

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 03-20-2025, 6:00 PM
In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Matt Tuchel, Supervisor Erin Peitso, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

Public: Tom Gorsma, Trevor Banks, Chief Daniel Reing, Jodi Summit (The Timberjay Newspaper), Terry Carlson (The Tower News), Steve Tekautz (Supervisor-elect), John Jamnick (JPJ), Trudy Hendricks, Dale Swanson, Lori Tomsich, Robin Majerle, Teresa Dolinar (Treasurer-elect, arrived 6:06 PM), Mike Dolinar (6:06 PM), Steve Burgess (6:16 PM), Dianna Sundahl (6:16 PM), Amy Berglund (6:30 PM)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tim Tomsich

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 02-20-2025 Regular Board Meeting, the 02-20-2025 Board of Audit Meeting, and the 03-11-2025 Board of Canvass Meeting as presented and the February 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- St. Louis County Public Works Department
- St. Louis County Board
- Minnesota Power
- St. Louis County – Economic and Community Development Department
- Carr's Tree Service
- St. Louis County Association of Townships Agenda & Minutes

Correspondence so noted.

Public Input

None

Reports

- Police – Attached
- Fire – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Supervisor Tuchel explained that the PFA loan that the WWB was anticipating was actually going to be higher and the grant amount slightly lower; this was due to the original calculations including all 516 residences within Breitung Township, the calculations should have only included the 280 of those residences that receive wastewater services. The WWB is attempting to keep loan amount down with PFA but Tuchel mentioned that it would likely mean raising the rates for customers. Tuchel stated that the filters for the new plant were expected on 04-08-2025 and would be installed immediately.
- Ambulance Commission – No meeting/report
- Housing – Attached

Reports so noted.

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- 2025 Infrastructure Project – On hold until after 7-1-2025 when the next round of IRRR funding becomes available.
- 2022 and 2023 Infrastructure Projects – Projects and change orders complete, waiting for final pay estimates
- McKinley Loop Trail – It has been determined that additional work will have to be done in/around the airport to maintain safety, likely resulting in \$20k-\$30k more expenses. Once AT grant is determined, the difference in cost would need to be worked out between Tower and Breitung.
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tomsich noted that the plans for the 2nd turn lane were under review with MN-DoT and that the township had received \$69k from the Prospectors’ Trail Group

Flood/FEMA process – Clerk Zak explained that two of the projects were now listed as “obligated” meaning that they should receive payment in 60 – 90 days; the total of the two projects was \$15k. The remaining projects were still under review. The Church Street culvert repairs were deemed by FEMA to be unfit for reimbursement due to lack of maintenance prior to the flood.

Police: Squad Replacement

Chief Reing was still waiting for quotes for the additional equipment needed for a new squad.

Sewer Ordinance

It was discussed that in order to pass an ordinance or an amendment, electors would need to vote on the matter. It was decided to draft the ordinance in full and have it reviewed by the Township attorney for accuracy and legality. Once the ordinance draft was complete, a special electors’ meeting would be called for a vote. At the same time, it was decided that the electors would also vote on the previously passed animal ordinance.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to call a special electors’ meeting for the purpose of voting on the ordinances

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Fire Truck Replacement

It was noted that multiple sealed bids would need to be acquired for the purchase of the fire truck. Chief Banks indicated that he was still in the process of collecting those.

Fire: Turnout Gear

Chief Banks discussed that due to the propriety nature of the turn-out gear and the single source availability, a second quote for purchase was unnecessary.

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to approved the purchase of turn-out gear for Breitung Fire & Rescue in the amount of \$71,499.67

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 2-0, Supervisor Tuchel abstaining due to potential conflict of interest

Post Office Faceplates

Chairman Tomsich announced that the faceplates had been sold at auction, the township was awaiting a check for freight charges and would be sending them out once that was received.

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Swearing in of New Officers

- Stephen Tekautz sworn in as the new Board Supervisor by Clerk Zak
- Teresa Dolinar sworn in as the new Treasurer by Clerk Zak

Acknowledgement of outgoing board members

Supervisor Tuchel thanked outgoing members Tim Tomsich and Jorgine Gornick for their service to the township, noting their years of service

- Retirement Party Announcement – Scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 10 AM – 1 PM at the Breitung Community Center
- Resolution 2025-05: Renaming Breitung Community Center
Motion by Supervisor Peitso to pass resolution 2025-05 with corrections
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2025-04: Employee PERA

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to pass resolution 2025-04 with corrections

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2025-06: Grant Application, Gary Sinise Foundation

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to pass resolution 2025-06 with corrections

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2025-07: Grant Application.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to pass resolution 2025-07 with corrections

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Kugler Fire Service Contract

Chief Banks explained the boundaries of Kugler Township and where Breitung Fire and Rescue's services would be expected – he stated that he was expecting a map from the supervisor of Kugler Township, Chris Suihkonen. A vote by the body of BF&R had passed unanimously to service the area.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approving Supervisor Tichel to engage in negotiations and contract signing with the Kugler Town Board

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings

Reorganization Meeting, immediately following the regular board meeting on 03/20/2025

Regular Board Meeting: TBD during the Reorganization Meeting

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township