

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 04-27-23 at 12:00pm. In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, Supervisor Matt Tichel, Clerk Dianna Sundahl, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

Public: Daniel Reing-Police Chief, Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay, Trudy Hendricks (arrived 12:13pm), Jessica Hanine-Tower News, Valeda McDonald, Scott Lilya (left at 12:40), Park Manager-Susie Chiabotti) left at 1:00pm), Preston Tripp-JPJ

Call to Order @ 12:00pm by Chairman Tim Tomsich

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to accept the agenda as presented O

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to approve the minutes of the 03/23/23 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, and 04/11/23 LBAE Meeting Minutes as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve the March 2023 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tichel

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- League of MN Cities-*City Love *Upcoming League Events *Upcoming Webinars-so noted
- MAT-*Director Resignation *April Newsletter-so noted
- IRRR-03/29, 04/03,04/06, 04/20-so noted
- Thank You-Tower-Soudan Historical Society-so noted
- St Louis County-Household Hazardous Waste-so noted
- PERA-Legislative Update-so noted
- USDA-Rural Housing-so noted, currently on the website
- Consumer Confidence Report-so noted, currently on the website

Public Input

None

Reports

- Police-See Attached. Discussion about break ins down at the Boat House, Supervisor Tichel asked Chief Reing to check on Trail Cams as a possibility down in the area
- Fire-See Attached
- Road and Bridge-See Attached
- McKinley Park-Park Manager stated they will be opening Friday, May 5th this year
- Recreation-Joint Power Rec Board met on 04/18/23 asked by Wagoner Ski Trails to create a subcommittee and create a charter so they could be the fiscal agent for the Trails. All new members on the Board, will not meet again until November. Joint Powers Board gave away some monies. Consensus by the Breitung Township Board stating that it would make more sense to have the City of Tower be the fiscal agent for the Wagoner Ski Trails. Rebate from MN Power in the amount of \$486 for rink lighting so noted.
- Wastewater Board-Met last month, manhole project has not yet started. SEH asking for change order for design work. 240k of the original 253k project is covered. This leaves a new balance of 43k needed in additional funding. New plant qualifies for WIF. Bonding Bill at the State Legislature needs to pass for a new plant.
- Ambulance Commission-Next meeting 05/03/23

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to accept reports as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Old Business:

Scott Lilya Request: Vacating a road. Mr. Lilya brought in additional paperwork, a map of where he would like to build garage and a letter from his attorney. Clerk Sundahl to follow up with Mr. Lilya on the paperwork he will need to present to the Board, since his paperwork/petition is incomplete.

Facility Use Agreement Rules and Regulations: Change per request @ Annual Meeting

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve changes to the Facility Use Agreement Rules and Regulations as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tichel

Motion passed 3-0

ATV Trails

- Update on Kultala Property-Supervisor Tichel spoke to the DNR, and the name they are giving that portion of the ATV connection from the State Park to the Taconite Trail will be call the Murray Trail Connection. JPJ Engineering has surveyed that portion of the property that the township would like from Wayne Kultala. This action of trading in town property for that portion of Wayne Kultala property was approved at the Annual Meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to have Clerk Sundahl create a written agreement between the Township and Wayne Kultala, as well as recording of the new Deed Owners with St. Louis Co.

2nd by Supervisor Tichel

Motion passed 3-0

- Environmental Update Prospectors Trail-Supervisor Tuchel to review EAW when it comes out and will comment, if necessary, on Breitung Townships behalf

IRRR

- 5-year plan-JPJ working on USDA portion, IRRR met in March, will continue to follow up and work with IRRR and JPJ
- Culture and Tourism Grant-Currently funded from IRRR for 30% the Township's portion is 70% of the total cost of \$60,000. The Townships portion is currently listed at \$20k with other funding sources being McKinley Park Campground, Stuntz Bay Association, and Lake Country Power. May be able to reduce the overall cost by not buying as many tables this year, not replacing all the decking at the Campground, and review playground equipment.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to move forward with projects under this grant application with trying to reduce some costs as noted

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Broadband

- CTC Quote for McKinley Park Managers Building-Under current contract with Park Manager, Manager is responsible for utilities. Currently Frontier phone and internet costs are approximately \$140 a month for 12 months with less than favorable service. New plan with CTC will be \$153.06 a month with the option to put on vacation for as long as manager wishes to do so. Park Manager ok with new cost associated to CTC phone and internet. New line to run on the side of the building and not behind to avoid other lines going into the building.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve new contract with CTC as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Quote for Campground-Clerk still awaiting quote
- Residential Services-Consensus by the board to have Supervisor Tuchel reach out to Bois Forte in regards to Echo Point and to find out more about the Line Extension program. Clerk Sundahl to put Line Extension Link back on the website.

Project 16-268 Gravel Pit Property-Chairman Tomsich met with representatives from St. Louis County. The County is willing to work with Breitung Township. East route appears to be the safer route for all as it is not on a curve, and not on a hill. St Louis County willing to work with MN DOT. Need some sort of separation if moving the Thompson Farm with ATV travel. Supervisor Tekautz to talk with Aaron Lustek, the owner of the property on the other side of the possible road.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to continue to pursue the relocation of the Thompson Farm Rd
2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations

- Joint Powers Board

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee recommendation of creating a Joint Powers Board

2nd by Chairman Tomsich

Motion passed 3-0

- Elected Representative

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to appoint Supervisor Tuchel to be Breitung Townships representative through the next phases of the Ad Hoc Committee

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

2023 Infrastructure Project-Chairman Tomsich mentioned we can not enter into a contract at this time, unsure of additional funding

Stuntz Bay Project Update-Preston Tripp stated that the project is now under review with the State of MN. Currently no funding for engineering fees. May ask Jim Plummer if the Mine Land Reclamation has funding available. Chairman Tomsich to pursue.

New Business

Pay Bills as presented

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to pay bills as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Department

- Resignation of Aaron Gornick

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve to resignation of Aaron Gornick from BFD

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

- PERA-No action taken, noted that PERA contribution at the end of 2024 may be \$14,736 which the Township has in the Reserve Fund. This would be the first time the Township may have to pay into the fund.

Police Department

- New Phone for PT Officers-Currently no cell phone for PT Officers, Chief Reing found cost to add another phone is approximately \$40/month to add on to FirstNet bill

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to authorize Chief Reing to add another phone for PT Police

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Impounded Vehicle/2015 KIA Truck-Chief Reing stated that the possible value for the vehicle may be approximately \$15k Blue Book.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve vehicle as impounded, have Chief Reing do the necessary paperwork, and research MN BID

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

- Ring Doorbell Camera-Chief Reing stated that the Ring Doorbell Camera has the known potential of catching fire. Chief Reing also made aware that current cameras on the building are out of compliance for government buildings and not NDHA approved. Received a quote from Goombaz for the install of 5 cameras (there are currently 4 on the Minos Building and 2 on the Community Center buildings). The email states there is room for 3 more cameras. The Board asked Chief Reing to get a quote for replacement of all cameras since they are all out of compliance
- Updated Mutual Aid Agreement with St. Louis County Law Enforcement

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the updated agreement as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

- Walmart Community Grant Request
Resolution 2023-14-Apply for and accept grant funds

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve resolution 2023-14 as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

- Firehouse Sub Foundation Grant Request
Resolution 2023-15-Apply for and accept grant funds-Chief Reing spoke about grant fund request for an ATV for the department, stated it would be good for mutual aid and traveling down ATV trails. Concerns by the Board about additional costs to the Township with additional expenses other than purchase and asked if St. Louis County covers this. Board encouraged Chief Reing to talk with Fire Department as this could be a joint opportunity. No action taken at this time.
- GREAT Training Opportunity-Chief Reing spoke about this training and it is a Nationally recognized program that Chief Reing is familiar with. Only 2 training locations in the country. This training will help bridge the gap in the different schools. Estimated travel request form in packet. 75% of total cost can be reimbursed by the State of MN

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve Chief Reing to attend GREAT Training in Louisville, KY
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor Tuchel-Added signer on Frandsen Bank Account

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to approve Supervisor Tuchel as signer on the Frandsen Bank Accounts

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Supervisor Tuchel abstained due to conflict of interest

Park Labor-Park Labor was left off of Labor under the Reorganizational Meeting. Current rate at \$15/hour.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to raise Park Labor to \$16/hour

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Late Notice on Tax Bills

- 22 Jasper St-2 Bills sent for snow plowing with no payment
- 13 Church St-2 Bills sent for snow plowing with no payment

Consensus by the Board to have Clerk Sundahl send a 3rd notice to each and let them know of the potential of being placed on tax statements in November if unpaid

Blight-Current tickets for Jasper St Home remain unpaid. Consensus by the Board to have Chief Reing send a letter along with Ordinance of late fee. This will be 3rd notice. Chief Reing to send a letter to notify home owners as well. If ticket(s) remain unpaid hire Service Master to go in a clean up property with a charge back to the homeowner.

St. Louis County

- Medical Assistant Call Center-No action taken
- Emergency Management Flooding-Currently no flooding in Breitung Township, R&B Department made aware of the process
- St. Louis County Permit Letters-So noted-No action taken

Letter from Funding Rural MN-Consensus by the Board to have Clerk Sundahl place on the Website

Past due bill from Linde-Clerk Sundahl requesting tanks be picked up from R&B Department since January of this year. Tanks picked up yesterday.

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to hold off on paying past due bill

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Tower News Request

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve ad request as presented from the Tower News

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

JPJ Invoice

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to pay Invoice as presented out of the Projects fund

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Property @ 5515 Miettunen Plat Road-Homeowners wish to change driveway and replace culvert

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to have R&B Department review changes requested and to authorize change per R&B approval and at owner cost

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Resolution 2023-10 Accepting Donations

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve Resolution 2023-10 as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Cook Timber Days Request-No action taken. Clerk Sundahl to send a letter requesting they submit request before Breitung Township Annual Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting-Thursday, May 25th, 2023 @ 12N Breitung Community Center

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to adjourn the meeting @ 2:25pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sundahl
Clerk, Breitung Township