

Continuation of the Township of Breitung Annual Elector's Meeting
08/15/2023 – 7:00 PM
In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan Minnesota

Residents Present: Tim Tomsich, Matt Tuchel, Erin Peitso, Jorgine Gornick, Amber Zak, Tom Gorsma, Trudy Hendricks, Jim Battin, Terry Sundahl, Dianna Sundahl

Non-Residents Present: Dan Reing (Chief of Police), Jodi Summit (The Timberjay Newspaper), Jen Shuster-Dahlin (The Tower News)

Call to Order @ 7:00 PM by Clerk Zak

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator:

Motion by Amber Zak to name Tim Tomsich Moderator

2nd by Dianna Sundahl

Motion passed unanimously

Levy

Moderator Tomsich spoke on the purpose of the continuation of the annual meeting, citing several ongoing construction projects and the need to set the levy. Tomsich set forth the recommendation from the Township Board that the residents approve a 7.25% (\$50,000) increase to the levy. In his recommendation, he noted that there had been major improvements to Road & Bridge projects but that the recent flooding events had showed the Township where it was vulnerable. If it were not for the Township owned gravel pit, multiple full time Road & Bridge employees, purchases and keeping of road maintenance equipment, the township would be much more indebted to contractors for all the flood repairs and mitigation. He further noted that materials and labor are at a much higher cost than they used to be, and therefore, \$40,000 of the recommended levy increase would be for the Road and Bridge fund. He further explained that \$5,000 would go toward Road and Bridge Medical insurance, benefits, & wages and an additional \$5,000 would go toward the General Fund's Liability & Workers Comp Insurance, these two items being increased due to the general national economic status and forces outside the Township's ability to mitigate.

Resident Zak noted the appreciation for having well-maintained roadways and that an increase would be acceptable; Resident Battin agreed with the comment

Resident Dianna Sundahl requested a copy of the current tax levy budget, this was provided by Jorgine Gornick and is attached heretofore to the Continuation of the Annual Elector's Meeting Agenda.

Moderator Tomsich touched on several levy designations including the police budget, stating that the Township routinely funds the full cost in case of the event that the City of Tower should choose to opt out of the police contract. He also stated that although the ambulance subsidy had been raised, the Township has not raised the levy in response and has been able to fund it through other means.

Motion by Resident Zak to pass the levy as presented

Second by Resident Gorsma

Ayes: 9 Nays 1

Motion passed

Donation requests

Donation requests were reviewed

Motion by Resident Dianna Sundahl to donate \$500 to Northwoods Partners

2nd by Resident Zak

Motion passed unanimously

Motion by Resident Tomsich to refer BEST Youth Baseball to the Joint Powers Recreation Board for donation request

2nd by Resident Dianna Sundahl

Motion passed unanimously

Other Business: None

Date for Next Annual Meeting:

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, immediately following the Board of Canvass Meeting at approximate 8:30 PM

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn at 7:36 PM by Resident Dianna Sundahl

2nd by Matt Tuchel

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Zak

Clerk, Breitung Township

Timothy Tomsich

Moderator, Breitung Township