

Township of Breitung Annual Meeting 03/09/2021-8:15 PM
In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan Minnesota

Residents Present: Tim Tomsich, Dianna Sundahl, Jorgine Gornick, Stephanie Ukkola, Jayne Sundeen, Lori Tomsich, Tony Sikora, Denise Osterholm, Mary Batinich, Greg Dostert, Matt Tichel, Rolf Anderson, Laurie Anderson, Jim Hill (arrived 8:30), Chuck Tekautz, Nancy Tekautz, Tom Gorsma, Valeda McDonald (left 8:30), Barb Burgess, Steve Burgess

Non-Residents Present: Orlyn Kringstad, Marit Kringstad, Dave Setterberg

Call to Order @ 8:25pm by Clerk Sundahl

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator:

Motion by Steve Burgess to name Tim Tomsich Moderator

2nd by Chuck Tekautz

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes:

Motion by Steve Burgess to dispense with reading of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes and approve as distributed

2nd by Chuck Tekautz

Motion passed unanimously

Reports:

- Financial Report-read by Tim Tomsich
Motion made by Greg Dostert to accept Financial Report as presented
2nd by Matt Tichel
Motion passed unanimously
- Road and Bridge Report
Motion made by Matte Tichel to accept Road and Bridge Report as presented
2nd by Denise Osterholm
Motion passed unanimously
- Police Report
Motion made by Tony Sikora to accept Police Report as presented
2nd by Denise Osterholm
Motion passed unanimously
- Fire and Rescue Report-Read by Steve Burgess, Chief
Motion by Rolf Anderson to accept Fire and Rescue Report as presented
2nd by Greg Dostert
Motion passed unanimously
- McKinley Park Report
Motion by Matt Tomsich to accept report as presented
2nd by Jayne Sundeen
Motion passed unanimously

- Chairman's Report-read by Tim Tomsich
Motion made by Greg Dostert to accept report as presented
2nd by Tony Sikora
Motion passed unanimously
 - Tax Levy
Motion made by Greg Dostert to accept the township increase in levy of \$30,000 as presented
2nd by Dianna Sunsdahl
Motion passed unanimously
 - Rink Repair Options-read and questions answered by Greg Dostert. Discussion was that the rink is in need of repairs, some grant funds from the MN Wild Community may be available, and the township could pay for approximately 10k for some repairs this year.
Motion by Tony Sikora to add a \$10,000 one-time tax levy for the rink repairs with option 3 (marine plywood) as the most feasible and affordable option
2nd by Stephanie Ukkola
Motion passed unanimously
- Total Tax Levy for 2022 will be \$656,000.00

Police Department Operations:

Tim Tomsich has given St. Louis County a list of days and hours Breitung Township would like to see patrol by St. Louis County for the month of March (instead of emergencies only) filled based on monies remaining in the March 2021 Police Budget. These would be overtime shifts for St. Louis County Sheriffs to sign up for and the Township would pay \$70/hour. Shifts may be difficult to fill. It was said that having a local police department comes with a lot of risk to the township given the current climate towards law enforcement in general. The Law Enforcement career path isn't what it used to be. It was said that when the City of Tower turned to the Sheriff's Department years ago, there was not the coverage that was hoped for. The Township has received a contract with options for the Township from the Sheriff's Department if this is the choice for a long term solution. The cost of a 1 year contract ranges from \$100,000-\$122,000 for 1 officer at 40 hours a week. Residents voiced their concern about not having a community presence, as there are many community activities and a few local businesses that a local police department should be involved in, and they are normally first to arrive as a first responder in an emergency. It was stated that having a local police department vs. a county cop didn't make some feel safer.

Motion by Tony Sikora that the Town Board enters into a short term Law Enforcement contract with St. Louis County to provide patrol service and for the Board to continue its investigation in to a long term solution for Law Enforcement Services for the community.

2nd by Denis Osterholm

Motion passed unanimously

Date for Next Annual Meeting:

March 8th, 2022

Adjourn:

Motion by Greg Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:55pm

2nd by Steve Burgess

Motion Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sundahl

Clerk, Breitung Township

Timothy Tomsich

Moderator, Breitung Township