

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Tuesday, April 22, 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, Deputy Clerk Mary Barron-Traut and Treasurer Josh Bentley plus 7 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA MOVING DENNIS MOLITOR TO BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Ordinance 25-01 – Solar Farm/Garden Change from Conditional Use to Interim Use – The public hearing for the amendment to change a solar farm/garden property use from conditional use permit to interim use permit was held at the Joint Planning Board meeting previous to this meeting. Supv Heim noted this change was brought forth by concerned residents questioning whether the solar farm/garden use could be terminated. With an interim use permit, an expiration date can be placed on the property. He stated the Traut-MN Solar Energy interim use permit will have a 45-year termination date. The interim use permit process must begin 12 months after the approval of the interim use permit. The property owner may request an extension should it take longer than the 12 months. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 25-01 CHANGING THE SOLAR FARM/GARDEN PERMIT FROM A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO AN INTERIM USE PERMIT, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Kevin & Deborah Traut – Minnesota Solar LLC Farm Interim Use Permit Application – Chrm Heim discussed several items with Jeff Bertch of Solar Stone/Minnesota Solar LLC which will need to be completed and discussed prior to the issuance of the solar farm interim use permit. Mr. Bertch stated the power lines will be buried to allow for the swing irrigation system owned by Roys & Mary Barron-Traut. A suggestion to have a glare study completed but it was deemed non-essential and caused no concern since the panels are made of a non-reflective material. Any drainage issues will be looked at by the township engineer along with the township attorney drafting a document relating to both the drainage and electrical power issues.

Benno Kuhl, 348 Pine Ridge Road – Mr. Kuhl questioned whether the screening plan will also contain a maintenance plan within it. Chrm Heim stated a screening plan will be drafted by the Solar Stone Company to be approved by the Town Board. When that is on the agenda, Chrm Heim will ask that notices be sent to the surrounding property owners.

Also discussed were the decommissioning & maintenance of the solar panels be addressed in the permit along with a bonding clause that would include an inflation clause in order to cover future costs of maintaining the panels and area.

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-07 FOR AN INTERIM USE PERMIT FOR KEVIN & DEBORAH TRAUT AND THE MINNESOTA SOLAR LLC-SOLAR STONE COMPANY FOR THE OPERATION OF A SOLAR FARM/GARDEN, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Dennis Molitor – Sartell Historical Society – Township Attorney Troy Gilchrist drafted a rental

agreement for the Sartell Historical Society to rent a 200 square foot area of the town hall's basement to store items the historical society presently have in a storage unit that is not climate controlled. Mr. Molitor stated he has received approval by members of the historical society with a couple of provisions. The first provision is they would like to pay the rental fee of \$50 per month in 6-month intervals. They will also purchase the required 10-lb fire extinguisher for the basement and the township will provide a blue tooth nest system fire alarm as well as placement of a smoke detector in the basement. It was the consensus of the board to enter into the rental agreement with the Sartell Historical Society, having Atty Gilchrist change the items discussed. Mr. Molitor was given a key in order for them to move items out of their storage unit prior to the end of April.

Diane St. Sauver, 341 Pine Ridge Road – Driveway Enlargement – Supv Heim received an email which contained a diagram of the St. Sauver's plans to enlarge their driveway. The concern was whether they would exceed the impervious coverage on their parcel. Supv Heim calculated the square footage of all buildings, sidewalks and the new driveway and they fall below the allowed 40% impervious coverage. It was the consensus of the town board to allow the driveway reconstruction. Supv Heim will email Ms. St. Sauver with the information and approval to go ahead with the driveway reconstruction.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: Building Inspector David Barsody has written an email and letter to Tom & Karen Lee, 32688 River Vista Lane regarding the demolition and removal of their entire home without a demolition permit. He also has tried to contact by email, Jim Zehm Construction who has been working with the Lee's after they had a fire in their home. No answer has been received from either party.

CLAIM VOUCHERS:

Treasurer Bentley reviewed with the board the claims and invoices for this pay period. Treasurer Bentley is continuing to work on average costs of conditional use permits, variances, shoreland alteration permits etc. This is being done to allow for possible changes in the township fee schedule. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE OF \$2452.03 (CHECK #14469 THRU 14473), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Chuck Ertl – Ditch Mowing Proposal – Mr. Ertl came before the Town Board with his proposal for the 2025 ditch mowing and brush cutting. Mr. Ertl stated the proposal is the same as last year with the first cutting at \$1050.00 and the 2nd cutting at \$2000.00. This would include brush cutting around the guardrails on 40th Street and near the bridge on 30th Avenue. Supv Westerlund discussed with Mr. Ertl the buckthorn that continue to grow around the 30th Ave. bridge that needs to be cut down. SUPV

HEIM MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM CHUCK ERTL FOR THE 2025 DITCH MOWING AND BRUSH CUTTING FOR A TOTAL OF \$3050.00, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Township Clean-Up Day – Supv Westerlund discussed the upcoming Township Clean-Up Day. He plans to be at the site the entire day. Supv Wagner will provide him with a magnetic roller to go through the church parking lot after the event. He also suggested that after the meeting this evening, the board go into the townships garage and go through items that can be put in the dumpster.

Lawn Mower Purchase – Supv Westerlund will be cutting the township halls lawn throughout the summer. He can use his riding lawnmower, but where the bank is quite steep, he is asking the board to approve the purchase of a self-propelled push mower. He will also like some guidance where the property line is. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE SUPV WESTERLUND PURCHASING A NEW SELF-PROPELLED PUSH MOWER AND NECESSARY WEED CONTROL PRODUCTS FOR THE TOWN HALL LAWN, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0. Supv Westerlund will look at mowers at Fleet Farm where he also works and gets an employee discount.

Dan Heim –

Wayne Hoover - ASTECH – Mr. Hoover contacted Supv Heim who informed him they will be sweeping the platted areas in the township on April 23rd if the weather cooperates.

Fire Contract Survey – Supv Heim questioned whether all board members had completed the Fire Contract survey forwarded to them. Supv Wagner and Westerlund had not done so as of yet.

Compost Site Permits – Supv Heim contacted Kari Haakonson, city of Sartell Economic Development Director, questioning how many compost site permits were purchased in 2024 by township residents. She stated that 118 permits were purchased. Josh Bentley suggested a discussion at our annual meeting whether more residents would purchase a compost site permit if the township would pay a portion of the permit. Clerk Plante will put this on the agenda for the 2026 annual meeting.

Round Barn Parcel – As part of the city of Sartell's agenda, Supv Heim said the parcel with the round barn and owned by Wilfred & Michael Weyer, has petitioned for annexation to Sartell and rezoning.

MS4 – MCM (Minimum Control Measures) 3, 4, 5 & 6. Supv Heim had Clerk Plante forward these emails that contained the training videos to Supv Westerlund and Wagner in order for them to view them and print a certificate they completed the training or an email to Clerk Plante stating they have watched and completed the videos. This must be done by all town board supervisors in order to be compliant with the MS4 permit regulations. Supv Heim also reminded the supervisors of the upcoming training at the Watab Township Town Hall for townships who have an MS4 permit and would like to learn more about subjects relating to storm water.

Pam Wenzel – Mailbox Post – Ms. Wenzel contacted Supv Heim questioning whether the township has the "u" post for her 911 sign she would like to put up. After viewing items in the garage, it was found there are no "u" posts for residents.

Diane St. Sauver – New Driveway Coverage – Supv Heim discussed this at the beginning of the meeting. The St. Sauver's fall under the impervious lot coverage with their new driveway design and will be able to enlarge the driveway as requested.

Paul Wagner –

District 5 Meeting – Supv Wagner discussed the information he received from various township supervisors regarding the cannabis ordinances at the district 5 meeting. He agrees with township attorney Troy Gilchrist, after he explained why the township needs to have their own cannabis ordinance. He also discussed the cannabis ordinance with county commissioner Joe Perske and Jeff Bertram. He congratulated Supv Westerlund on being elected to the board of directors for District 5.

Deer Pick-Up – Supv Wagner picked up two deer on 30th Avenue last week. He took them to the Traut property for disposal.

Clerk Report –

Township Clean-Up Day – Clerk Plante received an email from Pastor Scott asking whether the parking lot could be checked for sharp objects after the clean-up day event and that himself and John Uran will not be at the church that day with coffee and donuts. She had forwarded the email to Supv Westerlund since he will be manning the event.

Calendar & Corkboard Placement in the Meeting Area – Clerk Plante brought in the calendar and corkboard and questioned the board where they would like them placed. It was the consensus of the board to put the calendar up, but the corkboard is not really needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thomas Property – The Thomas's had a deadline of May 1st, but due to health concerns, Stearns County Environmental Services has given them an extension to clean up their property, but no definitive date was given.

Sullivan Yard Clean-Up – This will be viewed during the annual road inspection.

Website Redesign – Clerk Plante will start the process within the next month or so.

Fee Schedule – Once more information is completed regarding the cost of variances, shoreland alterations, conditional use permits etc., the board will discuss possible changes to the fee schedule.

Cannabis Ordinance – The public hearing regarding the cannabis ordinance will be scheduled for the Joint Planning Board meeting in May.

Townline Road Update – Supv Heim reported a Teams meeting is scheduled for April 23rd.

APRIL ROAD REPORT:

Supv Wagner provided copies of his April Road report as well as pictures of various items that are of concern in the township. He reported that 17th Street North (Udermann area) is very rough and needs grading (Supv Westerlund will call ASTECH). When viewing 17th Street, he saw there was considerable building and or remodeling at the former Mark Traut property and questioned whether a building permit was obtained. It was suggested he email David Barsody, give him the address and see if a building permit was issued. He also discussed the amount of gravel in platted areas. These areas will be swept by ASTECH as reported by Supv Heim earlier in the meeting.

Supv Wagner discussed the many small potholes on 322nd Street. Supv Westerlund was going to patch the holes, but the weather has not been warm enough.

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