

# **Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 01/26/2021-12:00PM. In Person Meeting at the Town Hall & Via Teleconference**

## **Present In Person:**

**Board Members:** Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Supervisor Greg Dostert, Clerk Dianna Sundahl, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

**Public:** Tom Gorsma-Maintenance Supervisor, Valeda McDonald, John Jamnick JPJ Engineering  
12:05pm

## **Phone In:**

Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay Newspaper, Renee Pearson-Deputy Clerk, Dan Nylund-Police Chief

Call to Order @ 12:00pm by Chairman Tomsich, Roll call taken

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Special Meeting Minutes from 12/29/2020 as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

## **Approval of Treasurers Report:**

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the Treasurers Report as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

## **Correspondence:**

- Minnesota Pollution Control-hearing on February 4, 2021 at 2:00pm, so noted
- Letter of Resignation-Jason Sanderson  
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept Police Lieutenant Jason Sanderson's letter of resignation with regret  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion Passed 3-0
- Johnson, Killen & Seiler-so noted
- St Louis County Environmental Services-so noted
- Regional Railroad Authority  
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to send a letter of support encouraging and supporting the replacement of the 2.5 mile segment and bridge of the Mesabi Trail from Tower to Soudan  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert  
Motion Passed 3-0
- Tony Sikora phone call-pleased with communication and work done on trees by house-so noted

## **Public Input:**

Stephanie Ukkola wanted to thank Tom and Keith for the good job of plowing in Soudan

## **Reports:**

- Police-written report
- Fire-written report-correction on Training Officer pay \$350, not \$300

- Road and Bridge-because of warm weather, roads tend to get sloppy. A lot of maintenance on equipment for December. Flooding rink was difficult with warm weather.
- McKinley Park-Dock at the Park has been reinforced by R&B. Seasonal payments continue to come in. February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021-will start taking payments for monthly reservations.
- Recreation-Rink flooded 9 times, Supervisor Dostert wanted to praise the good staff that he has. Staff is working hard and doing a good job. Attendance at the skating parties is down from last year. Hockey Days will be scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00pm. Asking for donations for bonfire material. No updates on donation of the remainder of hockey boards.
- Wastewater Board-Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 11am. At the last meeting there was much discussion on I/I. Some capacity was noted available and connection approved by the Wastewater Board for the new RV Park. Army Corp of Engineers has approved a \$3.35 million dollar grant for filtration that was not approved last year through the State Bonding Bill. The anticipated cost of the project is \$4.5 million. \$250k grant coming from IRRR, and will apply for another \$250k dollar grant. Mesabi Trail discussed and work will begin in 2022. Per MPCA and the NOV on manholes along the trail, the board would like to begin repair and/or replacement ahead of the bike trail project. Projected cost for manhole project is \$400,000.

### **Old Business:**

- Township Operations  
Motion to open up the Community Center for the public to rent out, following the Governors guidelines and orders made by Supervisor Dostert  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion Passed 3-0  
Will continue to keep offices closed and will continue to monitor and open when safe to do so.
- Police Schedule-Supervisor Tekautz met with Police Chief Dan Nylund and Lieutenant Jason Sanderson in regards to the change from 12 hour days to 8 hour days. The police would like to continue with their 12 hour a day schedule with a memorandum of understanding between LU 346 and Breitung Township that Sick, Vacation and Personal Tim will be at increments of 8 hours both used and for accumulation purposes.  
Motion made by Supervisor Dostert to accept the Letter of Understanding presented  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion passed 3-0
- Elimination of Police On-Call for the months of Feb-March-April 2021-saving Breitung Township and the City of Tower on call pay for those 3 months. At the start of the meeting it was noted that the City of Tower did not have this on their January agenda,

but Chairman Tomsich received a text message from Mayor Kringstad stating he would use an executive order and approved this for the City of Tower pending their next City Council Meeting. (Note: this was discussed here and not under New Business)

Motion made by Supervisor Dostert to eliminate Police on call for the months of February, March and April 2021 beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Inflow and Infiltration Grant Update-CDBG & IRRR

The CDBG Initial Funding Recommendation for the Breitung Township Inflow and Infiltration Reduction project is \$100,000. Approval still has to go through the St. Louis County Board before submission to HUD. This project is to free up more capacity at the ponds and there are 4 areas of concern that have been noted. It is possible that the project will have to be reevaluated and prioritized depending on funding availability. The IRRR Grant Contract Agreement is for \$145,000, with the township having to match the IRRR for \$145,000.

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to enter into the Contract Agreement as presented with the IRRR

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

#### New Business:

- Pay bills as presented

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to pay bills as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Fire & Rescue 2021 Officer and Wage Recommendations

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Fire & Rescue Officer and Wage Recommendations as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Fire and Rescue applying for AFG Grant for PPE and SCBA-PPE expires in 2021. Township has matched 5% in the past. So noted

- Board of Audit

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to hold the Board of Audit meeting directly after the February Regular Board Meeting 02/23/21.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Annual Meeting-Discussion in regards to in-person, telephone, video conference but no decision was made. Put on agenda for next month. It was noted that in years when the tax levy was increased attendance is higher.

- Plow Truck Replacement-Noted that the Vehicle Replacement Schedule needs to be updated. The plow truck is on the schedule for replacement after 10 years, and was moved from 2020 to 2021 last year. Currently the plow truck would have a good trade in value. If the township was to wait much longer the value would decrease. Asked Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma to look at getting specs for a new vehicle as well

as trade in value for current vehicle to bring to the next meeting. Approximately 6-8 months delivery after ordering a new vehicle.

- Workers Comp Premium Options

Motion made by Supervisor Dostert to choose the Deductible Premium Option with \$5000 deductible per occurrence for the LMCIT Work Comp Plan as presented 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Liability Coverage Waiver Form

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to choose “Does Not Waive” option for the LMCIT Liability Coverage – Waiver Form

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Resolution #2021-01-Designation of Township Election Hours-It was noted that both township positions were running unopposed this election.

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to designate election hours for the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 township election as 12:00pm to 8:00pm

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Resolution #2021-02-Appointing Absentee Ballot Board

Motion made by Supervisor Dostert to accept the Resolution as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Resolution #2021-03-Appointing Election Judges

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the resolution as presented, and have clerk appoint the necessary number of judges needed at the clerks discretion

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

**Next Regular Town Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 @ 12 noon

**Board of Audit Meeting:** Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 directly following the Regular Town Board Meeting

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to Adjourn the Meeting at 12:56pm

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sundahl  
Clerk, Breitung Township