

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 07-15-2025, 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: Tom Gorsma Maintenance Supervisor, Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola (The Timberjay Newspaper), John Jamnick (JPJ Engineering), Gary Aubol (left at 6:08 PM)

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

2nd by Chairman Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve the minutes of the 06-17-2025 Regular Board Meeting as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurer's Report

It was noted that the 2022 Infrastructure Project came up approximately \$24,000 less than was originally budgeted.

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

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- Tekautz Family

Correspondence so noted.

Public Input

Gary Aubol spoke regarding Breitung Township supporting a cause to start taking care of the boathouses in Stuntz Bay. He noted that over the 30 or so were now "down" and a number of them had been turned back to the state, he mentioned that each spot affects our communities' economies. He suggested a push for a change in legislation, turning the rights to the boathouses back over to the owners. Chairman Tuchel responded that Breitung Township has always and for the foreseeable future would continue to support the Stuntz Bay Association in any endeavors to keep the boathouses functional and available.

Reports

- Police – Attached.
- Fire – Attached.
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel mentioned that there had been a lot of action on the water plant, but no other news at this time
- Ambulance Commission – No meeting; Supervisor Peitso attended Babbitt State of EMS presentation and noted it was eye-opening, mentioned that nearly every single ambulance service is struggling to maintain service
- Housing – No meeting/report
- Recreation – Supervisor Peitso discussed the IRRR Culture & Tourism grant that the recreation committee was working to obtain – Tim Tomsich was putting the grant proposal together and currently gathering Letters of Support
- Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that the board had met on 7/15/25 and signed an agreement with the MN Department of Revenue to have them collect the tax for rentals

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- 2025 Infrastructure Project – nothing to report
- 2023 Infrastructure Project – minor punch list, can be closed out
- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel explained that Nancy Larson would be putting in a final application and was optimistic that soft costs would be covered by IRRR
 - St. Louis County Cooperative Agreement – Active Transportation grant paperwork
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the agreement as presented and sign
Second by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tuchel explained that there had recently been a meeting with all involved parties (SLC, State of MN, Prospectors Trail Alliance, DNR, Breitung, JPJ); DNR is hoping timing will be around the time of the opening of the campground. Formally requested the opening of the David Dill Trail to ATV-ers between Junction & Thompson Farm Roads
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – minor punch list, should be able to close out

Flood/FEMA process – Attached

Police Local 346 Union Contract

Supervisor Tekautz explained that the union representative would first have a meeting with Chief Reing, then a meeting with Supervisor Tekautz, and then a meeting together. Chief Reing anticipated these meetings happening within in the next month or so.

Broadband Project

Chairman Tichel provided the news that the installation of the cable would be starting on July 26 in our area; so far 198 homes in our area had signed up requested that the clerk share the literature provided by CTC & Bois Forte on our website and Facebook page

Regarding installation in the Echo Point Road and McKinley Park Acres Road areas, Chairman Tichel explained that CTC and Lake Country Power had requested funding from area municipalities to conduct a survey for cost installation. The cost of such a survey would be \$175k, Breitung's share of the cost would be 10.65% coming out to \$18,637.50 (based on the number of homes that could potentially receive the service). A meeting is scheduled for 9/16/2025 to discuss the study; Chairman Tichel requested the board consider over the next month what we are willing to spend for such a survey. He also noted there is minimal federal funding at this time for these types of projects.

Joint Comprehensive Plan

No news at this time

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Workers' Compensation Insurance

Chairman Tichel brought up the issue to start the conversation regarding future handling of Worker's Compensation Claims. In June, an employee was injured on the job and has been out on Worker's Compensation since that time. During this period, Breitung Township has been paying the employee in full without using PTO/Sick time. He felt that continuing to pay in this way is not reasonable and it had only been done this way due to the previous experience with two other employees having received similar compensation for 6 weeks in one instance and 4 months in another. Indicated that the board may need to make a decision eventually and should consider it over the next month; the board wished to treat the currently injured employee fairly based on previous experience. For future boards, it may be wise to set guidelines, work with the union to potentially include such information in contracts.

Resolution 2025-16: IRRR FY26 Regional Trails Grant

Motion by Chairman Tichel to approve resolution 2025-16

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2025-17: IRRR FY26 Culture & Tourism Grant

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve Resolution 2025-17

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Signage Proposal & Approval

Chairman Tichel reviewed the proposal for siding replacement and lettering installation for the Timothy Tomsich Community Center by Lenci Enterprises at a cost of \$7,460.00

Motion by Chairman Tichel to approve the proposal and engage the services of Lenci Enterprises

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Building Access

Supervisor Tekautz discussed concern regarding the amount of people who currently know the code to enter the community center; it has slowly spread over the years from person to person. Chairman Tichel was concerned that changing the code could lead to firefighters being locked out during an emergency if they were to forget the new code. Questions regarding the functionality of the security cameras came up; it was thought that none of them worked on the police building or on the Community Center building. Chairman Tichel directed Chief Reing to look into what it would take and cost to get all of the cameras up and running, that way if there were issues with entrances to the community center, it would at least be on camera. No further action was taken on the matter.

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting on 08/19/2025 at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township