

Township of Breitung Regular Board Meeting 09-19-24 at 6:00 PM. In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center

Present In Person:

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

Public: John Jamnick (JPJ), Andrea Piirainen (JPJ), Terry Carlson (The Tower News), Jodi Summit (The Timberjay)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tim Tomsich

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to accept the agenda as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 08/15/24 Regular Board Meeting as presented and the August 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- None

Public Input

- None

Reports

- Police – Attached
- Fire – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Recreation – Supervisor Peitso commented on the improvements made to the baseball field facilities including painting, trim work, and roofing; noted that chain link dug outs were being considered for improved spectator viewing.
- Wastewater Board – Supervisor Tuchel discussed updates on the rapid filtration bed noting that the boring samples looked good for the project, would be working with JPJ in the coming weeks to determine exact site position; further noted that the water plant was making good progress and was expecting the exterior building to be completed by December.
- Ambulance Commission – Supervisor Tuchel stated the commission had met on the 8/26/24 and approved the contract. He had also attended the Ely City Council meeting on 8/27/24 where the potential region-wide ambulance service had been discussed; the council motioned and approved an ad-hoc committee on the proposed service. Noted that the new ambulance had been delivered and was in-service; the ambulance commission would be looking at ordering another ambulance in the next year.
- Housing – Attached

Reports so noted.

Old Business:

2025 Infrastructure – IRRR

The application to IRRR is to be submitted the week of 9/22/24 to include the Thompson Farm Road, Center Street, and Echo Point projects; it was noted that Thompson Farm Road portion of the project was potentially fully funded as follows: \$544k from the State of MN, \$20k from the MN-DNR, a proposed \$69k from the Prospector's Trail Club. Additionally, the application will not include work incurred due to the 6/18/24 flood that may or may not be covered by FEMA.

2025 Culture & Tourism - IRRR

It was noted that the pre-application for the grant was to be submitted by 9/26 and must include two written or verbal quotes on desired project (dugouts). Supervisor Peitso noted these would likely not be received in time and the application should be postponed until the spring of 2025 when the next application cycle opens.

Current Infrastructure Projects

- 22-126

Partial Payment Estimate No. 1 for project 22-126/2023 Infrastructure Improvements was reviewed. John Jamnick recommended payment.

Motion made by Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to pay \$240,636.28 to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc.

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

- 22-003

Concerning project 22-003/2022 Infrastructure, it was noted that either a final pay request or final punch list should be received soon as the project should be finished or very close to it.

- 21-923

Change Order No. 1 & 2 for project 21/923 Stuntz Bay Road Improvements; The change orders were due to site conditions and to obtain more removal & replacements of bituminous, curb, and gutter. Supervisor Tuchel noted there should be funding available through the State Park Road Account and these changes should be fully funded; he was optimistic for the road and better drainage.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve the change orders

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion Passed 3-0

Loop Trail

With plans drafted for the loop trail, the City of Tower had expressed concern regarding the path of the trail and overflow parking. Eric Fallstrom, engineer for St. Louis County Public Works, would prefer more buffer between the trail and the shoulder of the road, also concerned with wetlands. \$20k had been received from the Blandin Foundation and \$22k from the IRRRB; Chairman Tomsich discussed submitting an application to the DNR in March of 2025. Additionally, an environmental review was requested from JPJ to be completed prior to the DNR application, is possible.

Thompson Farm Road – LRIP Update

Chairman Tomsich noted the LRIP was in the county's hands for review.

Ordinance Number 90-03A – Water & Sewer

Chairman Tomsich noted that the status of the ordinance was currently on hold until the future status of the water commission is determined, it was noted that a significant change in the way the water and sewer department is managed may be necessary.

Flood/FEMA Process

Clerk Zak updated the board on current FEMA processes including a meeting that occurred on 09/06/2024. As of meeting time, Clerk Zak was tasked with totaling the damages, improvements, and status of individual damage sites, working closely with Public Works Supervisor Gorsma. Chairman Tomsich noted that disaster management is reimbursable by FEMA, up to 5% of the total cost of damages. Due to the nature of the work being outside the duties of the clerk, Tomsich recommended payment for total hours spent on the flood reimbursement project. Discussion was had on rates between the supervisors.

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to pay Clerk Zak \$21.00/hour for flood management work

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Police Clerical Support Request

No update as of meeting time.

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Tichel

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2024-21 – Property Tax Levy Certification

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to pass Resolution No 2024-21 Resolution to Certify Final 2025 Breitung Township Property Tax Levy to Saint Louis County.

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2024-22 – Accepting Funds IRRR Infrastructure 2025

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to pass Resolution No 2024-22 Resolution Authorizing the Township of Breitung to make application to and accept funds from IRRR FY25 Community Infrastructure Program

2nd by Supervisor Tichel

Motion Passed 3-0

Resolution 2024-23 – Election Judge Certification

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to pass Resolution No 2024-23 Resolution Appointing Election Judges

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

MN DNR Cooperative Agreement – Thompson Farm Road

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to approve and sign the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Minnesota and The Township of Breitung with modifications

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Police Contract with City of Tower

Chairman Tomsich noted that with the year coming to a close, it would be time to start meetings with the City of Tower to make any adjustments to the Police Contract including consideration of coverage and costs. These meetings should begin happening soon.

Big Truck Night – September 26, 2024

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to set the date of 09/26/2024 for Big Truck Night and waive any shelter-use fees for the event

2nd by Supervisor Tuchel

Motion Passed 3-0

Next Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 17th, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Breitung Community Center

Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak

Clerk, Breitung Township