

Township of Breitung Annual Meeting 03/14/2023-8:30 PM
In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan Minnesota

Residents Present: Tim Tomsich, Dianna Sunsdahl, Jorgine Gornick, Tony Sikora, Greg Dostert, Matt Tuchel, Rolf Anderson, Laurie Anderson, Charles Tekautz, Nancy Tekautz, Carol Norberg, Eric Norberg, Dale Swanson, Stephanie Ukkola, Randy Winkler, Tom Gorsma

Non-Residents Present: Daniel Reing, Ivette Reing, Tana Johnson

Call to Order @ 8:45pm by Clerk Sunsdahl

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator:

Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to name Tim Tomsich Moderator

2nd by Rolf Anderson

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes:

Motion by Matt Tuchel to dispense with reading of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes and approve as distributed

2nd by Stephanie Ukkola

Motion passed unanimously

Motion by Greg Dostert to dispense with reading of November 3rd, 2022 Town Meeting and approve as distributed

2nd by Chuck Tekautz

Motion passed unanimously

Question by Tony Sikora on how notification is distributed, Clerk Sunsdahl replied that Notice for the Town Meeting was posted and published as required by law.

Reports:

- Financial Report-read by Tim Tomsich
Motion made by Rolf Anderson to accept Financial Report as presented
2nd by Stephanie Ukkola
Motion passed unanimously
- Road and Bridge Report-Maintenance Supervisor went over highlights and wanted to thank the Board for proper equipment
Motion made Greg Dostert to accept Road and Bridge Report as presented
2nd Chuck Tekautz
Motion passed unanimously
- Police Report-Chief Reing stated it has been a busy 1st full year, cleaning office, evidence room. Citizens have mentioned there have been a lot of tickets handed out, but with 369 Traffic Stops in 2022, only 44 tickets have been given out. Will continue this year with community engagement activities, and business/residential checks.
Motion made by Chuck Tekautz to accept Police Report as presented
2nd by Greg Dostert
Motion passed unanimously
- Fire and Rescue Report-Highlights by Tim Tomsich-mentioned Breitung rendered Mutual Aid in 14 instances with 0 Mutual Aid Received. No talk of any merging with other departments other

than Eagles Nest approaching Breitung Township. Tim Tomsich spoke of informal conversation with the City of Tower and encouraging the City to work on issues with their department.

Motion by Dianna Sundahl to accept Fire and Rescue Report as presented

2nd by Rolf Anderson

Motion passed unanimously

- McKinley Park Report

Tony Sikora asking if the Park is profitable for the township, and the report presented looks a lot like last year. Jorgine Gornick stated there is a McKinley Park financial report in the pack. Both positive and negative comments were made about local residents feeling uncomfortable. Encouraged to continue looking at costs/report to ensure park is profitable for the township.

Motion by Tom Gorsma to accept report as presented

2nd by Greg Dostert

Motion passed unanimously

- Chairman's Report-read by Tim Tomsich

Motion made by Laurie Anderson to accept report as presented

2nd by Matt Tuchel

Motion passed unanimously

- Tax Levy

Tim Tomsich reviewed the levy reports and findings for the 2024 year. Suggested to increase the R&B levy by \$34,000. \$4000 for Insurance and Wages and \$30,000 for Road Maintenance and Snow Removal. Number of things are changing and increasing in price-most notably heating, fuel, employee insurance, water, sewer and road improvements. Tony Sikora mentioned that his tax assessment for the dump is \$85/per year vs \$15/per year for ambulance replacement-something is wrong.

Motion by Tony Sikora to approve tax levy of \$690,000 for 2024 as presented with the noted increase of \$34,000 from 2023 under Road and Bridge as presented

2nd by Greg Dostert

Motion passed unanimously

- Tower Soudan Historical Society Requesting \$500.00 towards the Historic Fire Hall restoration

Motion by Matt Tuchel to donate \$500.00 to the TSHS Historic Fire Hall Restoration Project

2nd by Tom Gorsma

Motion passed 15-1 with Tony Sikora opposed

- Embarrass Regional Fair Request for monetary donation as well as volunteers-Tana Johnson

spoke of the work being done by the group, and how they are reaching out Regionally. Many positive comments from Soudan Citizens.

Motion by Chuck Tekautz to donate \$300.00 to the Embarrass Regional Fair Association

2nd by Greg Dostert

Motion passed unanimously

- Old Settlers Request-Township of Breitung to be the Sponsor

Eric Norberg spoke of the Old Settlers Organization. Stated there are a lot of changes happening within the group. There is increased attendance at the event, will be increasing marketing and governance.

Motion by Eric Norberg to have Breitung Township be the Sponsor for the Old Settlers Organization

2nd by Rolf Anderson

Motion passed unanimously

- Ambulance Replacement-Chuck Tekautz spoke on the ad hoc committee working on a possible Joint Powers Board to oversee the Ambulance Department. New ambulance has been ordered

at a cost of \$250,000. Breitung Board approved an increase in per capita funds from \$15.00 to \$30.00.

Motion by Tony Sikora to increase the per capita funds for ambulance replacement from \$15.00 to \$30.00 for one year

2nd by Greg Dostert

Motion passed unanimously

- Funds to Support Events-funds listed below are for year 2022
 - 4th of July Community Picnic-2k includes food and in-kind labor
 - Big Truck Night-\$300 food
 - Old Settlers-\$200 donation
 - Cemetery Association-\$3000 for upkeep, \$273 for Computer Software
 - Joint Recreation Board-\$300

Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to continue support above for all events as noted above

2nd by Nancy Tekautz

Motion passed unanimously

- Township Property on 4th Avenue-Discussion that the DNR will be creating an ATV trail from the State Park to connect to Tower. The Town Board approved option 1 of the DNR's plan for several reasons- (1) to increase the size of the gravel pit, and (2) to prevent a trail and numerous ATV riders down Japer St in Soudan. Wayne Kultala owns a triangle piece of property south of Hwy 169 that would benefit Breitung Township. The benefit is both the expansion of the gravel pit and to allow the DNR access to build a portion of their trail to connect to the Taconite Trail. Discussion with Wayne Kultala by Chuck Tekautz and Wayne would like to possibly trade the property identified with the in-town property that the Township owns (Parcel ID 270-0110-02780) Block 26, Lot 2 which is approximately 50' X 107" with an estimated value of \$4100. Tony Sikora expressed his extreme displeasure with this idea.

Motion by Eric Norberg for the Township to move forward with the possible exchange of properties with Wayne Kultala

2nd by Matt Tichel

Motion passed 15-1 with Tony Sikora opposed

- Lifetime Animal License-this may be an incentive for residents to purchase an animal license should it be a lifetime vs yearly. Good to have animals identified for purposes of vaccinations, and who the owner is should they become loose. Statement that if people don't follow the rules now, why would they if we add more rules that aren't enforced already.

Motion by Matt Tichel to request the Township look more in to the benefit of this proposal

2nd by Tom Gorsma

Motion passed unanimously

- Language Change on the Community Center Rental Agreement-Currently the language states in 1. D. Organizations may not charge attendance or admission. This limits activities such as Bingo, Garage Sales, Fund Raising Events and other like events

Motion by Matt Tichel to have such events approved by the Town Board on a case-by-case basis

2nd by Rolf Anderson

Motion passed unanimously

- No other business

Date for Next Annual Meeting:

March 12th, 2024 immediately following the Township Election and Board of Canvass approximately 8:30pm

Adjourn:

Motion by Tom Gorsma to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:25pm

2nd by Dale Swanson

Motion Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted

Dianna Sundahl

Clerk, Breitung Township

Timothy Tomsich

Moderator, Breitung Township