

**Breitung Township**  
**Regular Board Meeting 05-20-2025, 6:00 PM**  
**In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center**  
**33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782**

**Present In Person:**

**Board Members:** Chairman Matthew Tuchel, Supervisor Stephen Tekautz, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar, Clerk Amber Zak

**Public:** Tom Gorsma (left at 6:50 PM), Chief Daniel Reing (arrived 6:10 PM), Stephanie Ukkola (The Timberjay Newspaper), John Jamnick (JPJ Engineering), Amanda Meyer (arrived at 7:08 PM)

**Absent:** Supervisor Erin Peitso

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the agenda as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion Passed 2-0

**Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 04-15-2025 Regular Board Meeting and the 05-06-2025 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the April 2025 Treasurers Report as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

**Correspondence**

- Jorgine Gornick
- St. Louis County Association of Townships (minutes/agenda)
- St. Louis County Association of Townships (invitation)
- Highway 169 Task Force
- Tower Soudan Historical Society
- US Treasury
- St. Louis County – Planning & Zoning Department
- St. Louis County – Public Works Department

Correspondence so noted.

**Public Input**

Supervisor Tekautz took a moment to voice his frustration regarding the speed of motorcycles and four-wheelers through town, especially seen on Jasper Street and in the Alley behind the ball field. Chairman Tuchel recommended a discussion with Chief Reing on the matter.

## **Reports**

- Police – Attached. Questions for Chief Reing regarding speed limit signs were discussed, he would look into making sure signs were visible, checking on portable speed sign.
- Fire – March & April reports attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma noted that the youth workers were getting a lot done lately
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that the board does not meet until next week, the plant construction is at about 70% completion, force main easements are expected in the next month and an application has been submitted for the DNR easements, expected to take several months.
- Ambulance Commission – No meeting/report
- Housing – No meeting/report
- Recreation – Supervisor Tekautz noted that the Joint Powers Recreation Board had met and they were adjusting the way they pay out for recreation opportunities. It was noted that Greenwood Township had not been paying their share in recent years but that the issue would be researched and potentially resolved with the new Greenwood board member on the Rec board; he further mentioned that the City of Tower was considering placing a shed near the football field for equipment storage (soccer, ect).
- Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that the board had turned over collection of taxes from Beatty Township to the MN Department of Revenue, making it a much less cumbersome process for the board; also noted that short-term rentals were not all paying in to the lodging tax and it was the expectation that if there were known short term rentals, those should be submitted to the county for licensing and taxing. The board would be having another meeting next month.

## **Old Business:**

### **Current Infrastructure Projects**

- 2025 Infrastructure Project – Planning to submit application in June for \$500k from IRRRB to pave Echo Point Road
- 2023 Infrastructure Project
  - Partial Payment Estimate #2Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve and pay Partial Payment Estimate #2 for project #22-126 in the amount of \$74,976.85 to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion passed 2-0
- 2022 Infrastructure Project
  - Change Order #2
  - Final Payment Estimate #4Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve change order #2 and approve and pay the Final Payment Estimate #4 in the amount of \$31,003.03 to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc. for project 22-003.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion passed 2-0

- McKinley Loop Trail – The loop trail has been approved for full funding the MN DNR Active Transportation Grant. John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering discussed a meeting to be had between JPJ, State of MN, St. Louis County, City of Tower, and Breitung Township. Noted they planned to apply to IRRRB for approximately \$120k in costs not covered by the AT Grant – the \$120k *does not* include costs that will be incurred due to airport changes.
- Thompson Farm Road Project – John Jamnick noted that the county had requested some changes and then it would be submitted for State Aid, the county would be going to bid for the project. LRIP had extra money for the bypass lane, waiting to hear for sure whether it would be covered.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – punch list so noted.

Flood/FEMA process – See Attached report

Sewer Ordinance

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adopt ordinance 90-03A (An ordinance establishing sewer use regulations) per the previous Special Town Meeting and approve the summary language for publication  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
 Motion Passed 2-0

**New Business:**

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
 Motion Passed 2-0

Part-time Police Applicant

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to hire Matthew Hatfield as a part-time police officer to the Breitung Township Police, pending necessary background checks and fit tests  
 Discussion: It was questioned whether adding an additional officer was necessary; Chief Reing explained that they had lost multiple part-time officers over the last couple years and it was good to have a mix of available employees, especially for the summer months  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel  
 Motion passed 2-0

Animal Ordinance – Adoption & Approval of Summary Language

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adopt ordinance 91-04A (An ordinance regulating animal control in the Township of Breitung) per the previous Special Town Meeting and approve the summary language for publication  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
 Motion passed 2-0

### Local Board of Appeal & Equalization motions

It was noted that during the LBAE meeting, motions for in-person appellants were generally dealt with once everyone in the audience had a chance to speak. In changing over to mail-in appellants, the board had accidentally neglected to make motions for those in-person appellants. The minutes of this meeting shall be added to that of the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization for proof of motion pertaining to these appellants.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to lower the building valuation for property ID #270-0084-00170 for Patty & Todd Christopherson by \$25,100.00 due to the amenities being inaccurate listed with county assessor per LBAE meeting minutes

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to keep the valuation for property ID #270-0083-00140 for Colin Rohrenbach the same

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to keep the valuation for property ID #270-0020-00487 for Jennifer Willner the same

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to keep the valuation for property ID #270-0095-00330 for Cade and Andrea Gornick the same

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to keep the valuation for property ID #270-0083-00190 for Karen Frazee the same

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to lower the land valuation for property ID #270-0074-00070 for James Mayer by \$24,700.00 due to the type of land he owns, per LBAE meeting minutes.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Vermilion Housing Corporation

A request was received from the Vermilion Housing Corporation for a local match of \$10k in 2027 in order to qualify for a grant for improvements to the housing complexes in Soudan and Tower.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve \$10k commitment as a local match to the Vermilion Housing Corporation contingent on additional funding being received

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

### Eagles Nest Township Request

A request was received from Eagles Nest Township to utilize the Breitung Community Center as a host site in the event of evacuation due to wildfires in the area

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to open the Breitung Community Center and potentially the MINOS building as host sites for evacuated Eagles Nest Township residents for the 2025 wild fires if needed

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

### Resolution 2025-12: Accepting Donations

Motion by Chairman Tuchel approve resolution 2025-12: Accepting Donations

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Resolution 2025-13: Authorizing Issuance & Sale of Revenue Note

Chairman Tuchel summarized the need for the resolution: for legal purposes, if the wastewater board should go defunct (not expected, then Breitung Township would be on the hook for 45% of the wastewater treatment plant

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz approve resolution 2025-13: Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of the Town of Breitung, Minnesota General Obligation Revenue Note to the City of Tower, Minnesota

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

### Joint Powers Recreation Board Agreement

Supervisor Tekautz explained the updates to the agreement, noting that everything gets voted on by members, sending thank you's, etc.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to accept the proposed agreement and sign it

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Police Local 346 Union Contract

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to table commitment to contract negotiations until all board members are present and able to vote on the best approach to contract negotiations.

Discussion: Clerk directed to inform Local 346 representative of intent to set appointment after next month's board meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Broadband Project

Chairman Tuchel updated the board that a broadband project was finally in the works for Puncher Point and Mallard Drive; Echo Point and McKinley Park Acres Road were also potential recipients of broadband installation. It would be necessary for CTC to get the word out to sign up for broadband as it would only make the project worthwhile if enough people were willing to sign up.

### CTC Permit Request

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to allow CTC to do the work requested within the permit and for the permit to be signed by Chairman Tuchel on behalf of Breitung Township

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Dog Obedience Class

A request was received to hold dog obedience classes during inclement weather in the Breitung Community Center.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel approve the request made by Mandy Meyer, in attendance and waive the rental fee

Discussion: Expectation that the room would be fully cleaned up, fee for cleaning deposit would be held until classes were over

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

**Next Board Meetings**

Regular Board Meeting on 06/17/2025 @ 6:00pm

**Adjourn**

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak  
Clerk, Breitung Township