUS EFT'S 332 & 333), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

CMWEA (Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance) – Supv Westerlund attended the last meeting of members of CMWEA of the year on December 4th. The new MS4 report will be due in the spring of 2026.

Margaret Stang – Pinecone Road – Ms. Stang contacted Supv Westerlund regarding the icy condition of the townships portion of Pinecone Road. Supv Westerlund was aware other board members had received phone calls regarding this area & ASTECH was contacted to place salt & sand in the area.

Snowplowing at Town Hall – Supv Westerlund stated the snowplowing of the town hall parking lot and sidewalk shoveling is a big job with significant snowfalls. He did not clear the town hall area for a couple of days after the snowfall and questioned whether that is a concern. Clerk Plante noted she had not gone to the town hall, but with rental of the basement, those businesses may need to access the building. Supv Westerlund received a quote from Ground Control, a business located in Sartell, for snowplowing, weed control etc. They charge \$105 per hour for plowing and \$75 per hour for sidewalk clearing. For the time being, Supv Westerlund will continue plowing and clearing of the snow plus the sidewalk areas at the town hall, but if he is unable to or unavailable, Supv Wagner will clear the parking lot and sidewalks.

Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Conference – Supv Westerlund reported he attended the annual conference at the River's Edge Convention Center. After viewing a mock township meeting, he questioned the MAT attorney's whether a timeframe could be placed on residents wishing to speak at

township meetings. The MAT attorneys stated a timeframe can be placed on residents. This item will be placed on the agenda for our January 2026 Reorganization-Qualifications Meeting.

Furniture Removal on 30th Avenue – Supv Westerlund removed furniture that was thrown in the 30th Avenue ditches.

Fire Extinguishers in Town Hall – Supv Heim asked Supv Westerlund to have the fire extinguishers located in the town hall checked and refilled if necessary. They have a due date of January 2026.

Dan Heim –

Amanda Scott – Upper Deck Owner – Supv Heim spoke with Doug Welk of ASTECH regarding an email he received from Ms. Scott stating her concerns regarding the icy conditions of Pinecone Road. Supv Heim emailed her and noted the portion of Pinecone Road is plowed and sanded as needed, but with windy conditions and freezing temperatures, the portion of Pinecone consistently ices over.

27th Street Parking Concern – Supv Heim was contacted by residents regarding parking on 27th Street. Supv Heim informed them to contact the sheriff's office immediately so they can come to the area and see what is going on.

Lynne Hansen -Supv Heim received a voicemail from Ms. Hansen regarding the plowing of Northridge Lane. After researching and contacting Ms. Hansen, it was noted that Northridge Lane is located in St. Wendel Township. Ms. Hansen was given contact information for the board members of St. Wendel.

Bunde Property Questions – Troy Felton, a realtor for Ron & Marti Bunde, contacted Supv Heim with questions regarding the Bunde property. Questions pertained to whether an accessory building could be built, what would the setbacks be from County Road 1, setbacks from the shoreland, splitting the property etc. Since this property is located in shoreland, with the Mississippi River and the Sauk River, a variance process would be needed to construct an accessory building and right of way questions may be directed to the county highway department.

Brian Donnay, 422 19th Ave. – 2nd Detached Building – Supv Heim was contacted by Mr. Donnay questioning whether he would be able to construct a second detached building. Mr. Donnay currently has a detached garage and an accessory building. He would like to remove the present accessory building and replace it with a new accessory building. The property is located in the U-1 zoning district, the township board would be the recommending body and the Joint Planning Board would have the final decision.

Robert Sexton Parcel – Derek Kunkel had contacted Supv Heim regarding a parcel owned by the Robert Sexton Estate questioning whether a 24 X 26 accessory building could be constructed on the .92-acre parcel. Supv Heim noted the parcel has a metes and bounds legal description and would be grandfathered in. Supv Heim has not heard back from Mr. Kunkel.

Doug Welk – ASTECH – Smart Salting Training – Mr. Welk and the snowplow driver for the township are required by the MPCA to have the Smart Salting training. Mr. Welk is doing an “in-house” training on the smart salting.

Sand Point Well @ Town Hall – Supv Heim asked Clerk Plante to check with Traut Wells whether a sand point well would be an option for watering the town hall lawn along with its cost.

Parking Regulations @ Town Hall – Supv Heim discussed having parking regulations. There are no parking regulations within our township ordinances and regulations. It was the consensus of the town board to have Supv Heim contact Atty Gilchrist to check whether it is something the town board would like to pursue and have in the ordinances.

Paul Wagner –

17th Street North Grading – Supv Wagner reported that ASTECH has graded 17th Street.

35th Street North Stop Ahead Sign – Supv Wagner discussed whether there is a stop ahead sign on 35th

Street heading to the west/30th Avenue. He is concerned since there have been several cars that have gone into the ditch at the intersection of 35th and 30th Avenue. Supv Heim stated there is a stop ahead sign. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante research the cost of having the flashing red LED lights around the stop ahead sign or what could be done to make drivers aware there is a stop sign ahead. She will contact John Peterson of ID Sign Solutions as well as Tyler Tyser of the M-R Sign Company to get some cost estimates.

Lawrence Traut Property on 1st Street North – Supv Wagner questioned what is being done with this property. Supv Heim informed him the 35-acre parcel was annexed to the city of Sartell in August and is currently being developed.

CLERK REPORT:

Stove Estimates for Kitchen – Clerk Plante gathered estimates for stoves from several area businesses. The following were for basically the same style stove: 5 burner Stainless Steel unit, cord cost and delivery fee are basically extra at all the businesses –

- M & H Appliance - \$899.00 – Delivery \$45 – Cord \$30
- Karl's - \$709.99 – Delivery \$75.50 – Cord \$15
- Menards - \$798.00 – Stainless \$698.00 White, Delivery \$50 – Cord \$39
- Home Depot - \$669.00 – Stainless, Delivery \$39 – Cord \$36 (Must be ordered – 1 week)
- Quality Appliance - \$719.00 – Stainless, Delivery \$69.95 – Cord \$19.95
- Costco - \$719.00 – Everything included in the price

It was the consensus of the town board to allow Clerk Plante to order the stove she was comfortable with since the prices, delivery fee and cords are relatively the same. She stated that Costco was the best, but would be nice to use a locally owned store also.

MAT Annual Conference – Clerk Plante attended the MAT Annual Conference at the River's Edge Convention Center. A lot of good information was given to those in attendance. The Minnesota Paid Leave was a break-out session that had a lot of township officers confused and many questions. She attended the break-out sessions regarding resolutions and ordinances, road maintenance and a question-and-answer session for clerks & treasurers. MAT Attorney Steve Fenske and his assistant attorneys discussed the mock township meeting they held and discussed the many areas a lot of town boards question and may not be conducting township meetings according to state statutes.

Website Opinions – Clerk Plante asked town board supervisors to view the website designed and re-written by Leslie Rosenthal.

November Fine Reimbursement – The fine reimbursement for November was \$43.33

Snowplowing At Rosewood & County Road 1 – Clerk Plante was contacted by Kim Lakmann of 304 Rosewood Road regarding the plowing of the entrance to Rosewood Road. Ms. Lakmann stated the entrance was filled with snow and when existing the area, it is difficult to see. Clerk Plante contacted Doug Welk of ASTECH who went out with a truck to check the intersection and push the snow away from the entrance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thomas Property – No further information.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will remain under old business and reviewed in the spring. Since the township has passed an ordinance regarding tall/long grass, this could be sent to this property owner.

Website Redesign – Reported in Clerk Plantes report.

Fee Schedule – Discussion was held on the cost of shoreland alterations. Supv Heim noted it was suggested to set the fee for a minor shoreland alteration at \$1250 and a major shoreland alteration at

\$2500. It was decided at a previous meeting to have Joel Asp of S.E.H. Engineering take over the shoreland alteration applications. With this change, the cost of these will increase with the use of an engineer to review as well as Stephen Gritman, township shoreland consultant. These changes will be considered when the town board reviews and updates the fee schedule for the township.

Townline Road Update – We received the first invoice from Stearns County for right of way acquisitions. Supv Heim noted there were just a couple of right of way issues to be addressed.

Township Lawn Weed & Feed Bids – This will be discussed further in the Spring of 2026.

Tree Trimming – This will be considered after all board supervisors have viewed the areas suggested by Supv Westerlund that need tree trimming and removal. Hopefully this can be done some time during the winter months since bids may be cheaper.

LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) – Supv Heim worked with S.E.H. Engineers, Dave Blommel and Joel Asp to complete application for LRIP funds for 17th Street North (30th Ave Area) The estimated cost to reconstruct 17th Street for a 9-ton road was \$700,000 and a 10-ton road was \$800,000. Since 30th Avenue is being rebuilt as a 10-ton road, that is what was used in the application. If received, the township would be responsible for approximately \$137,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

17th Street North (Pinecone Area) Road Maintenance Agreement – Evan Carlson has been in contact with Supv Heim questioning whether a new road maintenance agreement is needed for 17th Street (Pinecone Road Area) since a 2nd solar site on the Fitzthum property will be added. Atty Gilchrist stated an amendment should be added to the previous agreement. Supv Heim will contact Mr. Carlson questioning whether he received a signed agreement from the 4th property owner (T & A Properties) Agreements were signed by the Fitzthum and Weyer property owners.

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