

Township of Breitung Agenda-Special Board Meeting

Township of Breitung Special Board Meeting Tuesday, 08/17/2021 at 12:00pm
At the Breitung Community Center

- Call the meeting to order/Roll Call
- Approval of minutes from 07/22/21-Regular Board Meeting

Old Business

- Breitung Police Department
 - Updates and Discussion
 - Summary of Interviews and Recommendations by Interview Board
- Regional Trails Application
 - Updates and Discussion
 - Resolution 2021-16
- Blight Letters

Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday 08/26/21 at 12 Noon

Adjourn

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 07-22-2021 at 12:00PM. In Person Meeting at the Community Room

Present In Person:

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

Public: Tom Gorsma Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Burgess Fire Chief, Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay, Steve Altenberg-Tower News

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 Minutes from the 07-13-21 Special Board Meeting Minutes

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurers Report:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the June Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence:

- Frandsen Bank-so noted
- Stuntz Bay Thank You-so noted
- Congressional Spending for TH 169-so noted
- Vermilion Lake Association Annual Meeting-so noted
- Echo Point Concern about B&B's-Supervisor Dostert will contact the Lodging Tax Board and contact St. Louis County in regards to any septic issues. Stated there are possibly 5 B&B's on Echo Point with increased traffic and cars.
- Northwoods Partners-Clerk Sundahl to gather more information on how they might help our community
- Thank You for the Community Picnic from the Anderson family-so noted put up in Clerk's Office. Also wanted to thank Tom and Keith for their help with the Community Picnic and Old Settlers.

Public Input:

None

Reports:

- Police-no report
- Fire-see written report
- Road and Bridge-Starting to gear up for winter activities, patching and brushing. Baseball games wrapping up. There have been lots of positive comments about the Soudan Baseball Field. Will continue to monitor the water level and need to lower docks due to drought.
- McKinley Park-Continues to be full; waiting on quote for electrical work for campsites to reduce load on 1 circuit that has numerous campers on it. Hopefully a fall project. Also waiting for a bid for yearly electrical preventative maintenance.
- Recreation-No Report
- Donation of Hockey Boards-Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma left a message 2ce with the City of Virginia, with no success or call back. Has spoken to Lynne Voss, will take some.
- Wastewater Board
 - Awaiting word on Congressional Spending for Filtration.
 - JPJ has submitted the pre application(s) through the WWB to IRRR for sewer line manholes from Lift Stations and Ponds which were accepted. Ready to file application with IRRR. Ad put in paper in regards to low water/discoloration
- Ambulance Commission-Meeting to be held in August

Old Business:

- Update on Police Department
 - Interview Committee-Discussion between the Board that it is better to hold initial interviews with a committee instead of at an Open Board Meeting. Motion by Chairman Tomsich to have an Interview Committee for initial interviews. Supervisor Tekautz, Clerk Sundahl, Fire Chief Steve Burgess and Sheriff's Deputy Trevor Banks will be on the committee.
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Supervisor Tekautz abstain
Motion passed 2-0
- Blight
 - Letters sent to 5 residents on Tuesday July 20th, 2021. Clerk Sundahl to check registered mail to see when delivered to start the countdown of 10 days for residence to be in compliance.
 - RV parked at 34 Church St. According to Section 6.3, St Louis County Ordinance, a permit is needed. Chairman Tomsich will contact St. Louis County Planning and Zoning in regards to a permit at the above address.
- Sanitary Sewer Improvement
 - Project Update-Chairman Tomsich spoke to Frandsen Bank, and the Township is eligible to get a commercial loan for the GAP funding of approximately \$200,000 at an interest rate in the high 3%'s. By the end of the project the township should

owe nothing. It was suggested by the Breitung Water Board that while digging up 4th Avenue, the water line should be looked at and assessed. JPJ noted that R&B will be at pre-construction meeting to meet with contractor to discuss possibilities of R&B doing some work depending on their schedule.

➤ Bid Approval for Sanitary Sewer Improvement

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept the low bid from 2EZ Inc. dba Jola & Sopp Excavation in the amount of \$435,780.00

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Gravel on the Junction Road-Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma suggests to add gravel on the Junction Rd from the curb by the lift station to the curb at the water tower. The project needs 600-700 yards of gravel, would take approximately 1-2 days working with Winger at a cost of \$3500.00

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to have the gravel work done on the Junction Road

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Rink Project Update

➤ Replacement of Hockey Boards-DNR has an outdoor recreation grant available that will open in the fall. This grant would pay for maintenance and upgrades to the Hockey Rink. The grant application would be due by the end of March 2022, and funds would be available June or July of 2022. Would have to get through one more year with current hockey boards

➤ Stephanie Ukkola mentioned doing something with the soccer field as well that could tie into the outdoor recreation grant. Could possibly expand playground equipment for younger children, dashers for the rink, horseshoes, and entrance sign plantings. Stephanie Ukkola has agreed to head up a committee of 5 people. JPJ Engineering can assist with a Park Plan and cost factor for landscaping. This grant would tie in with levy funds in 2022.

- McKinley Park Trail-Cost is at \$350,000. Receiving \$150,00 from DNR grant, will ask for \$162,500 from IRRR, and \$37,500 to be covered from Revenue from McKinley Park.

➤ Approval for Pre-App to IRRR

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz for Chairman Tomsich to submit pre-application to the IRRR for \$162,500 in grant money for the McKinley Park Trail Project.

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

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

- Volunteer Membership Application- Applicant interviewed and approved at last Fire Dept. Meeting

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to approve volunteer membership pending background check and passing of a physical

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- PERA-Summary of Service Pension Level for Fire Department-so noted

- Water & Sewer-Resident Mary Batinich asked to be on the agenda in regards to adding water and sewer to her small garage on Center St. Resident not at meeting, will defer until resident able to attend Board Meeting.
- Call for Bids-Propane-2-year contract with Edwards Oil will be up soon. Clerk Sunsdahl to get an estimate of gallons used at next regular board meeting.
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to call for bids for a 2-year contract for propane to be opened at the Regular Board Meeting in August.
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- City of Ely-Rental of Police Vehicle-City of Ely has sent a letter to the Board requesting the availability of the Breitung Police vehicle should it be needed. One of their vehicles blew an engine and it will be a few months before they receive their new vehicle.
Motion by Chairman Tomsich to allow the City of Ely to rent the township police vehicle, per their proposal, subject to approval from insurance company, and add in the contract, vehicle to be used no more than 1000 miles a month, not to exceed 3000 miles in the 3-month period.
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Forfeiture Vehicle-Breitung Township currently owns a 2003 GMC Envoy, VIN #XXX3872, License Plate # 294 WLG with the last registration in 2018 with unknown mileage.
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to call for bids on the forfeiture Vehicle "as is" to be opened at the Regular Board Meeting in August
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Possible Water Ban/Restriction for residents of Soudan-Matt Tuchel let the Board know that at this point the water level is ok, but unsure if we will be in the same position in a month with no rain. Water flows are currently higher than last month 79k/day for the month of June and 113k/day for the month of July. Draw downs are at 34' pushing an all time low. There is a 2nd well but water is of low quality.
Motion by Chairman Tomsich to have Clerk Sunsdahl work with Matt Tuchel on a Water Conservation Directive
2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Metro Sales Copier-current contract on copiers will be up in March, cheaper prices at this time.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve new contract with Metro Sales, the one in the office to add a stapler

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Trees on 4th Avenue-Current bid noted, no action taken. Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma to get more bids

- Resolution 2021-14 Resolution to accept ARPA funds

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to accept Resolution 2021-14 as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Blight

- Review of Ordinance-discussion to have Supervisors go through with red pens to see what they would like updated. Send to LMC for review as well as Township Attorney. Will discuss at next Regular Meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to table discussion on blight till next meeting

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, August 26th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Adjourn:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to Adjourn the Meeting at 1:43pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sunsdahl

Clerk, Breitung Township

Sheriff's Coverage Summary

March 1st, 2021-July 2021

Totals

Asked for 55 Shifts, 24 Shifts covered or 44% of what was asked for Mar-July

Sheriff's coverage was 239 hours @ \$70.00/hour for a cost of \$16,730.00 to the City of Tower and Township of Breitung.

From 03/01/21 to 8/9/21 (161 days) there were a total of 300 activity reports. 185 for the City of Tower, 114 for Breitung Township, and 1 for an unknown area. This is the total from 03/01 to 08/09 not just shifts asked for.

Coverage for September?

Summary of Police Chief Interviews

On August 4th, 2021 Interviews for the Chief of Police of Breitung Township were conducted by an interview panel selected by the Breitung Township Board. The Interview Panel consisted of Supervisor Charles Tekautz, Clerk Dianna Sundahl, Fire Chief Steve Burgess and Sheriff Deputy (Fire Captain) Trevor Banks.

Candidate #4 was interviewed 1st and the interview began at 6:00pm. The candidate was given a brief summary and background of the Breitung Police Department, what it was in the past, and what it may look like in the future. The candidate was asked a total of 12 questions and after the interview each question was ranked from 1-5.

Candidate #6 was interviewed 2nd and the interview began at 7:30pm. The candidate was given a brief summary and background of the Breitung Police Department, what it was in the past, and what it may look like in the future. The candidate was asked a total of 12 questions and after the interview each question was ranked from 1-5.

Interviews were concluded at approximately 8:15pm. Each member of the panel added up scores for all the questions. Discussion by the panel on moving forward with the hiring process, and the need for background checks was discussed. It was suggested to check with Tom Krause who in the past has been an investigator and is familiar with background checks.

Candidate #4 received 123 points for his questions, and candidate #6 received 116 points. A difference of 7 points. The average score for candidate #4 was 30.75 and the average score for candidate #6 was 29. The lowest and best possible score a candidate could receive would have been 12, and the highest and worst possible score a candidate could receive would have been 60.

The Interview Panel recommends 3-1 to progress the process with applicant #6 while 1 Panel member recommends to progress the process with both applicants.

Subject: FW: Support letter
Attachments: Letter of Support regarding Trail.pdf

From: Ron Potter <rgpotter109@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Matt Tichel <towersoudanwater@accessmn.com>
Cc: Ron Potter <ron@nohvcc.org>
Subject: Support letter

Matt,

We are applying for an IRRRB grant to build the permanent bridge over the Beaver River and connect to some of the other trail systems in the region. The application is asking for support letters so we are hoping we can get one from Breitung Township. Would you be willing to make this request of them for the Prospectors Alliance?

I have attached a sample of one we received from the City of Winton which they can use as an example if they wish. We need this as soon as possible, the application is in but we can follow up with these letters of support provided they get in within the next couple of weeks. If you can get it back to me I can get it submitted into our application.

Thank you Matt. Any questions or issues with this please let me know.

Ron

Ron Potter
Trail Administrator
Prospectors Alliance
rgpotter109@gmail.com
(218) 235-0382

TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG



PO Box 56 | Soudan | MN | 55782

August 17, 2021

RE: Prospector Trail – Beaver River Bridge Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Breitung Township Board is in support of the Beaver River Bridge Project between the Taconite Trail and Babbitt on the Prospector Trail. This project will be a nice addition to the trail, and an added benefit to the residents of Breitung Township that use the trail. The continued improvements to the Prospectors Trail is an added benefit and asset to Breitung Township and the communities of Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, Tower and the Lake Vermilion (which includes the Soudan Underground Mine), Bear Head Lake State Parks that will be connected by alternative methods of transportation to and from the communities and Parks. There are a variety of other features within the Superior National Forest that enabling access would allow many to enjoy the wonderful attributes available.

Sincerely-

The Breitung Township Board

From: Russell Habermann <RHabermann@ardc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Russell Habermann
Subject: Survey Opportunity: Tower Area Trails

Good afternoon,

Do you use trails in the Tower area?

On behalf of the City of Tower and its area partners, ARDC Planning is collecting public input about the future of area trail systems. The survey can be accessed at www.ardcplanning.org/tower. A paper version of the survey can also be requested by calling 218-529-7552. Don't miss this opportunity to share your thoughts!

Also, please help us spread the word! Forward this email to your co-workers and networks, share the survey link on your social media pages, tell your family and friends. We want every person in the area to take this survey.

Thank you for helping shape the future of trails in the Tower area!

Russell Habermann
Senior Planner
ARDC Planning, ARDC
(218) 529-7552
rhabermann@ardc.org



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From: Russell Habermann <RHabermann@ardc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Russell Habermann
Subject: Tower Area Trails: Survey Launch
Attachments: Tower Area Trails Survey.pdf

Good afternoon, everyone –

Thank you to all who reviewed the Tower Area Trails Survey and provided feedback! After revisions, the survey is queued up on our project webpage (www.ardcplanning.org/tower) for launch, and I will begin promotion and outreach via email and social media this Monday, August 16. I will include all of you in the official survey launch email on Monday.

While we are hoping for a strong response to the online survey, I am offering a paper survey option for folks as well; simply, the public can call me and request a paper copy to be mailed to them. In regards to the submission of paper surveys, I have connected with the City of Tower, and they have agreed to accept submissions via their drop box at City Hall.

If you would like to offer paper surveys to the public at your office, I have attached a PDF version of the paper survey; please feel free to print out copies and make them available. If you would like me to print copies and mail them to you, please let me know.

All right! Please keep an eye out for the survey launch email on Monday. 😊

Best,

Russell Habermann
Senior Planner
ARDC Planning, ARDC
(218) 529-7552
rhabermann@ardc.org



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Tower Area Trails Survey

Take this survey online!
www.ardcplanning.org/tower

The City of Tower and its partners are planning the future of trails in the Tower area. Please answer the questions below to share your thoughts about area trails. **Surveys are due September 15.**

Demographics

1. What is your ZIP code of residence? _____
2. How often do you generally use existing trails in the Tower area during summer months?
 - ☐ At least once a day
 - ☐ At least once a week
 - ☐ At least once a month
 - ☐ At least once a year
 - ☐ Never
3. How often do you generally use existing trails in the Tower area during winter months?
 - ☐ At least once a day
 - ☐ At least once a week
 - ☐ At least once a month
 - ☐ At least once a year
 - ☐ Never
4. What do you currently use trails in the Tower area to do? (Select all that apply.)
 - ☐ Walk
 - ☐ Hike
 - ☐ Snowshoe
 - ☐ Ski
 - ☐ Bicycle/Road Cycle
 - ☐ Mountain Bike
 - ☐ Horseback Ride
 - ☐ Snowmobile
 - ☐ ATV/OHV
 - ☐ Other: _____
5. What are the top three destinations you want to get to in the Tower area? (Note: A desired destination does not need to be within city limits.)
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Questions about Trails

6. How would you describe the general quality of trail maintenance in the Tower area? (Circle one.)

Very Poor

Poor

Neutral

Good

Very Good

7. How would you describe the general quality of trail connections in the Tower area? (Circle one.)

Very Poor

Poor

Neutral

Good

Very Good

8. What issues are there on existing trails in the Tower area? Be specific about the trail or location of the issue in your answer, if possible.

9. Is there a trail activity you would like to do (but do not currently do) in the Tower area?

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. If you answered YES to Question 9, please share your desired trail activity and the barrier that prevents you from that activity below. If you answered NO to Question 9, skip this question.

Additional Comments

11. Please share additional comments you have about trails in the Tower area below.

12. If you want to receive email updates about the Tower Area Trails Plan project, please provide your email address below. (Optional)

Please turn in your completed survey to the drop box at Tower City Hall (602 Main Street).

TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG TO
MAKE APPLICATION TO AND ACCEPT FUND FROM IRRRB FY22
REGIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

WHEREAS THE authorizing authority approves of the attached application for the Regional Trails Program – McKinley Park Trail Upgrade.

WHEREAS THE authorizing authority agrees to accept funding for the underlying project if approved by the IRRRB.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the authorizing authority of the Township of Breitung does adopt this resolution.

Upon vote taken, the following voted:

For:

Against:

Whereupon said Resolution NO. 2021-16 was declared duly passed and adopted this 17th day of August, 2021.

Timothy Tomsich – Chairman

Dianna Sundahl - Clerk