

LeSauk Township Regular Township Meeting – LeSauk Town Hall
Monday, April 7, 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 3 interested parties.

SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OPEN FORUM:

Dennis Molitor – Sartell Historical Society – Mr. Molitor came before the board to discuss rental of a portion of the town hall's basement for several totes, sewing machine and a desk owned by the Sartell Historical society. They are currently renting a storage unit at \$100 per month. The historical society does not have any type of regular income and a suggestion of \$50 per month was made. They are currently paid to the end of April at their storage unit and would like to use the town hall if an agreement can be made by the end of April in order to not pay another month's storage unit rent. It was the consensus of the board to allow the historical society to use the town hall's basement and have township attorney Troy Gilchrist tweak the rental agreement that was on the Minnesota Association of Townships website which was written by Atty Gilchrist. This will be placed on the next meetings agenda.

Attorney Troy Gilchrist – Cannabis Ordinance

Atty Gilchrist was contacted by Chrm Heim informing him of the vote taken by the town board at the previous meeting to allow Stearns County to handle the cannabis regulations in the township. Atty Gilchrist asked to attend this meeting to explain to the town board the cannabis ordinance and regulations of cannabis is a complicated undertaking. But first and foremost, since LeSauk Township has zoning ordinances and regulations, we are the zoning authority and the town board cannot give that portion to the county. He stated that licenses for cannabis are handled by the State, regulations by the County and zoning is done by the township.

Supv Heim questioned Atty Gilchrist for the next steps in order to be in compliance with cannabis regulations. Atty Gilchrist suggested passing the resolution allowing Stearns County to handle the cannabis registrations. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-05 ALLOWING STEARNS COUNTY TO HANDLE CANNABIS REGISTRATIONS, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

The next step will be to reconsider the vote taken at the previous meeting allowing Stearns County to handle the cannabis zoning, then move forward with the public hearing with the Joint Planning Board to approve the cannabis ordinance for the township. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE TAKEN AT THE 3-25-25 MEETING TO ALLOW STEARNS COUNTY TO HANDLE ALL ASPECTS OF THE CANNABIS ORDINANCE AND NOW MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PUBLIC HEARING TO PASS A CANNABIS ORDINANCE, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MINUTES:

SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2025,

REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, 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: No report.

MARCH TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer Bentley provided copies of both the March Revenues and Expenses for the township. The balance in all township funds is \$934,326.47 which includes just over \$407,000 in two Certificates of Deposit. The second CD of \$200,000 is due on May 17th and Treasurer Bentley will check the interest rate and renew if it is at a good interest rate for 6-8 month's.

Treasurer Bentley also informed the board he has completed all quarterly reports for paid leave, building permit surcharge and the COVID Cares Act required reporting. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO PAY ALL VOUCHERS IN THE OF \$5602.31 (CHECK #14458 THRU 14467 EFT'S 313, 314 AND 315), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Treasurer Bentley also discussed information he received regarding expenditures of the Town Board for items such as awards, retirements etc. This will be placed on the annual meeting agenda in 2026. He also discussed the cost of a compost site permit for a township resident. It has increased to \$80 and only \$35 for a city resident. He questioned whether a meeting could be arranged with the city of Sartell to discuss this matter. The Board has brought this up several times with the city.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Jeff Westerlund –

Snow Plowing of Town Hall – Supv Westerlund reported the last snow fall which was very heavy and wet, took him approximately 3 hours to clear the town hall parking lot.

Winnebago Road – Supv Westerlund was contacted to remove a tree branch on Winnebago Road.

Jeremy Sand – Supv Westerlund received an email from Jeremy Sand questioning whether he needs a permit to put a cement slab under his utility shed. Supv Westerlund was told to forward the email to David Barsody, the township building inspector.

MS4 Part 1 Permit Application Fee – Supv Westerlund questioned whether the \$400 fee for the MS4 application fee was paid. He was informed the fee was paid with last meetings vouchers.

Dan Heim –

Erin Warren, 32169 County Road 1 – Garage Fire – Supv Heim received a call from Ms. Warren questioning what her next step is to begin reconstruction of their garage damaged by fire. She was informed to contact Building Inspector David Barsody to receive a demolition permit.

Traut Solar Farm Resolution – Supv Heim received a revised resolution from Attorney Troy Gilchrist for the Traut Solar Farm which will now be an interim use permit versus a conditional use permit. The resolution will be considered at the April 22nd meeting.

Stuart Giffin – Sartell Lions – All Inclusive Playground Restroom Donation – Mr. Giffin contacted Supv Heim and Clerk Plante questioning when a good time would be for a possible photo-op with the Town Board and an interview for the Sartell Newsleader. He also questioned the amount of the park fund in order for him to have a “large” check made and used for the picture. The amount will be

\$30,342.53. Treasurer Bentley stated no further interest will be placed in the park fund after March 31st. **Brian Gibson, Area Planning Organization Director** – Supv Heim questioned whether Mr. Gibson will be coming to an upcoming meeting. Clerk Plante has not contacted him yet.

Alan Voegelé, 2151 35th St. No. – Deck Construction – The Town Board reviewed Mr. Voegelé's site plan for construction of a deck on his home. The site plan meets all side yard setbacks. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR ALAN VOEGELE, 2151 35TH ST. NO, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DECK, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Dave Blommel, Township Engineer – Shoreland Permit Reviews – Supv Heim spoke with Mr. Blommel questioning whether S.E.H. Engineering has an employee that can review a minor or major shoreland alteration. Mr. Blommel stated that Joel Asp, is licensed to do these type of inspections and make sure they meet all requirements. He meets with contractor's doing any type of landscaping within shoreland. The expense of having him review the alterations would be covered with an escrow account requested by the township for this type of project by a township resident. SUPV WAGNER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH S.E.H. ENGINEERING, USING JOEL ASP FOR REVIEW OF SHORELAND MINOR AND MAJOR ALTERATIONS, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MS4 – MCM (Minimum Control Measures) – Supv Heim reviewed the 6 MCM's with the town board and IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) and other topics of concern with the MS4 regulations and the following motions were discussed and made.

16.8 As part of LeSauk Township's Public Education and Outreach Program, LeSauk Township annually informs all property owners within LeSauk Township with a combined newsletter and flyer about the Township's Annual Meeting, and Township cleanup day on April 26th. Included with the mailing is information regarding salt usage in the Township, pet waste disposal and IDDE information.

16.9 The LeSauk Town Board reviewed the public education and outreach program and decided that no change was needed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO HAVE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM REMAIN AS PLANNED, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

17.3 As part of LeSauk Townships public participation and involvement plan, we provided the residents in attendance at our LeSauk Township Annual meeting an opportunity to review and comment on the adequacy of the SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan), this is also posted on the LeSauk Township's website, along with instructions on who to contact if they have comments or questions. Also posted on the LeSauk Township's website is LeSauk Township's MS4 Part 2 Permit Application and the LeSauk Township's MS4 Annual report from 2021. No comments or questions were received.

17.8 The LeSauk Town Board reviewed the public participation and involvement program and decided that no change was needed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED STATING NO FURTHER CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE FOR THE SWPPP (STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

18.18 As part of LeSauk Township's IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) Program, we must conduct an annual assessment of the IDDE program. Township Supervisors will inspect for any illicit discharges during their monthly road inspections using the Illicit Discharge and Inspection Procedures document and IDDE Inspection form. All outfalls and ponds will be inspected during the Township's annual road inspection, as well as any priority areas that have been identified as part of LeSauk Township's Stormwater Illicit Discharge Inspection Procedures. A spill kit has been purchased and is readily available for use in the event of any type of spill.

The LeSauk Town Board reviewed the IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) program and decided that no change was needed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED THAT NO CHANGE IS NEEDED AFTER REVIEWAL OF THE IDDE (ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION) PROGRAM, SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

19.16 As part of LeSauk Township's Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Program, we must conduct an annual assessment of the program.

Since LeSauk Township has not had any new construction sites, it was decided that no change is needed. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO MAKE NO CHANGES TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONTROL PROGRAM, SECOND BY SUPV HEIM, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

20.23 As part of LeSauk Township's Post-Construction Stormwater Management Program, we must conduct an annual assessment of the program. The LeSauk Town Board will continue to inspect all ponds and outfalls annually.

The LeSauk Township Board decided that no changes are needed. SUPV HEIM MOTIONED FOR NO CHANGES TO THE POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

21.15 As part of LeSauk Township's Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations, we must conduct an annual assessment of the operations and maintenance program.

LeSauk Township has recently purchased a new Town Hall building. Therefore, we will make sure that whoever is in charge of maintenance, such as mowing the lawn or applying deicing salt, must be trained in BMP's. SUPV WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO HAVE THE SUPV WHO IS HANDLING MAINTENANCE AT THE NEW TOWN HALL TRAINED IN BMP'S (BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES), SECOND BY SUPV WAGNER, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Jerry Burau, 327 27th St. No. – Snowplowing – Mr. Burau sent an email stating his concerns about the speed of the snowplows when plowing roads and caused damage to his mailbox. The last snowfall was very heavy and wet and he stated they should be driving slower and watching for mailboxes. Clerk Plante will email Doug Welk of ASTECH Inc. regarding the complaint.

Lynn Thene, 1995 1st St. No. – Garbage Dumpster – Ms. Thene contacted Supv Heim questioning whether a dumpster from the township clean-up day could be brought to her father's home which they are cleaning out due to his passing. She stated they will probably fill up an entire dumpster and having the dumpster in his yard would save them trips back and forth from their father's home to Faith Journey Church. It was the consensus of the town board to inform Ms. Thene the dumpsters are meant for the entire township and not just one township parcel's clean-up. Supv Heim will inform Ms. Thene of the board's decision and suggest ordering a dumpster from any available area garbage haulers or recyclers.

Board of Appeal Meeting - The board was reminded of the April 10, 2025 Board of Appeal meeting which begins at 6:00 p.m. and must last at least 30 minutes.

Paul Wagner – Supv Wagner stated he did not have a report but will be attending the district 5 meeting that will be held in Freeport.

Clerk Report –

Annual Meeting Notice – Clerk Plante informed the board she had received an email from St. Cloud

Live/Column Support stating the public notice for the annual meeting had not been published and they would either publish again or reimburse the cost of the ad. She had them reimburse the cost of the ad but also contacted them questioning assurance this could not happen again. The township must publish legal notices to meet public hearing regulations and count on publication of these notices. They assured her the matter had been taken care of.

Dumpsters at Faith Journey Church – Pastor Scott emailed Clerk Plante questioning whether the dumpsters for the township clean-up day could be removed that same day after the event. She checked with Opatz Recycling and they would charge another \$50 per dumpster for removal of them on the weekend. It was the consensus of the board to keep the dumpsters there and have them picked up on Monday. Clerk Plante will inform Pastor Scott of the decision.

Fine Reimbursement for March – The fine reimbursement for March was \$279.96.

Park Fund Donation to the All-Inclusive Playground Restroom Fund – The amount to be donated to the Sartell Lions will be \$30,342.53. Clerk Plante will email Mr. Giffin of the amount and set May 13th as the date to have the picture taken for the Sartell Newsleader.

South Door Window Replacement – Clerk Plante informed the town board the window in the south door has condensation between the panes and will need to be replaced at some point.

District 742 Special Election – Supv Heim will be the head judge at the election being held on Tuesday, April 8th. Judy Pohlkamp, election judge, questioned whether she should be there at 6 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. Supv Heim stated 6:30 is fine since it will be a very slow day. Clerk Plante will text her the time to arrive.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thomas Property – The Thomas's have until May 1st to clean up their property as requested by Stearns County Environmental Services. Clerk Plante stated she received a call from Ted Thomas questioning when the clean-up day is and its hours.

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

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Road Inspection – SUPV HEIM MOTIONED TO SET THE ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION FOR MAY 6, 2025 BEGINNING AT 4 P.M., SECOND BY SUPV WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyce L. Plante (s)

Marlyce L. Plante
LeSauk Township Clerk