

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 06-17-2025, 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 Erin Peitso, Supervisor Stephen Tekautz, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar, Clerk Amber Zak

Public: Chief Daniel Reing, Jodi Summit (The Timberjay Newspaper), John Jamnick (JPJ Engineering), Amanda Meyer (arrived at 7:08 PM)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence honoring the late Charles Tekautz

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the agenda with the addition of Resolution 2025-15 at the end of New Business

2nd by Chairman Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 05-20-2025 Special Town Meeting and the 05-20-2025 Regular Board Meeting as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the May 2025 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- State of Minnesota Demographer
- St. Louis County Association of Townships (minutes/agenda)
- BEST Youth Baseball Club
 - Chairman Tuchel requested the Clerk Zak send a letter notifying the club that donation requests are typically received and reviewed at annual meeting time and to please consider another request at that time.
- Vermilion Housing Corporation
 - Chairman Tuchel touched on a potential need to update the Joint Comprehensive Plan with the City of Tower, which was currently 10 years old; this was relevant to the correspondence as a major part of the comprehensive plan was the promotion of housing in the Tower and Soudan communities

Correspondence so noted.

Public Input

None

Reports

- Police – Attached.
- Fire – Attached.
- Road and Bridge – Attached, Chairman Tichel noted that Calcium Chloride had been applied and hydrant maintenance had also been performed.
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tichel stated that the PFA loan would be reimbursing the WWB on June 25th and that the new water plant was set to go on-line by the end of July
- Ambulance Commission – No meeting/report
- Housing – No meeting/report
- Recreation – Supervisor Peitso discussed the IRRR Culture & Tourism grant that the recreation committee was working to obtain – funds would be used for a variety of outdoor recreation updates and improvements including bike trail re-paving near the baseball concession stand, new dugouts, crows' nest, concession stand work, mound covers, equipment storage for sporting equipment at the park, disc golf, and bike trail signage.

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- 2025 Infrastructure Project – project is still on hold, a meeting with Chris Ismil of IRRR is needed
- 2023 Infrastructure Project – a punch list is in hand, should be able to close out within the next month or two according to John Jamnick
- 2022 Infrastructure Project – submitted for final reimbursement from IRRR, not yet received. Once received, project can be considered complete.
- McKinley Loop Trail – John Jamnick spoke on this project: the wetland review had been completed on June 17th, which looked good and the delineation was complete as well. There had been a meeting between JPJ, Breitung, Tower, and the County regarding state requirements; noted there will have to be an easement to run the trail along the road right-of-way, airport an issue. Supervisor Tichel noted that the AT grant does not cover engineering costs, soft costs, wetlands, however the hope/intent is to utilize other grant resources to have the project fully funded.
- Thompson Farm Road Project – All plans are currently with Eric Falstrom at St Louis County, hoping to have it finalized and proceed to MNDOT next, hoping to be able to go to bid in July. It was noted that the DNR is considering a soft opening for their campground this fall.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – waiting for striping to be complete

Flood/FEMA process – Attached. It was noted that the additional culvert installed on the Junction Road was a good use of mitigation funds; a significant amount of rain had fallen on June 16th and had the culvert not been there, the water would have again been over the road.

Police Local 346 Union Contract

Motion by Chairman Tichel to appoint Supervisor Tekautz to engage in contract negotiations with Teamsters General Local Union No. 346 for Breitung Police

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Broadband Project

Chairman Tuchel stated there were currently no updates, a meeting on 7/15/2025 was set for surrounding communities and RAMS

Resolution 2025-14: Supporting the Vermilion Housing Corporation

Vermilion Housing Corporation had requested a resolution to be provided with their grant application regarding Breitung Township's commitment as a local match for \$10k as approved in the 05/20/25 meeting.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to pass resolution 2025-14

2nd by Chairman Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Water Department Manager

A letter having been received from Jorgine Gornick in application for the Water Department Manager position, the board chose to appoint her as water department manager, taking the duties back out of the clerk/treasurer office.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to hire Jorgine Gornick as the Water Department Manager at a rate of \$1200.00/month

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Department Beverage Tent

Chairman Tuchel explained that the Firemen's Relief Association was offered the opportunity to host a beverage tent on Main Street in Tower for the 4th of July festivities; he stated that the department was interested but because the department itself operated under the township, they should also approve the event.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to allow the Firemen's Relief Association to host a beverage tent for the 4th of July on Main Street in Tower

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Abstain due to potential conflict of interest: Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

Fireproof Recordkeeping

Clerk Zak presented materials detailing the need for fireproof recordkeeping as required by law. The main items to start with were historical minutes, both typed and handwritten, that had not been properly kept for many years. Options included digitization and fireproof safe/file cabinets; Clerk Zak requested the both options purchased – digitization as it would allow the documents to be accessed online and within fireproof cabinets for the sake of historical preservation. Vendor options for digitization and fireproof structures were both provided, attached.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to send files to Metro Sales Inc for digitization services and for Clerk Zak to purchase the largest fireproof file cabinet from Uline, in order to ensure enough space for additional documents requiring fireproof keeping

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Stuntz Bay Association Website Page

In a letter received from the Stuntz Bay Association, the board considered whether and how to allow a Stuntz Bay Association page on their website.

Motion by Chairman Tichel to provide a page on the Township's website to the history of the Stuntz Bay Road area, with information and photographs to be fully supplied by the Stuntz Bay Association as discretionary time is available in the Clerk's schedule to create such a page; further stipulated that no payment system for passes will be allowed on the website and the association must provide contact information for those interested in purchasing a pass.

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2025-15: Authorizing Breitung Township to Make Application to & Accept Funds from the IRRR RY25 Culture & Tourism Program

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz approve resolution 2025-15

2nd by Chairman Tichel

Motion passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting on 07/15/2025 at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM

2nd by Chairman Tichel

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township