Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 09-15-2026, 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: Nathan Cvetan, Police Chief Daniel Reing, Scarlet Stone (Timberjay), Tony Perpich (left at 8 PM), Robert Gregg, Randy Pratt (left at 8:05 PM), John Jamnick (JPJ Engineering, left at 7 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 Supervisor Peitso
Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the minutes of the 08-18-2026 Regular Board Meeting, as presented
2nd by Chairman Tuchel
Discussion regarding the Project Labor Agreement and whether a resolution had been signed. Clerk Zak indicated that she thought she forgot to correct the minutes to reflect the signing of the resolution
Motion failed 0-3
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to table the approval of the 08-18-2026 Regular Board Meeting until the Project Labor Agreement minutes could be corrected and passed at next month's meeting
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Dolinar discussed and summarized the provided reports.
Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the August 2026 Treasurers Report as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes
Clerk Zak requested that the board go back to the minutes of the 08-18-2026 meeting; she clarified that they had in fact not signed a resolution in August, but requested one to be available for approval at the September meeting. While no such resolution was available and placed on the September agenda, the minutes of the 08-18-2026 were correct and she would be sure to include the resolution in the October meeting agenda.
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 08-18-2026 Regular Board Meeting, as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence
None

Reports
- Police – Attached; Chief Reing reviewed the notes of his report
- Fire& Rescue – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Water – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel stated that construction on the RIBS project was getting under way next week, he notated that the ATV trail in that location was to be vacated and re-routed around the hill, not on township property.
- Ambulance – No updates, next meeting October 5, 2026
- Recreation – No updates, rec project to be discussed during Old Business
- Joint Powers Recreation Board – No updates
- Noxious Weeds – Clerk Zak noted that the Assistant LWI, Stephanie Ukkola, had sent the final certified letter to the property owner that had not corrected the issue of noxious weeds on his property, at this time there was nothing more to be done. Noxious Weeds to be removed from the list of reports for the time being.
- Joint Airport Zoning Board – No updates

Public Input
Robert Gregg spoke to supervisors and questioned whether a recent email to the Breitung Police Department was being taken care of; the email revolved around a sign posted near an intersection with Mr. Gregg stating that the sign had been placed illegally on his property; Supervisor Tekautz noted he planned to take a drive out to look at the location of the sign and Chairman Tuchel had separately planned to take a look at it along with Maint. Sup. Gorsma. It was decided that Chairman Tuchel and Maint. Sup. Gorsma would be best equipped to take a look at the issue in the next week or two; Mr. Gregg offered to be present when the sign was inspected if necessary.

Old Business:
Current Infrastructure Projects
- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel stated that FAA had three more comments to be addressed, SEH was to respond. John Jamnick of JPJ noted that trail alignment needed modification for one easement and that once the FAA had fully approved, the project should be ready to go to bids.
- Thompson Farm Road Project – John Jamnick summarized the extent of work that had been done, noted that construction had started the week prior and culverts should be finished tomorrow, there would be an approximate 1 month turn around for the project.
  Nathan Cvetan questioned the purpose of moving the road; Chairman Tuchel explained that the original road ran through Breitung Township's pit, this would allow for more use of the gravel that was already there, as well as providing a corridor for the new ATV trail being placed by the DNR.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Chairman Tuchel noted that the $5,000 bill was still not figured out but thought it had something to do with the quantities of asphalt that had been laid; John Jamnick stated he did not have information on what the extra charges are for

- McKinley Park: ADA Project – Supervisor Tekautz stated he had met with Mara Peterson and spent roughly six hours going through everything, including McKinley Park and the park in Soudan. He shared that there was good and bad news; the good being that the project is viable, the bad being that the bathrooms are absolutely not ADA compliant. The consultant had suggested a separate building with unisex bathrooms, showers, laundry, and fish cleaning all in one station. Supervisor Tekautz said that the specs of her recommendation should be coming in at the end of October; other items noted in relation to this project:
    - It should be fairly easy to make some accessible sites
    - There is too much of a lip between the patio and the door to the office
    - Pier is not level enough to be considered ADA compliant
    - None of the doors have openers and while it isn't legally necessary it was notable
- 2026 Recreation Project – Supervisor Peitso discussed the project updates including that Maint. Sup. Gorsma had been most recently working on installing the new batting cage, the black top was not yet in, representatives from the Disc Golf company had met with Gorsma to discuss placement of the Disc Golf goals, more trees had been received and planted. Discussion was had with regard to the width of the blacktop going in and whether it should be increased to be ADA compliant; Supervisor Tekautz agreed to touch base with Mara Peterson to find out if it would need to be increased to be compliant.

<u>Flood/FEMA process</u>
Clerk Zak had received notice from HSEM-MN that money for the management of the flood grant was incoming in the amount of $9,656.77.

<u>Broadband Project</u>
No update

<u>Joint Comprehensive Plan</u>
Clerk Zak noted that ARDC had received an excellent response to the surveys; it was discovered that the Community Meeting was to be held in Breitung at the same time as Big Truck Night at the park. Because of this, the meeting had been moved to the park in conjunction with Big Truck Night in order to be able to reach the most people.

<u>Blight</u>
Additional blight complaints had recently been submitted; Chief Reing noted he would be sending another letter and speaking with the resident in question.

<u>Fire Truck Sale</u>
The fire truck was currently listed on MN-Bid and being watched by 231 people.

Indian Point Road Association Request

Chairman Tuchel spoke on the request, stating that since the last meeting, he had been in conversation with the Township attorney. According to the attorney, and based on everything that had been found thus far in old files, the easements are still in Breitung Township's name; one option is to turn over the easements into the road associations name and then they would have to maintain it. The lawyer noted that if we do work on the road for 6 years, it becomes the responsibility of Breitung Township. There is no evidence of a Minimum Maintenance Road resolution or agreement between the township and the road association. Chairman Tuchel noted that the previous chairperson, Tim Tomsich, recalled signing something after the road had been put in place, but there was no document found as such. Chairman Tuchel requested that Clerk Zak look through basement files for anything that might be found before the next meeting and they would work toward making a final decision at that time.

McKinley Park Campground Management

It was noted that the contract had been heavily updated and that all parties, including the current manager and board members, felt the contract was acceptable
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the wording of the new contract
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion Passed 3-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to offer said contract to Randy Pratt and Julie Kranz for an annual fee of $50,000.
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion Passed 3-0

Discussion was had between supervisors and Randy Pratt; he indicated that he did not foresee any changes for quite some time and wondered whether the contract could include and auto renewal option if all parties were in agreement at the time.
Chairman Tuchel amended his previous motion to approve the wording of the new contract with the addition of the auto-renewal option for 1 year
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented.
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion Passed 3-0

McKinley Park Campground

- 2027 Rates: Discussion was had regarding the current rates, Randy Pratt suggested keeping the rates the same but adjusting the Daily and Weekly rates up to include tax to make payment processing a bit easier. Supervisor Tekautz indicated he was not in favor of raising rates. Chairman Tuchel stated that he thought since Breitung's residents were seeing taxes go up, it should be expected that non-residents utilizing the township, should also expect to see rates go up. With that in mind, discussion was had on the amount that rates should go up.
  Motion was made by Chairman Tuchel to raise the rates according to the following schedule:

	Electric	Non-Electric
Daily	$64 Including Tax	$40 Including Tax
Weekly	$400 Including Tax	$240 Including Tax
Monthly	$1400	$850
Seasonal	$4200	$2200

2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

- Electrical Upgrade
  Supervisor Tekautz discussed the option of upgrading the electrical to be metered; he indicated that this could be done at the same time as ADA updates. Randy Pratt provided a quote of $1470 per meter; with 32 seasonals, that total came to approximately $46k. Discussion was had as to whether it would be financially worth it, noting that it had been done at Hoodoo Point at half that rate and it had taken 5 years to recoup the cost of the upgrade. It was questioned whether this type of expenditure could be considered a match for the ADA project, Supervisor Tekautz would check with Nancy Larson on that possibility.
- Water Service Upgrade
  Minimal discussion on water upgrade, noted that some lines were going to freeze over the winters and there was no real way to prevent this, with or without an upgrade.

Randy Pratt provided his report for the year: He noted that it had been a spectacular learning experience and that he was excited for next year. He noted that there had been some issues with WIFI as the trees had grown up since the equipment had been installed; Clerk Zak was directed to check on the OnSystems contract. Randy noted that the current campground map was lacking in some of the site updates as well as the placement of the sites on the map and the road names, he was directed to discuss a new map with the Timberjay. He noted that electricity had been an issue that summer, with one outage lasting 19 hours; this created a problem with the bathrooms as they were pump operated, he recommended purchasing a generator for occasions like this. He mentioned other potential upgrades such as adjustable docks, water heater, picnic tables at sites. He stated that he had found an additional 3 tent sites that were not on the map and not in the system and had put them into use, he praised the efforts of the R&B department including the youth labor, and finally suggested a non-refundable deposit for site bookings now that they were taken online.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to include a $15 non-refundable deposit for daily and weekly sites and a $250 non-refundable deposit for monthly sites to be paid at booking
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Discussion: the deposits would count toward the overall total charged to guests at check-in
Motion passed 3-0

Facility Use Forms Update
Supervisors were approving up the updated forms but after learning about contracts from the changes to the McKinley Park Management contract, Clerk Zak was directed to run the updated facility use forms by the township attorney.

Resolution 2026-21: Appointing Election Judges

Clerk Zak discussed the appointing of election judges with the board noting that the township was required by law to have 4 judges on at all times; at the last election, several had to drop out and it was necessary for Clerk Zak to stand in as a judge. She elaborated that she also wanted to hire youth judges; though they could not count toward the minimum number of judges, she felt it would be a good way to build a base of judges for future elections.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve Resolution 2026-21
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township