

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 06-16-2026, 6:00 PM
In Person Meeting at the Timothy Tomsich Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Matthew Tuchel, Supervisor Erin Peitso, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar

Public: Police Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola, Ed Swanson, Louise Gately, Officer Margaret Stauty, Jodi Summit, Scarlet Stone (Timberjay)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 2-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve the minutes of the 05-19-2026 Regular Board Meeting, as presented

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to accept the May 2026 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 2-0

Correspondence

- Minnesota State Demographer
- Girl Scout Troop 1302
- ECFE – Tower Soudan Elementary School
- Arrowhead Coalition of Trails
- Lake Country Power

Correspondence so noted.

Reports

- Police – Attached
- Fire& Rescue – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached.
- Water – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that there were 2 items remaining on the punch-list for the water plant, the RIBS project was not yet out for bid, he noted that the final price on getting power to the RIBS was significantly higher than anticipated (original \$150k now up to \$264k)
- Ambulance – Supervisor Peitso noted there would be a July meeting
- Recreation – Attached, noted that the committee won't know what can be done until the blacktop is complete and billed
- Noxious Weeds – Attached, ALWI Stephanie Ukkola noted that there was a lot of Tansy and Knapweed around which public works supervisor Gorsma had already taken care of

Public Input

None

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel noted that there were 4 items that needed to be addressed for the FAA, still working on easements
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tuchel noted that MBI (Awarded bid contractor) had made the trail passable for the ATV route, the new campground had opened on the 12th of June, the trail would likely be fully opened on the 19th of June.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Chairman Tuchel noted that there was a billing question holding up this project being closed out
- McKinley Park: ADA Project – Mara Peterson had been hired to do the assessment and would be looking to do a site visit and group visit in the near future

Flood/FEMA process – Clerk Zak noted this item was kept on the agenda as the township was still waiting for reimbursement for management costs.

Broadband Project – CTC does not have information for the upcoming grant yet, sent out the last letters inviting property owners to get signed up in order to get free installation of the fiber cable.

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Nothing new, still waiting to receive IRRR grant before proceeding

Blight

Chief Reing has a list of current issues including lots of tall grass, unlicensed vehicles, trash in yards; would be sending out letters the next day (6/17). Chairman Tuchel noted that Supervisor Tekautz had been speaking with property owners about it personally as well.

Feral Cats

Supervisor Peitso noted that a number of the cats had been captured and relocated to new homes. She had also received no more complaints regarding the cats.

Resolution 2026-13: Interested Officer

Clerk Zak noted that she had looked into the cap for officers contracting with the township, it was \$175k. She also noted she had called around to local plumbers for rates and found rates to be comparable to that of Supervisor Tekautz.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve Resolution 2026-13

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 2-0

Sale of Fire Engine #2

Clerk Zak noted that she had some issues getting ahold of the MN-Bid administrators to list the fire engine, but that she was now in the process of putting together the listing. Once the listing was complete, she would communicate it with the fire department so it could also be advertised on buying/selling pages on Facebook.

Fire Department UTV Purchase

Chairman Tuchel announced that Breitung Township had received a grant from the IRRR in the amount of \$41,874 for the purchase of the UTV + tracks

Propane Bids

The board reviewed five offers of service, one from Superior Fuel, one from Range LP, and three from Edwards Oil. Chairman Tuchel noted he was leaning toward the contracts with Edwards Oil considering they had the lowest price; it was noted that they had not offered an employee rate and there was also a cap to the gallons per year. The issue was tabled until next meeting, Clerk Zak was directed to find out the price per gallon for overages and to bring the information to next month's meeting.

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented.

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 2-0

Deputy Clerk

Clerk Zak announced the appointment of Stephanie Ukkola as Deputy Clerk; Stephanie took the Oath of Office and was provided with a Certificate of Appointment for the position. She was thanked by Clerk Zak for taking on the role.

MN North-Vermilion Baseball Field Use

In a written request to Breitung Township, use of the baseball field for practices and scrimmages was requested by Tom Coombe for the Vermilion baseball team. It was noted that there would be no need for a scoreboard. In conversations with Maint. Sup. Gorsma, it was agreed that the team could utilize the field for a one-time payment of \$500.00

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to allow the Vermilion baseball team to utilize the Soudan ballfield for a one-time payment of \$500

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 2-0

Brush Cutter

A brush cutter attachment for the ToolCat was requested to be purchased by Maint. Sup. Gorsma.
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the purchase in the amount of \$6800.00 from L & L Rentals Inc
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 2-0

Facility Use Request

A request to utilize the Timothy Tomsich Community Center and serve alcohol was presented to the board for approval. It was noted that this a closed event and a \$200 cleaning deposit would be collected.
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the Facility Use Request
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 2-0

TSHS Proclamation Request

Louise Gately of the Tower Soudan Historical Society was in attendance to present her request to the board
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to Proclaim the week of July 12 – 18, 2026 as Heritage Week
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 2-0

Variance Request: Scott Lilya

A variance request sent to St. Louis County Planning & Zoning was presented, supervisors took no issue with it so long as it was approved by St. Louis County
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the variance request
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 2-0

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 2-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township