

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 08-18-2026, 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

Public: Tom Gorsma – Maint. Sup., Nathan Cvetan, Police Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola, Scarlet Stone (Timberjay), Tony Perpich, Patrick O’Connell (LIUNA), Randy Pratt (arrived at 6:15 PM)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the minutes of the 07-21-2026 Regular Board Meeting, as presented

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurer’s Report

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the July 2026 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training: Compliance Review
- MAT Newsletter: Breitung Township Feature
- St. Louis County Public Works: Aggregate Crushing
- Tim Tomsich: Thank you

Correspondence reviewed by Chairman Tuchel, so noted.

Reports

- Police – Attached; Chief Reing recapped his report, noting that next month Big Truck Night was to be held on September 23 and he would be starting his GREAT classes with students next month
- Fire& Rescue – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached, Maint. Sup. Gorsma noted several items including: at least 25% or more of R&B time had been spent working on the Recreation Project, the new truck was currently in Duluth, J&R Wastewater Service had found Inflow & Infiltration issues with the sewer system, the steel roof had been installed on the out-building near the rear of the Township buildings
- Water – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that a Pre-construction meeting for the RIBs project was scheduled for 08/25/2026 and Hoover would be starting construction after Labor Day this year.
- Ambulance – No meeting had, nothing to report
- Recreation – Supervisor Peitso explained that the Recreation Board had opted to scale back the Frisbee/Disc Golf course and install just a few goals, we could always add more in the future. Approximately 48% of the project had been completed, trail cameras had been ordered to monitor the park for theft/vandalism.
The Joint Powers Recreation Board had not met.
- Noxious Weeds – Attached, ALWI Stephanie Ukkola noted a special thanks to Maint. Sup. Gorsma for his hard work at eradicating the weeds; she noted one landowner had not responded or made attempts to mitigate the noxious weeds on his/her property
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to refer the private landowner to the county
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0
- Joint Airport Zoning Board – Map Attached, Supervisor Peitso provided a map indicating the safety zones of the proposed zoning extension. She noted that the board had recommended sending the plans to the State Zoning Committee, for which approval could take up to 90 days. Resident Nathan Cvetan questioned whether there was going to be an extension of the runway; Supervisor Peitso explained that there were no plans to do so, however this zoning change would allow that should a need ever come to pass.

Public Input

None

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel stated that SHE had re-submitted to the FAA with an expected 3-week turnaround; potentially looking at an October bid date for the project
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tuchel noted he had heard nothing on starting from MBI
 - LRIP Amendment #1 – Chairman Tuchel explained that this amendment was due to MNDot requiring additional lanes on each side of the road (passing and turning), LRIP would be covering the cost of that addition with this amendment.
Motion to accept and sign LRIP Amendment #1 by Supervisor Tekautz
2nd by Chairman Tuchel
Motion passed 3-0
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Chairman Tuchel noted that John Jamnick should be looking into the matter of an additional \$5k being owed to MBI

- McKinley Park: ADA Project – Supervisor Tekautz noted that a September 14 meeting was scheduled with Mara Peterson to do the consultation for the project
- 2026 Recreation Project – Already covered during Recreation Report

Flood/FEMA process

No update

Broadband Project

No update

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor Tekautz reviewed the flyer information, noting the survey would be sent out by mail to Soudan's USPS boxes and upcoming meeting times

Blight

No Update

Project Labor Agreement

Patrick O'Connell from the Laborer's International Union of North America was in attendance to explain the benefits and uses of a PLA. He noted that a PLA adds protections into contracts, it is typically part of a pre-hire agreement, it sets rules for contractors and prevailing wage, allows local unions to force local labor, and is generally included in the bid documents provided by engineering firms.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to develop a resolution for approval at next month's meeting to incorporate PLAs into projects costing over \$150k

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Truck Sale

Clerk Zak noted that the Fire Tender for sale on MN-Bid had been listed for \$20k with a Reserve Price of \$50k, meaning that the bids would need to go to at least \$50k in order to trigger a sale; bids did not reach that level. The sole bid was for \$20k. Options were discussed between board members regarding listing in a Fire Truck Trader, re-listing it on MN-Bid for a lower rate.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to re-list the truck on MN-Bid for \$20k starting bid for 30 days

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to Pay Bills as Presented.

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Indian Point Road Association Request

Tony Perpich, the president of the Indian Point Road Association, was in attendance to discuss his requests with the town board. Chairman Tuchel provided background on Indian Point Road – the easements for it had been sponsored by Breitung Township but other than that, the township had nothing to do with the road. He further explained that he had met with Mr. Perpich after reviewing a request for gravel, grading, signage, and snowplowing; he noted that the gravel could be provided by the township and that the signage need had already been filled. Beyond that, he noted that Indian Point Road had grown quite a tax base over the last decade, contributing approximately \$70k to the township levy. Chairman Tuchel aired his concern that if the township begin providing road maintenance services to this road, it could become a township road and would therefore be a permanent responsibility; additionally, he noted it would likely result in a levy raise. Questions from Supervisors Peitso and Tekautz included the possibility of doing so in some way without taking ownership, hiring contractors to do the work and Maint. Sup. Gormsa questioned the expectations of the road association (how often, how much, etc.). Chairman Tuchel directed Clerk Zak to check with MN Associations of Townships on the legality of beginning maintenance on a road and indicated that he would reach out to township attorney for further clarification. No motion was made on this at the time, but would remain on the agenda for future discussion.

Road & Bridge: Sale of 2013 F-350

Maint. Sup. Gorsma reported that the new 1-ton was being outfitted with the dump box and other amenities; he expressed thoughts on getting the currently owned 1-ton on the market prior to winter as that's when people would be looking for that type of plow truck. Discussion on pricing took into account a trade-in offer of \$12k by a dealership.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to place the current 1-Ton on MN-Bid with a starting bid of \$13k for 30 days once the new 1-Ton had been delivered

Second by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Department:

- Applicants:
 - Tyler Vogh
 - Tanner Banks

Supervisors reviewed fire department applications

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the applications of Tyler Vogh and Tanner Banks to Breitung Fire & Rescue

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

- Siren & Speaker Purchase
- PPE Purchase

Supervisors reviewed purchase requests from Fire Chief Trevor Banks, both items being under \$25k.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the purchase of Siren & Speaker for installation on the Side x Side and PPE purchase with the addition of graphics/lettering for all-weather use (Boat & Side x Side use)

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2026-19: Certification of 2026 Breitung Tax Levy

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve Resolution 2026-19

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

McKinley Park Campground Management

Discussion regarding renewing the contract with current park management, Randy Pratt & Julie Kranz; it was noted that a significant increase had been requested (\$14k). Clerk Zak noted that the contract had been sent to township attorney Robert Pearson for review and he had noted that portions of the contract should be updated; Clerk Zak was directed to get the contract updated so that it could be reviewed by park management and Breitung supervisors prior to the next meeting. Randy Pratt noted that he had some trouble getting payments in for seasonals and storage; it was noted that June 1st would be the due date for seasonals and Labor Day for storage, to be added to contract. The board requested that park management provide an annual report for the next meeting as they would be out-of-state for the October meeting; additionally, the board requested that Clerk Zak add McKinley Park Rate Increase to the next agenda.

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak

Clerk, Breitung Township