

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 08-24-23 at 12:00pm. In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center

Present In Person:

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

Public: Daniel Reing-Police Chief (arrived @ 12:07pm), Stephanie Ukkola-Timberjay, Terry Carlson-Tower News, Tom Gorsma-Maintenance Supervisor, Preston Tripp JPJ Engineering (arrived at 12:05pm)

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 07/27/2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurers Report

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

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- LMC-*Upcoming Events, * Direct Local Housing-So Noted
- MAT-*Broadband, * District 10Election-So Noted
- IRRR-*August 2nd, 9th, 16th, Ranger-So Noted
- St. Louis County-*Public Health Updates, *CDBG-So Noted
- DNR-Prospectors Loop Trail System-Phase 2-So noted

Public Input

None

Reports

- Police-See Attached. Tacos with Cops Saturday October 7th, 2023
- Fire-See Attached
- Road and Bridge-See Attached
- McKinley Park-No Report

- Recreation-Rink and Hockey Boards are looking good
- Wastewater Board-No Report
- Ambulance Commission-Supervisor Tuchel attended AD Hoc Committee meeting 2 weeks ago with Eagles Nest, Tower and Soudan represented. Some options presented. Member of Ely JP Board invited to next meeting as they have done a previous study.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to accept reports as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Old Business:

Infrastructure Projects

2022-Poplar St, Spring Road and Church Street are underway. Mesabi Bit currently doing trail work and should be back to finish up this Friday and next week.

2023-1st Avenue and Church St on hold. Currently have \$75k CDBG money committed and cannot apply again till this money spent. CDBG will likely need to be extended. Can possibility just use CDBG funds and change the scope of project. Chairman Tomsich ready to talk with IRRR again. IRRR can scores higher on application, the higher the funding request is. 250k can be awarded on projects of 1.5M and above and Breitung asked for 250k on a 626k project. IRRR also more likely to approve 250k if loans from USDA taken. JPJ is aware of project qualifying for USDA. Would need a new Median Income done, and would need resident participation if going this route. USDA offers more loan dollars than grant dollars. Will look to see where costs can be reduced (there are 2 cost estimates, possibly reduce 1 of the 2). PFA a possibility, but may be needed for Mesabi Trail project as the pipe under the bridge needs to be changed, and may need to take a draw. Supervisor Tuchel to work with Public Works Supervisor Gorsma to review and update 5-year plan

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to apply for 75k grant through IRRR

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Clerk Sundahl to prepare a draft resolution by next meeting

Outdoor Recreation Project-McKinley Park

Representative from Flagship Recreation coming on Monday 08/28 at 8am. Will take measurements during meeting. Chairman Tomsich and Stephanie Ukkola will be meeting at the Park, and also looking at the Soudan Recreation area. Hoping to be complete at the Park by May of 2024. Playground equipment currently 23k. Currently have a Culture and Tourism Grant through IRRR for various projects for 18k, St. Louis County has set aside 20k in a grant, and \$7500 will be coming from Stuntz Bay Association.

Care Crossings Update-Received notice from the County that the Vermilion Park Inn has a Conditional Use Permit, originally applied for under Parkside. Care Crossing would still need to apply for their own Condition Use Permit.

Police Department Updates

- Impounded Vehicle 2015 KIA Truck-Chief Reing still waiting on paperwork
- Goombaz Updated Security Proposal-Chief Reing will work on Safety Grant, and Board will review once application is completed. Grant deadline is October 15th.

Housing Institute-Clerk Sundahl has participated in the first forum held in Grand Rapids, and one meeting held at Tower City Hall. 2 webinars coming up in September that she will attend. Just starting to look at housing options and prioritize.

Water Filtration Plant-TBWWB going through a series of studies. Total Project Cost Estimate is \$5,597,500 with a loan of \$768,000 over 20 years at 2% interest. Loan repayment would be 40k a year. TBWWB to collect revenue to pay for this project and payback loan. There would be additional operating costs such as energy, and additional testing. Operations not looking to increase. Any additional funding would reduce the \$1,082,000 of the project, not the loan.

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to approve the project to go out to bid through the TBWWB
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Supervisor Tuchel abstained due to possible conflict of interest

Stuntz Bay Road-Continuing to look for assistance in engineering fees of 50k, will look to IRRR, State Park/Bonding Bill, and will speak with Senator Grant next week. Bids are 8 weeks out.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz approve St Louis County to call for bids

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Thompson Farm Road Relocation-JPJ Engineering started a cost estimated of approximately \$460k. Preston currently working with MN DOT on a 1000' acceleration and deceleration lane for the new entrance. Still need Wayne Kultula to come in and sign property exchange agreement. LRIP money may be available as well.

New Business

Pay Bills as presented

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to pay bills as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

4-Day Use of Community Center

Lori Tomsich has asked for a 4-Day use of the Community Center October 12th-15th for the purposes of a rummage sale.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the 4-day use of the community center

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Chairman Tomsich abstained due to conflict of interest

Big Truck Night

Sarah Hansen from ISD 2142 has asked for Big Truck Nights to be September 26th, at the Breitung Recreation Area. Breitung residents approved \$300 for the event at the Annual Mtg

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to have Big Truck Nights September 26th at the Breitung Recreation Area

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Agreement with St. Louis County-Voter Account

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to enter into an agreement with St. Louis County to retain Breitung Township's allocation of \$30.96 in their Voter Account

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

MN Dot-State Aid and LRIP

Thompson Farm Road may qualify for this funding, IRRR may also be interested in helping with this project as the project consists of a Demo Pile, Relocation of TFR, Vacating the Old Thompson Farm Road, Bypass lanes, and the development of an ATV Project. Supervisor Tekautz to call Lustek again, to remind them the new road to go on the line of theirs and our properties with turn lanes entering and exiting. Will be open to ATV traffic so "Share the Road" signs would need to be installed. Application due September 12th, there is a webinar and County Sponsorship is needed which will be done by Clerk Sunsdahl

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to preauthorize JPJ to apply for LRIP funding

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Police Department Policies-Chief Reing proposes the following department policies

- Use of Deadly Force by Police Chief-discussion to have Chief Reing find out more information from the Post Board on qualifications for a Police Chief. Not only in this instance, but if something happens. Consensus to table until more information available.
- Ballistic Vest
Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to accept this policy as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tekautz
Motion passed 3-0
- Summer Season
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept this policy as presented
2nd by Supervisor Tuchel
Discussion as to what the consequences may be for not following this policy, asked Chief Reing to update to include consequences
Motion by Supervisor Tekautz rescinded and consensus to table until updated
- Narcan-Supervisor Tuchel asked Chief Reing to review other department policies, create a skills sheet with training, and update verbiage. Consensus to table until updated.

Asking for Support

- Youth in Action-Consensus by the Board to add to Annual Meeting
- Northwoods Partners-Consensus by the Board to add to Annual Meeting

Approve Payment-Project 21-847-Received payment request in the amount of \$177,743.93.

Payment request updated and presented to the Board in the amount of \$157,413.93

Motion by Chairman Tomsich to make payment in the amount of \$157,413.93 as requested, once payment made to Breitung Township from the TBWWB

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Supervisor Tuchel abstained due to possible conflict of interest.

LU 49-Open Negotiations-Discussion by the Board to see if Union is available at 9am on October 10th, 2023 to begin Labor Negotiations for Maintenance Contract. Supervisor Tuchel will not be participating as he is a member of the same union under his TBWWB Supervisor position. Clerk Sundahl to reach out to the Union and work out a date that is available.

Next Regular Board Meeting-Thursday, September 28th, 2023 @ 12N Breitung Community Center

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to adjourn the meeting @ 1:34pm

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sundahl
Clerk, Breitung Township