

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Tuesday, March 25, 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 3 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING SITE PLAN FOR JESSE JOHNSON AND SITE PLAN FOR PAUL TOMCZIK TO NEW BUSINESS, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Variance for Accessory Building in the Front Yard - The public hearing for the requested variance to construct an accessory building in the front yard was held at the Joint Planning Board meeting prior to the regular township meeting.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-03 GRANTING A VARIANCE FOR JEREMY SAND AND ANGELA MURPHY FOR PLACEMENT OF A 26 X 32 SQUARE FOOT ACCESSORY BUILDING IN THE FRONT YARD WITH LIKE KIND AND COLOR SIDING AS THE EXISTING HOME, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Jeremy Sand, 3934 Riviera Road – Site Plan for Placement of Accessory Building – The town board reviewed the site plan proposed by Mr. Sand. Mr. Sand noted the existing utility shed will be moved to the south side of the property to allow space for the new accessory building. Side yard and front yard setbacks have been met. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR JEREMY SAND, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Annual Meeting Minutes - The board members reviewed and corrected all spelling and grammar errors. These minutes are approved at the following years annual meeting by township residents in attendance at the meeting.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Atty Gilchrist continues to work on the Town Code provisions with Stearns County and the orderly annexation agreement with the city of St. Cloud. Atty Gilchrist has also made updates to the Solar ordinance which will be considered at the April Joint Planning Board meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: No report.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley discussed the invoices and claims he presented. The largest being the property taxes

for the new town hall which were \$7400.00. This should be the only time we have to pay them since the township will be exempt from paying future property taxes. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE OF \$9422.41 (CHECK #14451 THRU 14457), SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley informed the supervisors there will be an update to CTAS (City & Township Accounting System). They are asking jurisdictions whether they would like to participate. It was the consensus of the board to have Treasurer Bentley participate in the CTAS update process.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Chicken Raising – Supv Westerlund discussed the raising of chickens in the township and whether it is allowed. He reviewed the township ordinances and could not find a definitive answer. Supv Heim stated raising chickens would only be allowed in A-20 (Agricultural-20 acres) and in the R10 (Residential Overlay -10 acres).

Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) Short Course – Supv Westerlund attended the MAT short course held in St. Cloud. He met with Julie Johnson, Watab Township Clerk, who discussed the possible trainings regarding MS4 permit process and related information. A possible Friday in April has been discussed and it would be held at the Watab Town Hall.

Amazon Prime Membership for Townships - Supv Westerlund reported the possible Amazon Prime membership availability to townships being sponsored by MAT. More information will be available in the near future.

District 5 Meeting @ Freeport Community Center – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ALLOW ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT 5 MEETING ON APRIL 10 AT THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY CENTER, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Dan Heim –

“Fiber Is on Its Way” Advertising Signs – Supv Heim reported several advertising signs have been placed at various intersections near and in the township. The signs are being placed by Albany Mutual Phone who is working on the placement of fiber optics for areas of Stearns County that are underserved.

Gary & Linda Rehnke – 3-Season Porch – The Rehnke’s came before the town board previously to discuss the process to replace their deck with a 3-season porch. Supv Heim worked with them to draw up a site plan and informed them of the approval process. The Rehnke’s contacted Supv Heim informing him they have temporarily decided to suspend their plans for the 3-season porch due to the estimated cost of the structure.

JK Landscaping – Davis Boathouse Reconstruction, 3514 Riviera Road – Supv Heim has been working with Nicola Blake-Bradley from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the major shoreland alteration at the Davis property and reconstruction of the boathouse. Ms. Blake-Bradley has informed the Davis’s, JK Landscaping and Supv Heim the boathouse door should be a neutral color and screening should be done around the boathouse and retaining wall. She also informed Supv Heim that any time there is an impact on shore land such as this, the DNR must be notified 10 days prior to any public hearing or site plan approval.

Tad Farris, 3776 Riviera Road – Shoreland Landscaping – Mr. Farris is planning to do landscape work in the shoreland on his property. After research for contractors it was found that Stearns County states that any contractor doing work in shoreland must be registered with the county. Mr. Farris’s site

plan for possible alteration of the shoreland has not been finalized yet.

Angie Gueldner, 2611 7th Ave. – Ms. Gueldner contacted Supv Heim regarding the regulations for placement of a privacy fence on her property. He gave her the information she needed and stated she just purchased her property and is aware of where the property line pins are located.

Lynn Thene – Larry Traut Property – Ms. Thene contacted Supv Heim regarding the possible splitting of her late father's 35-acre parcel. After contacting Kari Haakonson, City of Sartell Economic and Development Director, Supv Heim informed Ms. Thene the property could be split and remain in the township, but a declaration of restriction on the property would need to be agreed upon. This basically states that when the property is split, it would need to be annexed to the city of Sartell.

APO (Area Planning Organization) – At the recent APO meeting, APO Director Brian Gibson, discussed a cost sharing of \$1.2 million for the future Beltway Line. The Beltway Line is being considered as an option for travelers in the area to bypass the St. Cloud city area. It was the consensus of the board to have Clerk Plante invite Mr. Gibson to a township meeting (possible the first meeting in May) to further explain what that cost-sharing project entails and how it would affect the township.

Stuart Giffin – Sartell Lions – Photo Request – Mr. Giffin contacted Supv Heim questioning whether the Town Board would consider a photo when the township presents a check to the Sartell Lions for the future construction of a rest room at the all-inclusive playground. It was the consensus of the town board to do so and have Clerk Plante contact Mr. Giffin when he is able to attend a future meeting for the presentation and photograph.

Zoning Map Revision – Supv Heim had contacted Stantec with the annexations of township parcels during 2024. Stantec has made the revisions and printed a 36 X 48 map and six 11 X 17 maps.

322nd St. No. – Luke Langner contacted Supv Heim informing him a bill was introduced in the House and Senate for the reconstruction of 322nd Street. The bill requested an appropriation amount of \$3.15 million but the amount would not cover the total cost of its reconstruction. The city of St. Cloud will reach out to the House and Senate to modify the bill to cover the full cost.

Dennis Molitor & Al Patton – Supv Heim met with Mr. Molitor and Mr. Patton of the Sartell Historical Society. They toured the town hall basement and discussed the possibility of renting the space for items they are currently storing in an 8 X 16 storage unit. Supv Heim spoke with Mike Finn, Sartell Fire Inspector, who stated he did not think the basement would need to be finished if it is only being used for storage, but a fire extinguisher and blue tooth fire alarm will need to be installed in the basement.

Phil Thorson, 3678 Riviera Road – Mr. Thorson is purchasing the James & Kathleen Plombon property and plans to change the homes garage into a living area and add a garage onto the house to the west. Supv Heim is waiting to receive a site plan from the Thorson's.

MS4 Information – Kevin Straus from the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) sent out an email requesting township board members take part in a survey. The survey is to find subjects that can be used in possible training sessions planned for central Minnesota townships with MS4 permits. Supv Heim also completed Part 1 of the application for the MS4 general permit for LeSauk Township.

Paul Wagner –

Paul Wagner, 2934 35th St. No. - Property Split & Lean to Construction – Supv Wagner discussed possible plans he has to buy a portion of his adjacent neighbor's property owned by Gary Spoden. The town board viewed his property on the Stearns County Mapping system and measured approximate setbacks from existing buildings on Mr. Wagner's property and the Spoden property. Supv Wagner would also like to construct a "lean-to" on an existing building on his property, but has not decided on the size yet.

Joe Perske – Cannabis Discussion – Supv Wagner spoke with County Commissioner Joe Perske regarding his opinion on allowing Stearns County to handle the cannabis licensing etc. Mr. Perske felt

the county has the law enforcement to handle and there would be uniform control throughout the county. The county has 13 licenses they will be issuing. Sartell is limiting their licenses to 2. The board discussed the cannabis ordinance drafted by township attorney Gilchrist. Supv Heim stated a decision should be made noting this has been on the agenda for the past several months requesting both Supv Westerlund and Wagner to read the ordinance to understand it so an informed decision can be made. Supv Westerlund and Wagner both said they have asked other township board supervisors who have all stated they are having their county take over the cannabis regulations in their township.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO ADOPT AND PROCEED WITH THE CANNABIS ORDINANCE DRAFTED BY ATTORNEY TROY GILCHRIST. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO TURN OVER THE CANNABIS REGULATION CONTROL TO STEARNS COUNTY, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 2-1. SUPV HEIM VOTED NAYE. Supv Heim will contact Attorney Gilchrist regarding what else is needed to have the county take over the cannabis regulations.

Clerk Report –

Special Assessment Search – Clerk Plante received a special assessment search for the Kevin & Deborah Traut property from Eric Franzen of Epic Properties located in Burnsville, MN. Clerk Plante emailed Mr. Franzen back informing him there were no township levied or pending assessments on the property and also informed him an application for a solar farm has been brought before the board, but no decision has been made on it.

Life Insurance Policies for Deputy Clerk & Treasurer – Clerk Plante contacted MBA (Minnesota Benefit Association) who carries the life insurance policies for town board members. If the town board chooses to add the deputy clerk & deputy treasurer to the list of township officers, they can do so. They will then be billed at the same rate as other board members - \$80/each for a \$5000 policy. It was the consensus of the board to leave as is.

Resolution to Change Polling Place Location – Clerk Plante had Atty Gilchrist draft a resolution designating the new town hall as the townships official meeting and polling place. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-04 CHANGING THE LESAUK TOWNSHIP POLLING PLACE TO THE NEW TOWN HALL AT 311 4TH AVE SOUTH, SARTELL, MN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Meal Reimbursement for 742 Election Judges – Clerk Plante questioned whether the township could reimburse the election judges who will be working the special district 742 election since they district is not providing meal reimbursement. It was the consensus of the board that since the election judges are performing an essential service for township residents, that would include meal reimbursement.

Record Retention – Clerk Plante discussed with the board the township records that could be transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society. She plans to contact them and have an agent come to the town hall to review records that could be microfilmed and moved to the MN Historical Society building in St. Paul. The township has adopted the general retention records schedule many years ago in order to be able to do this.

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization – Clerk Plante reminded the board of the upcoming Board of Appeal that will be held on Wednesday, April 9th at 6 p.m.

Bidinger Special Assessment Search – Clerk Plante received a special assessment search for the Robert Bidinger property located on Pinecone Road & 3rd Street. She completed the search stating there are no pending or levied township assessments, but informed the title company to contact the city of Sartell since this property is an encompassed parcel which is slated to be annexed to the city.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thomas Property – Supv Heim reported that he received a copy of a letter by Mr. Oswald of Stearns County Environmental Services he sent to the Thomas property owner giving them to May 1st to clean up their property.

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

Website Redesign – This will be done some time in May.

Fee Schedule – Treasurer Bentley is reviewing previous variances, conditional use permits, shoreland alterations etc. to determine the average cost. The fee schedule needs to be revised in order to regain costs the township is paying for such as a shoreland review by the consultant or township engineer.

Cannabis Ordinance – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim reported nothing new on the project. Supv Heim did inform the board that 4th Avenue where the new town hall is located will be reconstructed along with a roundabout at 4th Avenue & County Road 133.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jesse Johnson, 2734 Riverside Ave. No – Deck Construction – Supv Heim received the site plan for a 12 X 16 square foot deck on his home. All setbacks were met for placement of the deck. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR JESSE JOHNSON DECK CONSTRUCTION, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Paul Tomczik, 2944 Winnebago Road – Remodel Site Plan – Supv Heim had Stephen Gritman, shoreland consultant, reviewed the shoreland alteration planned at the Tomczik parcel. Mr. Gritman stated the alteration does not need a shoreland permit. The town board reviewed the site plan presented. The Tomczik's will need to replace their septic system since it is older than 5 years. The impervious coverage of the Tomczik parcel fell under the 25% limit. Kari Haakonson from the city of Sartell had no concerns of added porch. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR THE TOMCZIK REMODEL AT 2944 WINNEBAGO ROAD, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MARCH ROAD REPORT:

Supv Westerlund provided his road report along with pictures of various issues in the township. He reported that trees and brush have been removed on 17th Street North, the minimum maintenance road. These trees etc. have been removed by Xcel for placement of power poles for the future solar farm planned for the area. He plans to purchase 5 bags of cold patch to patch potholes on 30th Avenue.

He discussed the condition of township roads being OK, good, great or excellent. He discussed the poor condition of 322nd Street which is being patched by St. Cloud. As reported earlier in the meeting, 322nd Street has been introduced in a bill in the house and senate for \$3.15 million dollars for reconstruction.

Annual Road Inspection – This will be discussed and set at the next regular meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted, Marlyce L. Plante, LeSauk Township Clerk

