

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 08-26-2021 at 12:00PM. In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center

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, Jessica Hannine-Tower News, Lloyd McIntyre, Brad Erickson, Nancy Larson, Mary Batinich, Margaret Maki, Orlyn Kringstad

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

Acceptance of Agenda:

Motion by Supervisor Dostert to add Resolution 2021-18 to the end of Old Business, and accept the remainder of agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the Minutes from the 08-17-21 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 with the addition of \$380,049.85 in the Fund Balance and the remainder of report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Correspondence:

- Northwoods Partners-Clerk Sundahl presented confirmation that they assist members in our community.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to send Northwoods Partners a donation in the amount of \$200.00

2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion Passed 3-0

- St Louis County-Proposed Sale of Tax Forfeited Land-so noted
- Mike Korpi-South St Chairman Tomsich spoke with the resident, and Maintenance Tom Gorsma about fixing this when other work will be done on South St. Should be completed by the end of the year. Resident was satisfied with this solution.

Public Input:

None

Reports:

- Police-no written report. City of Ely signed contract with Breitung for use of the township vehicle
- Fire-see written report
- Road and Bridge-Preparing for sewer project, Baseball was a success with 23 games at the field, water off at the ballpark and concession stand closed up. Working on winterizing and drain tile work. Class 5 pile went down with Junction Rd work.
- 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. Park staff worked on maintenance work to the Fish Cleaning Station.
- Recreation-See below
 - Donation of Hockey Boards-Mt. Iron came and got 6-8 boards, still no response from the City of Virginia.
 - Recreation Board Committee-Stephanie Ukkola reported that they have met once, committee consists of Tom Gorsma, Greg Dostert, Matt Tuchel, Joan Dostert, and Stephanie Ukkola. Many ideas discussed. Working on figuring out funding. Met with JPJ Engineering. Top priority is the rink and expanding the warming shed.
- Wastewater Board-Board met last week, continue waiting on the State bonding bill. Met w/SEH Engineering. Resolution done for \$250,000 application to IRRR. Will continue to look at billing rates and budget. September 7th application due for manhole project next year.
 - Solar Farm-Working on a term sheet for lease of land owned by the Wastewater Board in the Township of Breitung. 1 section of property would have to be rezoned multi-use if wanting to move forward with solar farm and going green. Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to rezone the section of Breitung Township land that is owned by the Wastewater Board to Multi-Use
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- Ambulance Commission-Supervisor attended the Tower City Council Meeting on Monday 08/23/21 where an assessment committee came back with recommendations for the Ambulance Department. There is a copy in the Clerk's office for the public to review. Ambulance Commission will be going to monthly meetings starting in October of 2021.

Old Business:

- Update on Police Department-Background Check on candidate being done through an investigator, should take approximately 30 days. Candidates were notified of the Board choice by email. Calendar for September hours requested for the Sheriff's was sent off. Supervisor Tekautz and Clerk Sundahl to meet with City of Tower representatives next week.
- Blight-Clerk Sundahl spoke with St. Louis County Sheriff. Sheriff cannot enforce Breitung Townships Ordinances. Suggested I speak with the St Louis County Environmental Department-Steve Fink. Clerk Sundahl sent emails to the county on letters that were not picked up. The county will forward to their attorney to see if our blight problem falls under county jurisdiction and will ask an officer to survey the properties. Steve Fink will contact Clerk Sundahl when he has an update.
- Sanitary Sewer Improvement
 - Project Update-Notice to proceed has been signed, materials delivered to the back of the township building, JPJ engineering to review materials so that payment to 2EZ can be made for materials. Company states they are still on schedule to begin work September 20th. 8 residents interested in new sewer laterals. Jeremy Munger from 2EZ Construction will come to give each resident a written quote.
 - Partial Pay Estimate
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to pay 2EZ Inc. dba Jola & Sopp Excavation partial pay estimate submitted once JPJ Engineering confirms all material
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Gravel on the Junction Road-700 yards of gravel laid down, project completed
- Rink Project Update
 - Purchase of a Pee Wee Rink-Recreation committee met last month and are interested in purchasing a peewee rink for younger kids to be placed under the pavilion. Purchase and shipping could be approximately \$2500. Committee looking at grants, and will bring back to the township board.
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to have Stephanie Ukkola apply for a grant to the Tower Relief Association
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
 - Boards for rink- approximately \$60,000. Will hold off on purchase till the Board can find out more information on possible funding through LCP. Nancy Larson brought up the idea that grants are available through MPL for lighted solar speed signs.

- Trees on 4th Avenue-Received a 2nd estimate, trees currently on private property but the township damaged trees when new water line put in. Supervisor Dostert and Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma to meet with home owners.
- McKinley Park Trail
 - City of Tower-Maintenance Assistance. Will look for a solution and work with the City of Tower. Possibility of Breitung Maintenance to continue but bill the City of Tower.
- Echo Point Complaint about Air B n B's-Supervisor Dostert received a call from Dave at St. Louis Planning and Zoning, Chairman Tomsich and Dave reviewed the process to file a complaint, Supervisor Dostert to meet with Dave in the near future. St. Louis County has a permit process, Breitung Township to possibly file a complaint with St. Louis Co.

New Business:

- Propane Bids-Only 1 bid received from Edwards Oil. Price fixed at 1.29 from Oct 21, 2021-May 23rd, 2023.
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the bid from Edwards Oil
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- Vehicle Bids-Received none. Clerk Sundahl to extend bid until next Special Meeting.
- Pay bills as presented
Motion made by Supervisor Tekautz to pay bills as presented
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- Fire Department
 - New Computer-Consensus by the Boards to have Chief Burgess look in to the purchase of new computer.
 - MN DNR-Fire Restrictions. Chief Burgess presented the new fire restrictions. Violators can be ticketed and/or billed for any fire services
- Mary Batinich-Resident Mary Batinich asking the board to approve new sewer and water to the garage on her property. Mary has met with Maintenance Supervisor Gorsma and Charlie Winger on best route.
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to support new sewer and water at owners' expense
2nd by Supervisor Dostert
Motion passed 3-0
- Letter of Support for Tower-Soudan Historical Society
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to write a letter of support for the TSHS
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Tom Larson-IRRR Residential Redevelopment Grant-
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to pass resolution 2021 #15 as presented
2nd by Supervisor Dostert

Motion passed 3-0

- Puncher Point Water Drainage-Resident Lloyd McIntyre discussed problems with washouts from water running down the road, and creating problems in his driveway located on Puncher Point. Gorsma went out and ditched last year so water now runs in the ditch as it should. The crown of Co Rd 697 currently goes right towards Lloyd's property. Charlie Winger says \$1000 could fix it along with having the county guys come and give suggestions as water comes from the county road. Consensus by the board to have Gorsma work with the county and see what can be done about the crown.
- Request to Purchase Property-Resident Brad Erickson requested to purchase Lot 14 Block 8 of the Plat of Soudan. Chairman Tomsich mentioned we went through archives and the contingency of the state giving the township the land states that it is to be used exclusively for a public parking lot or it shall be returned to the State of MN. The township will keep it as a parking lot.
- Emergency Action Plan-The Mayor of Tower spoke and stated that currently Firefighters that are fighting fires in our area are currently being housed at the Marjo and VPI. Template received from the Regional Mayors Group. Chairman Tomsich suggested a committee with the Fire Departments to meet on September 13th.
- Echo Point Boulders in ROW-Pictures were shown that rocks/big boulders have been moved in to the ROW, and plowing will be difficult and unsafe with them where they have been moved to. Clerk Sunsdahl to notify the owner with a letter to move them.
- MSRS Health Care Savings Plan Contributions
Motion by Supervisor Dostert to approve the Contract and Resolution 2021 #17 as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Minnesota Water Assistance Program-so noted by the Board, asked Treasurer Gornick to present and the Water Board Meeting
- Stuntz Bay Access Road, Project 21-293-The preliminary construction cost was submitted by JPJ Engineering, Chairman Tomsich has asked the DNR for letter of support as well as the St. Louis County Engineer. Once letters received the township can then apply to DNR w/application. Wider shoulder would be our in-kind money.

Next Special Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 at 12:00pm

Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, September 23rd, 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