

Township of Breitung Special Board Meeting 03/03/2021-12:00PM. 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, Tony Sikkora, Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay, Orlyn Kringstad, Dave Setterberg, Dan Manick, Victoria Ranua

Phone In:

Renee Pearson-Deputy Clerk

*Please note phone connection went out at approximately 12:30pm, and could not get back up and running.

Call to Order @ 12:00pm by Chairman Tomsich

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from 02/23/2021 as presented and Board of Audit Minutes from 02/23/2021 as presented with correction to the Clerks Report

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Old Business:

- **Plow Truck Replacement**

Received specs this morning, came in a bit lower than expected, Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma has not had a chance to thoroughly go over the list. The Plow truck in consideration comes with a bigger chassis, so it can have a bit bigger box. Will have SS box so longer life expectancy as well as better resale value down the road. Disappointed with trade in value offered, will consider putting out to bid later. Delivery of plow truck may be as early as September 2021. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma will review specs again, finalize and review, firm up pricing, and bring back to the Regular Board Meeting in March.

- **Update on Police Department Operations**

Chief Nylund's last day is Friday, March 5th, 2021. Chief Nylund reports he has received (2) applications for the vacancy that was posted. George Burger, who is currently a Part Time Officer has expressed interest in possibly a Part-Time Interim Police Chief position if the Board so chooses. There are currently 5 Part Time Police Officers. Discussion was had by Board and Public. Some residents are hearing that residents in the community have expressed liking and maintaining a Community Police Department. Some in attendance expressed risk and liability concerns for the Township in running its own Police Department. Discussion about having a working session with both the City of Tower Counsel and Township of Breitung Board members. Chairman Tomsich has been in contact with St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, and after March 5th, they will respond to emergencies only. This item will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

After some discussion, five options to review in the future were:

1. Keep the Department Status Quo as it is now
2. Keep St. Louis County Sheriff's Department Emergency Response Only
3. Contract with St. Louis County Sheriff's Department for Patrol
4. Breitung Township/City of Tower run individual Police Departments
5. City of Tower takes over managements of the Police Department with the Township of Breitung contracting with the City of Tower

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz for Chairman Tomsich to pursue the cost and availability for St. Louis County to Patrol after Chief Nylund's departure and to contract for services short term

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 at 08:15pm

Board of Canvass: Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 following the Annual Meeting

LBAE Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 1:00pm-2:00pm (tentative)

Next Regular/Reorganizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021

Adjourn:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 1:15pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sunsdahl
Clerk, Breitung Township