

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 05-19-2026, 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, Supervisor Stephen Tekautz, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar

Public: Police Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola (Timberjay), Randy Pratt (left at 7:13 PM), Trudy Hendricks (Left at 7:25 PM)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to accept the agenda with the addition of Resolution 2026-17 under New Business

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the minutes of the 04-21-2026 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting, as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve the minutes of the 04-21-2026 Regular Board Meeting, as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dolinar gave a synopsis of a new report she could run which allowed the viewing of disbursements according to their purpose (wages, travel, office supplies, etc.) Supervisors requested to see a YTD report on a quarterly basis and a MTD report on a monthly basis.

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

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- CTC: Annual Meeting Notice
- Jerry & Susie Chiabotti: Thank you

Correspondence so noted.

Reports

- Police – Attached, Chief Reing noted that there had been a bear complaint in town but that in past calls to the DNR there was nothing to be done unless there was a danger to the public. He also discussed joint training having been completed with Babbitt PD, Officer Margaret Stauty had officially started work, and the squad was currently in the process of being outfitted.
- Fire – Attached.
- Road and Bridge – Attached.
- Water – Attached – Chairman Tuchel noted that the department was down to 22 water lines to be inspected for lead/copper as required by MDH
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel stated that the MPCA/USDA had some additional work for the Engineer for the RIBS project, that was being worked on.
- Ambulance – Nothing new.
- Recreation – Attached, Supervisor Peitso discussed that since the inception of the recreation project, costs had risen significantly and that the recreation board was looking at what could be adjusted in their project; the number one piece was the blacktopping of the bike trail by the ballfield; next meeting was set for June 12. Chairman Tuchel referred Supervisor Peitso to a local with a special interest in Disc Golf who could potentially point the township in the direction of some grants specifically for a Disc Golf course.
- Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board – Meeting held May 4 but there were not enough in attendance to have a quorum; next meeting would be December 4; this report to be pulled from agenda for the time being.

Public Input

Trudy Hendricks: Concern regarding the speed with which traffic was coming down Stuntz Bay Road hill and onto 1st Avenue; stated that she had seen several motorists speed down the hill and run the stop sign. Discussion amongst those in attendance included the option of adding signage or painting crossing lines at the bike trail crossing; it was decided the Chief Reing would notate a good position for a “Slow Down” sign to be put up and request the Maintenance Supervisor get it ordered.

Teresa Dolinar: At the end of the meeting and prior to adjournment, Teresa Dolinar representing the Stuntz Bay Association notified the board that the association would be donating \$2000.00 to the township this year.

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel remarked that the construction limits had been marked, meetings with property owners for easements were ongoing, still waiting on SEH regarding FAA
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tuchel noted that a pre-construction meeting had been held, the official start date would be 05-26-2026 and date of Substantial Completion would be 10-09-2026, expecting a mid-August start date; the old portion of Thompson Farm Road would not be vacated until the new road was complete. Discussed 3000 cubic yards of debris in the gravel pit that the township needed to get rid of (mainly old concrete items from households), which was originally included in the bid but would need to be taken care some other way so the bid would need to be modified somewhat.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Nothing new to report

Flood/FEMA process – Clerk Zak discussed information she had received regarding the final project on Stuntz Bay Road; FEMA had decided that the rip-rap added to the side of the road was not useful mitigation for the damaged blacktop and would not be paying any further costs; the project was then closed out by FEMA. After nearly 2 full years, the FEMA process for the June 18, 2024 flood was officially over.

Broadband Project – CTC still had not provided a cost estimate for the poles; according to Bois Forte, the grant for the additional broadband areas had not yet been opened up

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve & sign the Agreement for Professional Services with ARDC pending the approval of the IRRR grant for 50% of costs

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Department Equipment Purchase – Supervisor Tekautz noted that the second quote for the side-by-side had been included to show that it had been received. He noted that though the cost estimates were quite close, the second quote contained no labor for installation of the amenities. Additionally, there were no warranties and ordering the full package product directly from Polaris was a much cleaner process than having to order and install the equipment piecemeal.

Blight

Chief Reing noted he had sent letters to two property owners, one nearly 30 days ago and had not seen any improvement. Chairman Tichel stated that it was important that all of the blight in town be addressed sooner than later, it was not appropriate to only notify habitual violators. Chief Reing and Supervisor Tekautz would set a date next week to go around town and make note of blight and proceed with letters to those properties. Discussion on whether alleyways should be clear; although Breitung Township does not maintain alleys, it is necessary that they be passable for utilities.

City of Tower: Airport Zoning

- Resolution 2026-14

Motion by Chairman Tichel to approve and sign Resolution 2026-14, Appointing Two Members to the Joint Airport Zoning Board of the Tower Municipal Airport

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Chairman Tichel to Pay Bills as Presented.

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

McKinley Park Lodging & Sales Tax

Treasurer Dolinar explained Breitung Township needed to pay sales tax for money collected from daily and weekly campers; it was unknown whether the previous hosts charged sales tax to the campers or if it was covered by the rate. Randy Pratt, manager of McKinley Park Campground, urged the board to not charge it to campers and that it should be considered part of the camping rate; his reasoning was that it keeps pricing competitive as McKinley park is somewhat high compared to other nearby campgrounds.

Chairman Tuchel directed Treasurer Dolinar to find out what had been done in the past and then management was to continue with that same method, whatever it was found to be.

Feral Cats

An issue of feral cats had been brought to the clerk's office; Chief Reing had found out that Babbitt traps and disposes of them, he did not want to dispose of cats if there was an alternative solution. Supervisor Peitso agreed to contact shelters in the area to see if they would be accepted at any of them; if not, it would be up to Chief Reing to dispose of the cats. It was noted by Clerk Zak that at least 5 residents were having issues with cats and several neighbors had been feeding them; Timberjay representative stated that she would request that cats not be fed in her newspaper article. Supervisor Peitso would also speak with those who were rumored to be feeding cats and ask them not to do so.

Resolution 2026-12: Margaret Stauty PERA Nomination

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve and sign Resolution 2026-12

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2026-13: Interested Officer

Discussion was had on whether there was a maximum amount of money that an interested officer could be paid by the township as a contractor; Chairman Tuchel directed Clerk Zak to look into the laws and tabled the resolution until next meeting

Resolution 2026-16: Support for Vermilion Housing

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve and sign Resolution 2026-12

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Letter of Support: "Y Store" Intersection Safety Project

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the language and sign the Letter of Support the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa to Sean Duffy, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

McKinley Park: ADA Project

Supervisor Tekautz spoke on the potential project to make McKinley Park Campground and other park areas accessible. He noted that that this would be a major step forward for Breitung Township. The first step as indicated by Nancy Larson at a recent meeting was to have a professional consultation completed to determine what would need to be addressed. She also mentioned via email that she would be willing to provide grant writing services as a volunteer for this project.

- Consultation Proposal

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to engage with JQP, Inc. and pay for the consultation fees up to \$5,250

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

- Resolution 2026-15

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve and sign Resolution 2026-15, Authorizing Breitung Township to Make Application to and Accept Funds From IRRR Development Partnership Grant

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Protection Contract: Unorganized 63-15

Chairman Tuchel discussed a proposal from St. Louis County to contract with Breitung Fire & Rescue for emergency services; he noted that Breitung Township already does respond to most of the calls from this area due to the mutual aid agreement with Greenwood, the previous contract holder. He stated that the fire department recommended an annual fee of \$13,000, which was the same as what was paid to Greenwood Township previously.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to provide emergency services to Unorganized Township 63-15 and sign the agreement for a rate of \$13,000.00

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Sale of Fire Engine #2

Chairman Tuchel put forth the recommendation that the town board move to sell Fire Engine #2; he indicated that Fire Chief Banks thought \$50k was a good price, as most trucks of the same year fell between \$25k - \$70k. He indicated that they were considering selling on Facebook; Clerk Zak thought they might have better luck on MNBid as it could potentially net more than the initial asking price at auction.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to sell the truck on MNBid at a starting bid of \$50k with a 60-day auction window

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Clerk Zak was directed to work with Fire Chief Banks to get the required information and photos for the MNBid auction site.

Resolution 2026-17: Support for Vermilion Housing

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve and sign Resolution 2026-1, Authorizing Breitung Township to Make Application to and Accept Funds From IRRR Simplified Grant – Commissioner, Emergency Vehicle Purchase

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township