Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 10-20-2026, 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, Scarlet Stone (Timberjay), Tony Perpich, Robert Gregg, Adrienne Devries, Trudy Hendricks, April Wamhoff

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 Peitso to approve the minutes of the 09-16-2026 Regular Board Meeting and the 10-16-2026 Special Board Meeting, as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0

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

Correspondence

- St. Louis County: Planning & Zoning Department
- RAMS: Annual Meeting & Dinner
  - Chairman Tuchel questioned whether two supervisors could attend this event without an issue concerning Open Meeting Law; directed Clerk Zak to check with MN Association of Townships
- SLCAT: Monthly Minutes, Annual Minutes, and Schedule

Correspondence so noted.

Reports

- Police – Attached; Chief Reing noted that the new CAD system can't write tickets, all departments were having this issue around the area. He noted he'd need to handwrite tickets for the time being and that there was just some fine-tuning to be done with the systems on the new vehicle.
- Fire& Rescue – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Water – Attached
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel noted that the RIBS project had started three weeks ago, half of one pond had been built
- Ambulance – Supervisor Peitso updated the board: Special Taxing District was currently paused to see how the partnership would go with Ely Area Ambulance, also paused due to the ongoing annexation of parts of Greenwood Township; board was still considering re-chassissing older rig, but has not yet received a quote. Noted that all contributors had made their payments for 2026.
- Recreation – No updates
- Joint Powers Recreation Board – Supervisor Tekautz updated the board: the group had a meeting, noted there was money available for recreation projects so that if anyone is in need, they should apply for funds; explained that the current president of the group was leaving at term end, there would be a space open for someone that would like to participate.
- Joint Airport Zoning Board – Correspondence had been received regarding Breitung Townships ownership of property in airport zones; a public meeting will be had on Thursday, October 22, 2026.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve the reports as present
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Public Input

Robert Gregg questioned whether the matter of the sign posted on/near his property had been resolved; Chairman Tuchel responded that Clerk Zak was directed to communicate with him that through township attorney and MN Association of Townships correspondence, it was determined that the right-of-way of the road was 8 feet; the sign was outside of the 8-foot right-of-way and was therefore on Mr. Gregg's property. He was welcome to remove the sign as he saw fit given that the placement of the sign was on his property. Any further questions from the party that placed the sign originally would have to come before the board.

April Wamhoff was in attendance to voice frustration over the Special Meeting held on 10-16-2026 and the resulting use of McKinley Park Campground for the purpose of allowing Neutrino Detectors to be placed in Lake Vermilion; overall she stated that in the future, it would be nice to know where to look for special meetings and to have more information. Chairman Tuchel explained that legally, a Special Board Meeting needs to be posted 5 days in advance which was done; he noted that it had also been put on Breitung Township website and Facebook site in order to let as many people as possible know about it. Ms. Wamhoff suggested a notification-blitz to let all people know when, where, and how notices were posted; Clerk Zak took the request under advisement. Ms. Wamhoff requested a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Veit & Company, Inc. and Breitung Township; this was provided to her.

Trudy Hendricks and Adrienne Devries were in attendance to voice similar concerns; Ms. Hendricks suggested putting special meetings on a more eye-catching type of paper, such as neon or using a highlighter. Ms. Devries questioned whether there had been a choice if they wanted the Neutrino Detectors in the lake at all; Chairman Tuchel advised her that it was not Breitung Township's choice to make and that the project had been permitted by the MN-DNR.

Teresa Dolinar spoke at the end of the meeting, after New Business but prior to adjournment, questioning why Breitung Township was paying to have a port-a-pottie at the monument rest stop; Chairman Tuchel informed that the bathrooms at the rest stop were owned and maintained by Breitung Township, not by the State.

Old Business:

Current Infrastructure Projects

- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel noted that the project had received approval from the State and FAA, currently waiting for county to provide the contract for the grant
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Chairman Tuchel remarked that changes required by MNDoT had caused an overage in engineering fees, which Breitung Township will be responsible for; he mentioned possibly asking the Prospector's ATV group for some help on the engineering fees but was not hopeful to receive anything, overall, the project was a major benefit to Breitung Township at a very low cost to us, even with the increased engineering fees. One of the items required by MNDoT was a bypass lane in the Southbound lane; this bypass lane requires blasting some ledge rock and a 2nd coat of asphalt, neither of which were contracted. The additional work should be covered by the grant but it is not guaranteed.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Chairman Tuchel noted that the $5,000 bill was due to an overage of material near the start of the bike trail. He indicated that he'd be interested in simply paying the overage to keep Breitung Township in Mesabi Bituminous Inc's good graces, as they have always gotten our projects completed and worked well with us. The matter would be tabled until next month's meeting when a clear breakdown of the overage would be available.
- McKinley Park: ADA Project – Supervisor Tekautz reported that he was still waiting to receive the plans from the consultant, would get in contact with her prior to the next meeting.
- 2026 Recreation Project – Supervisor Peitso reported that there was approximately $6,000 remaining in grant dollars if the paving cost comes in as proposed, noting that a grant amendment could be requested if it was too far over cost; Mesabi Bituminous recommended an overlay for the remainder of the bike trail not being done in order to mitigate any wear and tear that was currently seen in the asphalt. Heard that people have been using the Disc Golf course.

Broadband Project

Chairman Tuchel reported that CTC had no remaining work this year, no update on the grant application.

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor Tekautz reported that the ARDC meeting went really well being held in conjunction with Big Truck Night, waiting for update from ARDC for next steps.

Blight

Discussion was had regarding holding a community clean-up day, noted that volunteers would be needed. Clerk Zak questioned whether requesting volunteer labor was legal as requesting donations was not, clerk was directed to look into the matter. Supervisor Tekautz would speak with Tower's Mayor Setterberg about coordinating joint participation.

Fire Truck Sale
The fire truck had not sold in the latest sales attempt of $20k on MN-Bid
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to relist the truck at $10k for 14 days on MN-Bid
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0
Indian Point Road Association Request
Chairman Tuchel explained that Indian Point Road is indeed a township road, based on every file we have; it was originally intended to be a minimum maintenance road or be turned over to the road association, if that were the case, the road association would also have to accept it. He noted that Maint. Sup. Gorsma would be reaching out to plowing contractors as it would be hard to add to the schedule for this winter; discussion on possibly offering use of old 1-ton truck to the road association for plowing purposes was on the table as well. Chairman Tuchel and road association president Tony Perpich would meet to discuss options; Clerk Zak was directed to email the attorney communications regarding Indian Point Road to other supervisors.

Resolution 2026-20: Project Labor Agreement
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve Resolution 2026-20: Project Labor Agreement
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Facility Use Forms Updated
Clerk Zak reported that this project had not yet been completed, she was still working with the attorney on the final version. This discussion item was tabled until next meeting by Chairman Tuchel.

New Business:
Pay Bills as Presented
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented.
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0

Facility Use Request
The board reviewed a facility use request to serve alcohol at a private event. The supervisors considered it and questioned the rules in the agreement; Clerk Zak noted that renters were required to have an off-duty police officer in attendance
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the facility use request
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

IOUE Local 49 Contract
The union contract for Road & Bridge employees was set to expire on 12/31/2026; Breitung Township had received a request to open negotiations
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to appoint Supervisor Peitso as liaison for negotiations with the union
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

LMCIT Dividend
Treasurer Dolinar had received the annual dividend from LMCIT Workers' Compensation and asked for direction on how the board would like the money utilized: either for safety trainings as suggested by

LMCIT or deposited by fund based on dues paid (as it had historically been); board supervisors indicated they would like to continue seeing it deposit by fund based on percentage paid by each department.

McKinley Park Campground Contractor Site Use
Chairman Tuchel explained that employees of Veit & Company, Inc were interested in renting camping spaces for the time they were working at McKinley Park Campground to install Neutrino Detectors as approved at the 10-16-2026 Special Board Meeting. He noted they would have electricity, but no water or sewer.
Motion by Supervisor Peitso to allow contractors use of the campground at a 2/3 rate
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Veit & Company, Inc. Contract
Chairman Tuchel explained that Veit & Company, Inc would be drawing up an agreement for use of McKinley Park property; the agreement could be forwarded to township attorney once received.
Motion by Supervisor Peitso to authorize Chairman Tuchel to sign the contract once it is reviewed and approved by township attorney
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2026-22: Accepting Donations
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve Resolution 2026-22: Accepting Donations
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2026-23: Grant Authorization
The grant being applied for was the MN Department of Public Safety (TZD) grant for reimbursed overtime expenses for state sponsored TZD activities (click-it-or-ticket, sober driving, etc.)
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Resolution 2026-23: Grant Authorization
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings
Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Adjourn
Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM
2nd by Supervisor Peitso
Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township