

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Monday, March 10, 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 new LeSauk Town Hall.

PRESENT: Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Paul Wagner, Clerk Marlyce Plante and Treasurer Josh Bentley plus 9 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING KENT DAVIS, SHORELAND ALTERATION TO NEW BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Lucas Dingmann, Interim Sartell Fire Chief - Mr. Dingmann has another commitment so is unable to attend the annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th. He noted that in 2024, the fire department responded to 236 calls, 28 of these were located in the township. There were two structure fires, a home on River Vista Lane and a garage on County Road 1. The fire department has 30 volunteer fire fighters and are currently interviewing and testing three more and have received permission to have up to 35 fire fighters. Three of the current fire fighters are female, two of whom are Mayo Clinic medics. He also informed the Town Board that in 2024 the department took delivery of a new Tender (also known as a tanker). It holds 3000 gallons of water and can be used when fire hydrants aren't nearby. The department will also be taking delivery of a new engine in 2026. It will replace Engine 22 which has been sold. In 2025, a new UTV will be purchased with money from the fire department capital funds. This vehicle will allow the fire department to rescue injured parties in areas where other emergency vehicles may not be able to access.

Mr. Dingmann also discussed a new Tyler Tech system which is being used by the Stearns County Sheriff's department and the Sartell Fire department was chosen to be a test city for the new mobility app through Tyler Tech. The technology will give the fire department better data on response times, maps of current calls, comments and call information. Also discussed was the realignment and implementation of the new Public Safety model in the city of Sartell. Police Chief Brandon Silgjord, will be the new Public Safety Director and will be the main contact for public safety with the Sartell City administrator. Under this model, a life safety division will be created and include fire inspections, code enforcements and rental inspections.

Deputy Sheriff Craig Pogatshnik – Deputy Sheriff Pogatshnik is the townships liaison officer. He discussed the Tyler Tech system which the department implemented the end of 2024. It of course, has a learning curve as all new systems have, but feels it will be great technology for all those who are using it, which includes the Sartell Fire department who were brought on as a test city.

He noted the township has had very few issues and questioned whether the town board had any concerns they wanted to bring to the sheriff's department. Supv Wagner questioned how medical calls are handled in the township. Both Deputy Sheriff Pogatshnik and Fire Chief Dingmann, noted it would go through the county first. If a deputy sheriff is unavailable due to the large area they cover, Sartell would be dispatched to the call. There were no other concerns at this time.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Kevin & Deborah Traut - Solar Garden in the Traut Valley Farm Plat – Supv Heim has been in

contact with township attorney Troy Gilchrist. There were several questions and concerns that were brought forth at the public hearing held on February 25th and discussed with Atty Gilchrist. The Traut's applied for a conditional use permit which follows the property and goes with the land. It was questioned whether this could be changed to an interim use permit which would remain until the expiration date set within the interim use permit. Atty Gilchrist's recommendations were to change the ordinance to an interim use permit versus a conditional use permit. No new public hearing would have to be held for the Traut Solar farm, but a public hearing would need to be held to adopt the new ordinance change. An extension of 90-day would need to be received from the Solar Stone.

Jeff Bertsch, Solar Stone Energy, was in attendance, as was Kevin & Deborah Traut. Mr. Bertsch stated they will provide the 90-day extension letter within the next several days and agree to the change from a conditional use permit to an interim use permit. He also informed the town board and those in attendance they are re-working the cost of the transmission line that will now be a buried line versus an above ground line in order to allow for the adjacent neighbor's pivotal irrigation system. A public hearing will be planned for the end of April for the ordinance change at then a possible decision on the solar farm could be made at the regular township meeting held after the joint planning board meeting.

Gary & Linda Rehnke, 1643 6th St. So, deck change to a 3-Season Porch - Mr. & Mr. Rehnke came before the board to discuss the steps to change their present deck to a 3-season porch to better utilize the use of the deck. Supv Heim will assist the Rehnke's in drafting a site plan and check with Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell's Director of Community Economic Development, whether the site plan will need to be approved by the Joint Planning Board since the property is located in the U-1 zoning district and calls for a Type #3 review where the township recommends approval and the Joint Planning Board has final approval.

MINUTES:

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Atty Gilchrist is currently working on the Town Code provisions with Stearns County and the orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley reported the first CD that was due for renewal on February 26th, has been renewed at 4.15% for an 8-month period and it gained just under \$8000.00 in interest which he rolled into the \$200,000 CD. The second CD is due in May. He reviewed the February expenses which total just under \$65,000.00. The main one being the remodeling of the town hall for \$43,500 and snowplow/sanding expenses during February.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN THE FEBRUARY TREASURERS REPORT, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Claims & Invoices – Treasurer Bentley presented the invoices and claims for tonight's meeting that are just under \$24,000. Included in these are the monthly payroll and approximately \$15,000 for

snowplowing/sanding of township roads. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS AND EFT'S IN THE AMOUNT OF \$\$23.543/73 (CHECK #14438 THRU 14450 PLUS EFT'S 311 & 312), SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Clerk Plante was asked to check with Minnesota Association of Townships whether Mary Barron-Traut, the townships deputy clerk, is covered under the life insurance policy for town board members.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Tire Pick-Up – Supv Westerlund picked up and recycled the 6 tires that were found on 17th St. North. **Wayne Lepinski, River Vista Lane, Pine Tree Branch Removal** – Supv Westerlund tried to contact Robert Hernandez, who is the property owner where the pine tree branch is located, by phone and in person but received no answer. Adjacent neighbor, Wayne Lepinski, contacted the township questioning whether Mr. Hernandez's pine tree branches can be trimmed in order for him to have a clear view when he is exiting his driveway. It was the consensus of the town board to have Clerk Plante send a letter to Mr. Hernandez stating the township will be trimming tree branches in the road right-of-way of township roads.

Dan Heim –

Jeremy Sand & Angela Murphy, 3934 Riviera Road – Accessory Building – Supv Heim received the needed information from Jeremy Sand along with the application fee for a variance to construct an accessory building in the front yard.

Jesse Johnson, 2734 Riverside Ave – Deck Rebuild - Supv Heim was contacted by Mr. Johnson who had questions about building a deck. Supv Heim provided the regulations to Mr. Johnson for construction of a deck. Further information and a site plan will be forthcoming.

LaVerne Dehler, 40 County Road 120 – Tires – Supv Heim received a call from Ms. Dehler regarding tires that were dumped on her property. Supv Heim informed her where the tires could be recycled and she said she will have the tires taken care of. Ms. Dehler also reviewed the 2024 annual report and had several questions regarding the items; the annexation of encompassed properties, the fire contract and the process of public hearings held in the township.

Tad Farris, 3776 Riviera Road – Shoreland Alteration – Mr. Farris contacted Supv Heim regarding his plans to replace boulders etc. Mr. Farris will send the site plan and related information to Supv Heim. It will then be reviewed and determined by our shoreland consultant whether Mr. Farris's plans will be a major or minor shoreland alteration.

Wayne Cymbulak, MS4 Training – Mr. Cymbulak sent information to Supv Heim regarding a training that is being held in Cottage Grove. The training is for people who are responsible for inspecting construction sites for compliance through a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System entity (MS4). Mr. Cymbulak stated the training is geared towards engineer but township supervisors may still benefit. The fee is \$170.00 for a one-day seminar. It was the consensus of the town board not to attend since it would be more for our township engineer. Supv Heim received an email regarding another MS4 training which will be held by the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) that is geared towards townships in central Minnesota.

Paul Wagner –

TV & Printer – Supv Wagner and Westerlund brought the TV, cart and printer from the community center to the Town Hall.

Paul Wagner, 2934 35th St. No. - Property Split & Lean to Construction – Supv Wagner spoke with the board members of purchasing 6 acres from adjacent neighbor, Gary Spoden, with plans to add the acreage to his parcel. He also would like to construct a “lean-to” on his present accessory building. Supv Heim will look into the platting process for the acreage split and asked Mr. Wagner to develop a site plan for his plans for the “lean-to” on his building.

Clerk Report –

Fine Reimbursement – Clerk Plante received a notice the township received \$66.66 fine reimbursements for the month of February. She noted this is the first fine reimbursement since November, 2024.

ID Sign Solutions – John Peterson – Clerk Plante received an email from Mr. Peterson who stated the township can place a speed limit sign on River Vista Lane and a “No Outlet” sign near the walking path sign. Before placing the “No Outlet” sign, the county should be contacted to make sure this area is not in the County Road 1 right-of-way area.

Stu Giffin – Presentation at Annual Meeting – Mr. Giffin would like to attend the annual meeting to present a brief presentation for the handicap accessible restroom the Sartell Lions are planning for the all-inclusive playground park. The town board agreed to have Mr. Giffin do the presentation. Clerk Plante will email him.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall – Several items are needed at the new town hall. Supv Heim gave Clerk Plante information on a spill kit that is needed at the town hall. Having a spill kit and “Oil-Dri” product available for emergencies is part of the townships MS4 requirements.

Thomas Property – Supv Heim has again emailed Mr. Oswald of Stearns County Environmental Services on February 26, 2025 regarding the Thomas property. He has not heard back yet.

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

Website Redesign – Clerk Plante has emailed Leslie Rosenthal regarding the township’s decision to update the townships website.

Fee Schedule – Treasurer Bentley is working on previous variances, conditional use permits, shoreland alterations etc. to determine the average cost.

Cannabis Ordinance – Town Board members were asked to read the draft of the cannabis ordinance in order to make a decision on pursuing the adoption of the ordinance. The board members were in agreement to limit possible cannabis business to the A20 zoning areas of the township. Supv Wagner said he spoke with Jeff Bertram, Stearns County Commissioner, who’s opinion is to turn the cannabis regulations over to the county. After discussion, Supv Wagner will contact our county commissioner, Joe Perske, and invite him to the next township meeting.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim reported nothing new on the project. He did email the jurisdiction representatives involved questioning whether the out-crop of granite on 30th Avenue and owned by Cold Spring Granite, could be mined.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phil Thorson, 3678 Riviera Road – Remodeling – Mr. Thorson is purchasing the James & Kathleen Plombon property with closing scheduled for April 10th. Supv Heim has received information regarding the remodeling by contractor, Kurt Schimmnich. The Thorson’s plan to change the present garage into a great room with a bath and then add on a 26 X 32 attached garage. It was originally thought they were constructing an unattached accessory building in the front yard which would require

a variance. The property is presently being surveyed by WBB surveyors and the septic system is being upgraded, then a site plan will be sent to Supv Heim.

Paul Tomczik, 2944 Winnebago Road – Remodel & Shoreland Alteration – Supv Heim had Stephen Grittmann, shoreland consultant, review the shoreland alteration planned at the Tomczik parcel. Mr. Grittmann stated the alteration does not need a shoreland permit but a site plan for the remodeling will need to be approved by the town board.

Kent Davis, 3514 Riviera Road – Boathouse Rebuild and Shoreland Alteration – JK Landscape is the contractor hired by Mr. Davis. A major shoreland alteration permit is needed for the Davis project and a building permit is needed for the rebuild of the boat house since it exceeds the 200 square feet. The boathouse height limit shall be 10 feet without a deck and 8 foot maximum with a deck. The boulder wall is being replaced with a retaining wall which must be screened with the planting of vegetation. Mr. Davis and JK Landscaping must also receive a sign-off from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since this alteration falls in the shoreland impact zone. Nicola Blake-Bradley of the DNR has been sent this information.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MAJOR SHORELAND ALTERATION FOR KENT DAVIS, 3514 RIVIERA ROAD TO REPLACE A BOULDER WALL AND STEPS 10 FEET NORTH OF THE BOATHOUSE AND DECK, SCREENING OF THE STRUCTURE FROM THE WATER TO REDUCE VISIABILITY MUST BE DONE ALONG WITH EROSION CONTROL MEASURES BEING TAKEN WITH THE PLANTING OF VEGETATION BY THE BOULDER WALL, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

There being no further business, SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyce L. Plante

Marlyce L. Plante,
LeSauk Township Clerk