

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 04-18-24 at 6:00 PM. In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Tim Tomsich, Supervisor Matt Tichel, Supervisor Erin Peitso, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Jorgine Gornick

Public: Terry Carlson (Tower News), Rose Blossom Chosa (Tower News), Anthony Sikora (left at 6:11 PM), Daniel Reing-Police Chief, John Jamnick JPJ Engineering, Tom Gorsma-Maintenance Supervisor, Trudy Hendricks, Jodi Summit (Timberjay)

Call to Order @ 6:02 PM by Chairman Tim Tomsich

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to approve the minutes of the 03/28/24 Regular Board Meeting and 03/28/24 Reorganizational Meeting as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to approve the March 2024 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- IRRR – 03/26 (Bois Forte & Tower highlighted), 04/04 (McKinley Park Trail highlighted)
- 100 Rural Women – 04/11
- MN Rural Water Association – 04/03
- CDBG – 04/01, 04/03, 04/04
- St. Louis County Economic and Community Development – 04/02
- FreeConferenceCall.com – Donation Drive
- Letter from Charles Tekautz
- PERA – 04/03

Correspondence so noted

Public Input

Mr. Sikora raised concerns regarding a housing survey recently sent out on Breitung Township letterhead; he was concerned that the cost of the personnel and office supplies should have

been publicly discussed. Chairman Tomsich answered his concerns stating that there was a Housing committee that Breitung Township was a part of and that Deputy Clerk Dianna Sundahl had been authorized in a prior meeting to conduct the survey for Breitung's share of the residents within the scope of the committee (surrounding areas). Mr. Sikora further expressed his dissatisfaction with the idea of the Housing Committee, stating that it should have been a matter for the public to vote on, he left after voicing his final thoughts on the matter.

Reports

- Police - See Attached
- Fire-See Attached
- Road and Bridge - See Attached
- Recreation – Supervisor Tuchel discussed the Joint Powers Recreation Board stating they had recently received a funding request and he was hopeful that other groups would become more aware of them as a fund source so that the board could be as beneficial as possible to the community
- Wastewater Board-n/a
- Ambulance Commission-had not yet met, Supervisor Tuchel was hopeful that a contract would be in the works at the next meeting
- Housing – See Attached

Reports so noted.

Old Business:

League of MN Cities – Fuller vs. Battin – Police Chief Reing gave a synopsis of the case; it was essentially a bogus case leveraged against officer Battin, which was recently dismissed.

LRIP – Chairman Tomsich discussed the funding for the Thompson Farm Road project, for which \$544k was awarded; the overall cost was to be \$633k leaving a funding gap of \$89k. It was likely there would be quite a lot of MNDot reviews associated with the project and it would mostly likely not get going until 2025; Chairman Tomsich noted that the funds would not expire until June of 2027 and that they were reimbursable funds, and that the Township could draw on them as portions of the project were completed. Chairman Tomsich had reached out to Senator Hauschild and Representative Skraba, among others, to fill the funding gap.

Gravel Pit-Material Pit Sales Agreement – Nothing new – defer to next meeting

Center Street & 2023 Infrastructure Improvements – BABA forms – John Jamnick of JPJ Engineering spoke on the forms received by the clerk's office. The federal government wants

more formal reporting for the Build America, Buy America HUD Entitlement Program and that Breitung Township would need to complete these forms.

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Animal Ordinance

- Chickens and other non-domestic/barnyard animal policy questioned
- Clerk Amber Zak agreed to research other local laws and work to update Breitung's ordinance to be clearer, would present at the Regular May meeting

Townships/Municipalities Maintenance Requests

There would be no new known requests at this time, Tom Gorsma would still be the contact person for the County Public Works Department

Shelter Use Fee Waiver Request

Sarah Hansen with Tower-Soudan Early Childhood Family Education sent in a request for a fee waiver for use of the Soudan Park for the annual ECFE picnic.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the fee waive

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Recreational Trail Development – Supervisor Tuchel discussed a request to convert an existing ATV trail to walking-use only and create a new trail running parallel to provide ATV access. He indicated that a group was eventually interested in creating a full natural-terrain walking/running course through the area. Chairman Tomsich indicated that prior to adjusting the current trails, a full overview of the intended plans would be helpful. Concerns included the Township needing to enforce the pedestrian-only rule and whether the intended plans would work with the current plan of extending the bike trail around the full Hoodoo Point Road Loop. Supervisor Tuchel agreed to get more information on the intended plans.

St. Louis County-Classification of tax forfeited lands-Consensus by the Town Board that there is not a need for this land and does not wish to claim in, nothing further needs to be done.

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to allow land to go back to county as tax forfeited

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending – Consensus by the Town Board that the Township would forego an application this year as there are no other big projects being considered at this time. Supervisor Tuchel indicated that it was likely that the City of Tower would be making an application for funds for work on wastewater infrastructure.

Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting

Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at the Breitung Community Center

Next Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, May 16th, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Breitung Community Center

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to adjourn the meeting @ 7:05 PM

2nd by Supervisor Tomsich

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak

Clerk, Breitung Township