

Township of Breitung Agenda-Regular Board Meeting

Township of Breitung Board Meeting 06/24/2021

Breitung Town Hall 12noon and via teleconference

Call in information (701) 802-5299, Access Code 8973797#

- Call the meeting to order/Roll Call
- Acceptance of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
 - 05/27/21-Regular Board Meeting
 - 06/09/21-Special Board Meeting
- Approval of April 2021 Treasurers Report
 - Checks Written 45498 thru 45574
 - Total Disbursements \$74,188.56
 - Fund Balance-\$167,167.98
 - Voided Checks-None
- Correspondence
 - IRRR-Potential Temporary Suspension of State Contract Performance
 - Lake Country Power-Notice of Capital Credit Allocation
 - MAT-New Tax Ruling
 - LMC-Membership Dues Increase
 - Echo Point Concern about B&B's
 - Thank You-City of Tower regarding assistance during spill
- Public Input

Reports:

- Police-None
- Fire-See Attached
- Road and Bridge
- McKinley Park
- Recreation
 - Donation of Hockey Boards
- Wastewater Board
- Ambulance Commission

Old Business

- Township Operations
 - Community Picnic
 - Continuation of teleconferencing for meetings
- Update on Police Department
 - Open House Updates
- Proposed Sale of Tax Forfeited Land
- Blight
- Sewer Line Work-Project Update
- Road and Bridge Projects

New Business

- Pay Bills as Presented
- Fire Department
 - Volunteer Membership Application
- Volunteer for representative on the Steering Committee for the Tower Trails Plan

Special Meeting Date-July 13th, 2021 at 12:30pm

Next Regular Meeting Date-July 22nd, 2021 at 12:00pm

Adjourn

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 05-27-2021 at 12:00PM. In Person Meeting at the Community Center & Via Teleconference

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Supervisor Greg Dostert
Deputy Clerk Renee Pearson, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

Public: Tom Gorsma Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Burgess Fire Chief, Stephanie Ukkola
Timberjay

Absent: Clerk Dianna Sunsdahl

Phone In:

Technical Difficulties, no one detected on the line, hung up at 12:00pm

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

Acceptance of Agenda:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the agenda as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Special Meeting Minutes from 04/22/21 and
05/18/21 as presented

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurers Report:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Treasurers Report as presented
2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence:

Folder placed on table for Board to review

- University of MN-Clerk to contact, U of M does not lease the building any longer
- Clerk can attend CTC meeting if time permits

Public Input:

None

Reports:

- Police-no report
- Fire-written report
- Road and Bridge-Busy with numerous projects, Summer residents are returning and asking for water turn on, seeding grass, extra work being done at the ballfield (cleaning and painting), Youth employees working out well. Resident picked up and bagged garbage on the Junction Road-would like to thank the individual. Rest Stop to be

painted and cleaned next week before opening. Great Lakes Pipes cleaning, and videotaping sewer lines last week.

- McKinley Park-Opening weekend was full, totally booked for the summer with numerous calls each day. Dock repairs completed.
- Recreation
 - Donation of Hockey Boards-No one has heard from Sara Carling about taking hockey boards, Clerk Sunsdahl to follow up. Tom Gorsma will follow up with the City of Virginia if Sara Carling doesn't take them.
 - Joint Recreation Board-Supervisor Dostert unable to attend
 - Babe Ruth Teams, Coach Pitch and T Ball will be using the Soudan field this summer
- Wastewater Board
 - Awaiting State Bonding Bill to pass, JPJ to move forward with manhole replacement project from the City of Tower to the Ponds. Construction to be completed by end of year.
 - Manhole by the river needs to be replace, to be discussed at next meeting
 - IRRR sent out link for funding opportunity for community infrastructure/facility projects. JPJ has submitted the application(s) through the WWB for the sewer mains and funding gap on water filtration system.

Old Business:

- Township Operations
 - Community Picnic-Discussion on Covid-19 restrictions being lifted by the Governor- the Township Board supported having the Community Picnic this year. Motion by Supervisor Dostert to hold the Community on Sunday, July 4th, 2021 at 12:00pm-3:00pm at the Pavilion
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion Passed 3-0
 - Office and Buildings-Discussion that all Township Buildings to open the first week of June. Township Office hours (Clerk) 8:00am-12:00pm (Treasurer) 12:00pm-4:00pm. Rest Area to be open after cleaned and painted. Portable Restrooms to be sent back when completed.
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to open up Township Office and Buildings the first week of June as per CDC guidelines
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0

- Update on Police Department

Board discussion on having a local presence, continue to await committee recommendations, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department fulfilling some of the shifts requested from the Township/City of Tower

- Committee Meetings-Continue to meet, meeting notes in public packet
- Applications and Postings for CLEO-have received 2 applications for Chief and one for an officer
- Records Retention-Clerk continues to gather information

- Ordinance 2016-15A-Amendment to Ordinance No 2016-15 Outdoor Woodburning Furnaces

Draft presented to the Board after previous board meeting discussion

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Ordinance 2016-15A

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to approve publishing a summary of the Ordinance

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Proposed Sale of Tax Forfeited Land-No action taken by the Board

New Business:

- Pay bills as presented

Motion made by Supervisor Dostert to pay bills as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Fire Department-Chief Steve Burgess

- Quote from Alex Air Apparatus

Current camera purchased in 2008 using a grant from the company "500 for Life" which is no longer in business. Department can trade in camera's but chargers are not compatible. A new camera has a more simple operation, multi-dimensional with larger screen and more options. The camera is used often for salvage and overhaul rescue.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to purchase a new camera and charger per quote from Alex Air Apparatus in the amount of \$5495

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- New Job Descriptions-Fire Chief Burgess changed language in the job descriptions under Education and Experience. Changed 2nd bullet point from 5 years to 3 years no matter date of hire.

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the changes presented by Chief Burgess

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Gravel-Discussion in regards to crushing gravel. Luestek charges \$14,000 for set up, teardown, magnet and crusher. Tom Gorsma suggested contacting Nemanich for pricing information, Supervisor Tekautz to speak with Nemanich.
- Blight-Supervisor Tekautz and Supervisor Dostert will go through town to look at any blight issues and give findings to Clerk Sundahl. Will review Ordinance in regards to licensed or unlicensed vehicles in yards.
- Resolution 2021-13 General Records Retention Schedule
Schedule of Records Retention Schedule included in packet
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Resolution 2021-13
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- 2021 Deer Hunt
Deer Hunt Application available from the Deputy Clerk Treasurer in the City of Tower. Chairman Tomsich to talk with Tom Rusch at the DNR to exclude the exterior of Co. Road 697 within Breitung Township.
- 2020 Breitung Drinking Water- Report available on the Breitung Township Website
- Speeders (4 wheelers, dirt bikes, etc)
Chairman Tomsich spoke with Jon Skelton and the Sheriff's Department about the number of speeders going through Soudan Proper at this time. Jon suggested at this time to call 911 and it will be treated as a low priority call. If caller can get name or license plate information this would be helpful. Additional "No Motorized Vehicle" signage to go on the bike trails.

Special Board Meeting: Wednesday June 9th, 2021 at 12:30pm to discuss Waste Water Projects, Sewer Projects and Road and Bridge Projects

Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, June 24th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Adjourn:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 1:18pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Renee Pearson

Deputy Clerk, Breitung Township

Township of Breitung Special Board Meeting 06-09-2021 at 12:30PM. In Person Meeting at the Community Center & Via Teleconference

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Supervisor Greg Dostert
Deputy Clerk Renee Pearson, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

Public: Tom Gorsma Maintenance Supervisor, John Jamnick-JPJ

Absent: Clerk Dianna Sundahl

Phone In:

Technical Difficulties, could not hear others on the line, no prompts for access code or pin, hung up at 12:30pm. Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay called the Deputy Clerk and listened in on her phone.

Call to Order @ 12:30pm by Chairman Tomsich, Roll call taken

Old Business:

- Sewer Line Work and Projects
 - Work continues by Great Lakes Pipe Service to camera lines
 - JPJ learned that the line under the highway was not previously televised due to an obstruction, but has now been able to get through
 - There are a few manholes on the west side of Church Street with issues. The abandoned line still has water going through. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma reported that spray foam was used to try to plug the manhole, but has been unsuccessful.
 - When line was cleaned in manhole behind Center Street-debris and sand was found in the line.
 - Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma has used the camera at 21 4th Avenue through the sewer lateral line and found the clay tile and top of the tile defective.
 - The line behind 11 Poplar Street to be televised on Thursday June 10th, 2021. Looks like much work to be done due to water coming in the sides of the manhole.
 - Manhole cleaning-More televising needs to be done. Maintenance Department to work with JPJ Engineering to discuss.
 - Manhole replacement and rehabilitation of manholes scattered throughout the Township
 - South Street Area-Sanitary Sewer replacement and restoration to be done. Will eliminate the pipes going under the highway, there are currently no sags in the line.

- 4th Street Sanitary Project between Jasper and Gordon Streets-Replacing 700 linear feet of sanitary sewer, sewer service pipe and street restoration up to the property line (or edge of sidewalk). Property owners can change their own sewer lines at this time, should notify owners on both sides of the street. Water Commission to notify owners.
- Call for bids for the Inflow & Infiltration projects to be at the next Breitung Township Board Meeting, June 24th, 2021 with BIDS being opened at a Special Meeting to be held July 13th, 2021 at 12:30pm.
- Road and Bridge Projects
 - Stuntz Bay Road-Road is wash boarded on right side when going down the road. Curbing is sinking and may need replacing. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma and John from JPJ to assess. Possibility of State funding to repair
 - Chairman Tomsich asked Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma to set up the mobile street sign. There may be an issue with it, will ask Bob Dale, a local electrician, to look at it.
 - Chairman Tomsich is still waiting for the legal description to be written by JPJ Engineering for the corner piece of land by the landfill
- Gravel Pit
 - Tom Nemnich contacted Supervisor Tekautz and said he would think about crushing rock in the Township Pit and would get back to him.
- Police Department Update
 - Open Houses to be held for the public to show options the committee has looked at. Breitung Meetings to be held on Wednesday, June 23rd @ 10am and 6pm. Tower Meetings to be held on Thursday June 24th at 6pm and Friday June 25th at 9am.
- Township Operations and 4th of July Picnic
 - 4th of July Picnic to be held on Sunday July 4th from 12Noon to 3pm. Treasurer Gornick to look at purchasing "water toys". Sashes and lanyards are ordered. Clerk Sundahl has food list.
 - Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma to schedule help for setting up. Setup will be done the week before the 4th of July.
 - Old Settlers-Supervisor Tekautz reported the Old Settlers to be held at McKinley Park on the 3rd Saturday in July-July 17th with Booyah served at noon. Steven Solkela to provide the entertainment. Price increase this year to \$8 for prepay and \$10 after June 30th, 2021.

Consensus by the Board to hold a special Board Meeting July 13th, 2021 @ 12:30pm

Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, June 24th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Next Special Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 at 12:30pm

Adjourn:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 1:24pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Renee Pearson

Deputy Clerk, Breitung Township

DRAFT

TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG

May-21

GENERAL	33,698.48
ROAD & BRIDGE	1,062.11
FIRE	1,378.36
PARK	34,657.30
RECREATION	3,194.76
POLICE	6,925.03
PROJECTS	29,464.40
WATER DEPT	56,787.54
CARES	0.00
TOTALS	167,167.98



June 17, 2021

To: Contractors, Vendors, and Grantees

Re: Potential Temporary Suspension of State Contract Performance

We are writing because your organization has a relationship with this agency either under a current contract with an expiration date after June 30, 2021, or a new contract that becomes effective on or after July 1, 2021.

As you may know, the Minnesota State Legislature adjourned May 17, 2021, without appropriating money to fund the operations of state government for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2021.

Although we believe there will be a successful and timely resolution to budget negotiations, due to the uncertainty at this time, we must advise all contractors, vendors, and grantees that in the absence of legislatively authorized appropriations as of July 1, 2021, all work activity under our contracts must be suspended as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021, unless the contractor is specifically told otherwise. Payments required of this agency under those contracts will be suspended.

We will keep you informed of progress regarding legislative authorization of appropriations, and we will issue public notices when budgets are approved, and contract performance may be resumed. We suggest that you monitor state websites, bulletins, and media publications for further information.

Sincerely,

Mark Phillips
Commissioner



Cohasset Service Center
26039 Bear Ridge Drive
Cohasset, MN 55721

9151 1 AB 0.428
TOWN OF BREITUNG
C/O JORGINE GORNICK
PO BOX 56
SOUDAN MN 55782-0056

5 9151
C-21



Notice of Capital Credit Allocation

Year: 2020

Member Number: 1578200

Total Capital Credit Allocation: \$576.23

**Division of Allocation total: Lake Country Power - \$395.96
Great River Energy - \$180.27**

THIS IS NOT A BILLING: DO NOT PAY

We are pleased to inform you that your share of Lake Country Power's margin for 2020 is \$576.23. You may not apply any part of this allocation to your electric bill or as payment for any other cooperative related service.

General Retirements are paid only upon the approval of the Lake Country Power Board of Directors.

Should you discontinue service with Lake Country Power and/or change your current mailing address, you should notify LCP as future correspondences relative to capital credits will require a current mailing address.

Thank you for your continued commitment and loyalty to your electric cooperative. Please refer to the back side of this notice for an explanation of capital credits or visit our website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

Your un-retired Capital Credits to date are \$14,126.40

Please look on the back for more detailed capital credit information.

Cohasset Service Center
26039 Bear Ridge Drive
Cohasset, MN 55721

Mountain Iron Service Center
8535 Park Ridge Drive
Mountain Iron, MN 55768

Kettle River Service Center
4065 Hwy 73
Kettle River, MN 55757

1-800-421-9959

Energy that Powers Our Lives

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Capital Credits

It pays to be a Lake Country Power member. Earning and receiving capital credits is one of the membership advantages to receiving electric services from Lake Country Power. Because Lake Country Power is a not-for-profit cooperative, all margins are allocated back to member-owners in the form of capital credits.

How do Capital Credits work?

There are capital credit allocations and also capital credit retirements. Each is different. Understanding both will help you know how this co-op benefit can work for you.

1. **Allocation:** Each year, you are "allocated" your portion of the previous year's margin based on the amount of electricity you purchased from Lake Country Power in relation to the total amount of electricity purchased by all members during the year.

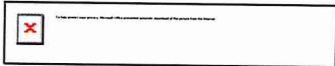
Once a year you may receive notification of an allocation. The notification you are receiving today is an informational notice to let you know about your share of capital credits that will eventually be paid to you when a general retirement is issued by the Board of Directors. An allocation represents your share of ownership in your member-owned cooperative.

2. **Retirement:** Capital Credits accumulate over time in an account in your name, and are refunded periodically to you upon action by the Board of Directors. Eventually, after a number of years, capital credits are "retired" or paid back to members or former members to whom they were originally allocated. General retirements are issued if the financial condition of the cooperative will not be impaired.

The decisions surrounding the retirement of Capital Credits are taken into consideration by the Board of Directors as they work toward keeping rates as low as possible when the cost of fuel, materials and wholesale power continue to escalate.

If you have additional questions, please contact our office at 1-800-421-9959.

From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:15 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: Advocacy Alert: New Tax Court Ruling will Harm Townships – State Should Help



Advocacy Alert

June 7, 2021

Urgent Request for Help!

New Tax Court Ruling will Harm Townships – State Should Help

Last week a Minnesota Tax Court ruled that local governments in 13 Northern Minnesota Counties must repay Enbridge Energy for over-taxation caused by the State Department of Revenue's errors in valuing Enbridge's property. The over-valuations reach as far back as 2012, so local governments received and spent the funds long before the tax case arose. Making the situation worse, the amounts owed are subject to compounding interest. Townships, cities, counties, and school districts in these 13 areas will need to raise local tax levies to repay the amounts owed, while also trying to provide for their current needs. Many townships cannot manage this without help from the State.

Please contact your legislators to ask that the State pay for the mistakes of the Department of Revenue, rather than the townships, cities, counties, and school districts that had no role in the over-valuations.

Our one-click prewritten advocacy message is ready for you to send - please visit <https://mntownships.org/alert/>.

Thank you.

Minnesota Association of Townships
www.mntownships.org

CONTACT US



June 11, 2021

Breitung Township
PO Box 56
Soudan, MN 55782-0056

Dear Mayors and Administrators,

Greetings. We hope that you are doing well and are experiencing renewed energy and excitement about the summer days ahead.

At its June meeting, the League's Board of Directors approved a preliminary maximum membership dues schedule increase of 4% (four percent) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 that runs from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022. This is only the second proposed dues increase in the past five fiscal years and reflects the evolving needs of our members. You may recall that the Board opted for no dues increase for FY 2020-21 in anticipation of member budget concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Setting the maximum dues schedule increase is similar to a city setting its preliminary levy increase, in that the final dues schedule increase to be approved by the League Board cannot exceed the preliminary approved increase. The Board will formally discuss and approve a final dues schedule increase along with the League's FY 2022 budget at its August meeting.

We are carefully assessing the future of our work and planning programs and services in a post pandemic environment. Anticipated changes in the FY 2022 budget include the addition of two new staff to respond to member needs, and updates and enhancements to our education and training programs. As in every budget cycle, the League is committed to enhancing and improving our base operations and services too.

The past year has certainly been challenging for all of us. We will continue to reach out to members in the coming days to learn more about how the League can adapt to the changing needs of member cities in a post-pandemic world.

Feel free to contact David Unmacht at (651) 281-1205 or dunmacht@lmc.org with any questions. If your future travels lead you to St. Paul, be sure to stop by the League to visit the new member areas of our renovated building on University Avenue. We'd love to give you a tour and have you use our space.

The League staff is serious about our responsibility to carefully manage member assets and we thank you for your continued support of the work we do on your behalf.

Brad Wiersum



President

David Unmacht



Executive Director

clerk@breitungtownship.org

From: clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 4:21 PM
To: chairman@breitungtownship.org; clerk@breitungtownship.org;
maintenance@breitungtownship.org
Cc: 'Orlyn Kringstad'
Subject: City of Tower: Thank you Breitung for Main Street concrete clean up

Breitung,

Thank you very much for your quick response in assistance in removing the unintentionally spill concrete that lined Hwy 169.

Victoria Ranua

Clerk/Treasurer

City of Tower

PO Box 576

602 Main St

Tower MN 55790

W: 218-753-4070

C: 218-404-4466

clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com

Breitung Fire & Rescue
Box 337
33 1st Ave.
Soudan, Mn. 55782

June Fire Dept Report

Regular monthly fire dept meeting was held on 6/9/21. Highlights were review and discussion of fire calls, assigned members for monthly apparatus checks and equipment checks, SOG refinement by Minnesota Public Safety group is in progress with officer group, discussion of purchase of new thermo imaging camera purchase, approved one new membership application, discussion of possible summer picnic, apparatus washing, township picnic details and parade drivers discussion, A meal was served by fire dept personal.

Hands on training conducted on apparatus pumping and set up.

Since last regular meeting in May we responded to following emergency calls.

- 5/15 mutual aid for Greenwood FD for electrical fire
- 5/23 mutual aid for Greenwood FD for structure fire

From: Nancy Larson <communitycoaching@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 4:52 PM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org; Tim Tomisch
Subject: Tower Master Trails Plan
Attachments: Steering Committee Letter.docx

Attached please find a letter of invitation for a representative to serve on the Steering Committee for the Tower Trails Plan. Arrowhead Regional Development Commission is facilitating the process. The end product will be a conceptual plan of potential trails as well as addressing issues with current trails and how to improve what we have.

This does not require any financial obligation for the township. We are seeking one representative from Breitung government.

The city is putting together a broad group of users and agencies involved in trails development, management, coordination, and collaboration.

The trails include walking, hiking, biking, skiing, as well as ATV, snowmobile and horse trails so users from these groups are invited as well.

Please review the attached and return as noted on the letter.

Thanks,
Nancy

Please review the letter &
let me know if you
would like to be on
this committee. The
deadline is June 16th,
but Nancy has let
ARDC know our meeting
isn't until the 24th.

June 2, 2021

Trails Planning Steering Committee Invitation

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) has been engaged by the City of Tower to facilitate a trails planning process which includes collecting public input about existing trail issues and desired trail destinations. The Trails Plan will consider trails for people walking, hiking, biking, skiing as well as other recreational modes of transport including ATV, horseback, and snowmobile. User data collected and geographic data on land ownership will be overlaid and used to identify conceptual trail connections and the type of use each would accommodate. A Steering Committee is being appointed to guide the project.

The City of Tower requests that your organization become involved in this planning process so that with your input our area network of trails can be better coordinated and expanded. In addition to providing input your representative will serve as your group's communication liaison. Working together can broaden and strengthen our network of trails and expand connections in the Tower and outlying area.

The Steering Committee will meet three times during the planning process. Steering Committee meetings will be no more than one hour and will be held over the summer/fall months. The first meeting is expected to be held in July. Each meeting will take place at a time between 10 am and 6 pm on a week day. The ARDC facilitator will conduct a poll of the group to identify the day and hour most could meet.

Your input is very important. It will be a significant factor in creating a long-range plan which will address current trails issues as well as support future efforts in accessing state and federal funding for trail system segments.

Please respond with the following information:

Name of representative:

Email address:

Phone:

Do you prefer the meeting in person _____ or via Zoom _____. (A hybrid is not possible)

Thank you for your organization's interest in year-round multi-use trails and trail connectivity.

Please assign one person from your organization and return the contact information to:

Nancy Larson, City Grants Manager at communitycoaching@yahoo.com or mail to the attention of Nancy Larson at Tower City Hall, P.O. Box 576, Tower MN 55790. Please call or text Nancy at 218-750-7514 with questions.

Return no later than Wednesday, June 16. Thank you!