

Township of Breitung Regular Board and Reorganization Meeting 03/23/2021-12:00PM. 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, Deputy Clerk Renee Pearson

Public: Tom Gorsma-Maintenance Supervisor (left at 1:00pm), Steve Burgess-Fire Chief, James Battin (left at 12:49), Valeda McDonald, Dave Setterberg (Tower) (left at 12:48), Amy Hinkel, Frank Popesh (arrived at 12:20), Katy Popesh (arrived at 12:20), Nate Dostert (arrived at 1:15), Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay

Phone In:

Steve Altenberg-Tower News (identified during Reorganization portion of meeting)

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

Acceptance of Agenda:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the Special Meeting Minutes from 03/03/21, Board of Canvass 03/09/21, Special Joint Meeting 03/17/21 as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Annual Meeting Minutes 03/09/21-Review Only

Approval of Treasurers Report:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence:

- Wilson McShane-Audit-so noted and thanked Treasurer Jorgine Gornick
- LMC-Information on PTSD on their website-so noted
- Special Hunt-so noted

Public Input:

- Councilor Setterberg from Tower mentioned that himself and Councilor Morin will be on the Committee for the Police, representing the City of Tower, wanted to mention that there were rumors regarding the City of Tower being in breach of their contract, and there was no evidence of this.
- Deputy Clerk Pearson also had some questions regarding Police Protection, but will bring up during Police discussion.

Reports:

- Police-written report
- Fire-written report as submitted and Chief Burgess wanted to let everyone know that the "Wall of Fame" has been completed and welcomed the community to come take a look.

- Road and Bridge-gearing up for spring, street sweeping
- McKinley Park-Sites are filling up quickly. Receiving calls for reservations and deposits
- Recreation
 - Rink Updates-Supervisor Dostert asked to purchase plywood, as the cost of building materials is on the rise. Chairman Tomsich asked for Supervisor Dostert to talk to some local contractors and get some rough estimates on labor costs for rink repairs.
 - Donation of Hockey Boards-Supervisor Dostert to contact Benny Johnson
- Wastewater Board-see grant letter in packet, IRRR not happy with not using grant money in a timely manner. Will apply again after July 1st. This is for the WWB-filtration system.

Old Business:

- Township Operations
Will continue to keep offices closed and will continue to monitor and open when safe to do so. Will review on a month to month basis keep closed through the end of April.
- Projects
Mesabi Bituminous-has been very generous with Breitung Township and the work they have done for the township. The township and Mesabi Bituminous settled last year on the 1st section of road at the State Park, pit work and recycled material used at the Housing Parking Lot. JPJ Engineering will work on final bill and submit a final pay request to the Township.
- Update on Police Department Hours and Operations
Both the City of Tower and Breitung Township agreed to establish a committee to work on short and long term goals, as well as to terminate the current law enforcement agreement and addendum #1 as of March 31st, 2021 at the meeting 03/17/21. Clerk Sundahl will type up termination agreement. Will have the Sheriff's Department patrol through the end of March then work on short term goals. The Board expressed a desire to have representation from Puncher Point, Echo Pt, Mckinley Park and Soudan Proper, set ground rules, as well as tactical solutions for the short term. It was suggested to ask the Sheriff's Department on what they are willing to do in the short term for our communities. Clerk Sundahl working on a Power Point presentation. The public suggested that data presented be separated by Tower vs Soudan. Discussion to advertise for a CLEO and review current applications the Township has received so that the Township can have applicants ready if that is what the committee recommends and Board decides.
Motion by Chairman Tomsich to have Clerk Sundahl and Supervisor Tekautz on the Police Committee
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion Passed 3-0
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to advertise for a CLEO and review current applications for CLEO
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Transfer/Purchase of land from St. Louis County (next to transfer station)

Breitung Township had approached St. Louis County about purchasing .58 acres of land next to the transfer station for future use by the township for gravel/road entry use. The purchase of this land gives the Township a buffer for a future safe exit and entrance into the township pit property, and possibly some gravel. JPJ Engineering will provide a legal description to the county this spring.

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to approve the purchase of property from St. Louis County as presented for \$580.00

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Plow Truck Replacement

First quote came in at \$140,824.77 without a trade in. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma went the quote, made some adjustments, and the next quote with improvements came in at \$145,710.82 without a trade in for an increase from original quote of approximately \$5100. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma stated the ladder was left off, but is of minimal cost-\$130.00. Warranty can be purchased up to six months later.

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to purchase new plow truck for \$145,710.82 with up to an additional \$500.00 in miscellaneous items per quote submitted

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

- Ordinance 2016-05-Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace

Discussion by the Board in regards to individual complaint by a Sudan resident so noted. Clerk Sundahl made the Board aware of the discrepancy of the signed and published Ordinance, and wording left out of the Ordinance from the 10/25/2016 Board Meeting Minutes. Wording left out of paragraph (4) is "to allow present residents to replace or fix their OWB but must follow current EPA standards and manufacturer's standards"

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to make an amendment reflecting the Boards decision at the 10/25/2016 minutes

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Renewal/Extension of Post Office Lease Agreement with the Township of Breitung

Regional Manager of the United States Postal Services contacted Chairman Tomsich to see if the current lease agreement could be extended for a four (4) year term at the current rate.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the extension of the Post Office Lease Agreement for 4 years

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Quit Claim Deed-Eagles Nest

In 1991 the Town of Breitung applied for and received a conditional use deed for tax-forfeited land. This is land that the current Eagle's Nest Fire Hall is located on. The deed is currently in the Township's name, and should have been turned over to Eagles Nest Township when they departed from Breitung Township, but it was not. According to the Eagles Nest Attorney the easiest way to rectify was through a quit claim deed.

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to sign and accept the quit claim deed as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

- 169 Task Force

Supervisor Dostert was contacted by the task force, as there is a little over 1M in monies remaining for the project, and he will still be a part of the task force

New Business:

- Pay bills as presented

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to pay bills as presented

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- McKinley Park Bike Trail DNR Grant Application

Total project estimated at a cost of 350k. JPJ Engineers will be in charge of project and this is the 2nd DNR Grant Application for 150k. This grant application is for the Local Trail Connections Program.

- Resolution 2021-05 Supporting Grant Application for the McKinley Park Trail

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to support resolution 2021-05

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Minnesota Benefit Association

- Resolution 2021-11 Enrollment of Officers

Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to support resolution 2021-11 and enroll in the Town Board and Town Officers in the Group Term Life Policy at a cost of \$320 per member

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

Consensus by the Board to hold in person and via teleconference

Reorganization

- Legal Publication-Tower News, per the lowest bid
- Depository-Frandsen Bank and Trust, American Bank
- Legal Advisor-Cope and Peterson, and Bob Pearson of Johnson, Killen, & Seiler, P.A.
- Labor
 - \$10.08 per hour-Subject to wage requirements
 - Rider Mower Operator-\$10.08 (18 years of age or older and Rink Attendants)
 - Housekeeping-\$14.00/hour
 - Youth Rate- (added) \$8.21/hour under 18 years of age
 - Recreation Maintenance-Remove
 - Equipment Operators-\$12.50-\$15.00/hour subject to experience
 - Equipment Rental \$100/hour with operator (1/2 hour minimum)
 - Maintenance Mechanic-Remove
 - Grader Operator-\$20.00/hour
 - Fire Chief-\$425 per month
 - Assistant Fire Chief-\$375 per month
 - Fire Department Training Officer-\$350 per month
 - Fire Captain-\$250 per month

- Fire Lieutenant-\$200 per month
- Annual Meeting Moderator-\$50.00
- Police-As per Contract
- Part Time Police-\$22.00 per hour
- Supervisors
 - ✓ Chairman-\$650 per month
 - ✓ Supervisors-\$550 per month
- Clerk-\$23,000.00
 - ✓ Deputy Clerk-\$19.00/hour
- Treasurer-\$23,000.00
 - ✓ Deputy Treasurer-\$19.00/hour
- Election Judges-\$15.00/hour
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-06 Authorizing Contract Jorgine Gornick
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-07 Authorizing Contract Dianna Sunsdahl

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept Resolution 2021-06 and 2021-07 as presented paying \$15.00/hour
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Compensation for Town Board and Town Officers for attended extra Town Board meetings-\$50.00 per occurrence
- Reimbursement for Town Officers (Clerk & Treasurer) for township related expenses-\$50.00/month
- Cigarette License-\$50.00
- Animal License-Unsexed-\$5.00 Sexed-\$10.00
- Designate Posting Location-Outside the Community Center, Soudan Post Office and Soudan Store
- Mileage-As regulated by the IRS-.56 cents/mile
- Wastewater Board-Supervisor Dostert/Chairman Tomsich
- McKinley Park Liaison-Chairman Tomsich
- Ambulance Board-Supervisor Tekautz
- Joint Recreation Board-Supervisor Dostert
- Lodging Tax Board-Supervisor Dostert
- Township Grant Manager
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-08 Authorizing Contract Timothy Tomsich

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to approve Resolution 2021-08 as presented paying \$20.00/hour
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 2-0, Chairman Tomsich abstained
- Township Recreation Areas
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-09 Authorizing Contract Gregory Dostert

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to approve Resolution 2021-09 as presented paying \$10.08/hour
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 2-0 Supervisor Dostert abstained

- Township Project Inspector
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-10 Authorizing Contract Charles Tekautz
Motion by Chairman Tomsich to approve Resolution 2021-10 as presented paying \$10.08/hour
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 2-0 Supervisor Tekautz abstained
- Regular Board Meetings-4th Thursday of the month at 12:00pm
- Optional Holiday Days
 - ✓ Resolution 2021-12 Designating the Optional Holiday Days as Not Holidays
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Resolution 2021-12 as presented
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the 2021 Reorganization changes
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0

Next Regular Meeting Date-April 22nd, 2021 12:00pm
LBAE Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 (Tentative) 1:00pm-2:00pm

Adjourn:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 2:03pm
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sunsdahl
Clerk, Breitung Township