

Breitung Township
Regular Board Meeting 11-18-2025, 6:00 PM
In Person Meeting at the Timothy Tomsich Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782

Present In Person:

Board Members: Chairman Matthew Tuchel, Supervisor Erin Peitso, Supervisor Stephen Tekautz, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar

Public: Police Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola (The Timberjay Newspaper), John Jamnick (JPJ)

Call to Order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tuchel

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to amend and accept the agenda with the addition of "Babbitt Mutual Aid" to the New Business segment of the meeting

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion Passed 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 10-21-2025 Regular Board Meeting as presented

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to accept the October 2025 Treasurers Report as presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

A short discussion was had regarding the police levy; it had been determined that money had not been physically set aside to cover a loss of contract with the City of Tower for police coverage, rather the levy had been maintained to fully fund the police department each year, if necessary, due to a loss of contract with the city.

Motion passed 3-0

Correspondence

- Cory Slifko Memorial Softball Tournament
- Minnesota Township Insider – Chuck Tekautz
- Jon Fisher/Mr. Landman

Correspondence so noted.

Public Input

None

Reports

- Police – Attached, Chief Reing reviewed his report, discussed a case regarding an unlicensed dog
- Fire – Attached.
- Road and Bridge – Attached, Chairman Tuchel noted that anti-freeze had been added to hydrants to keep them from freezing
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel stated that the new plant was 90% complete, Rapid Infiltration Beds were nearly through the permitting process and MPCA would be opening the public comment period on the project in the next month
- Ambulance – Meeting scheduled 12/01/2025
- Housing – No meeting/report
- Recreation – Supervisor Peitso announced that a grant in the amount of \$28,200 had been awarded to Breitung Township, which would allow work to be started on the bike trail and ball field. The award was \$1800 less than what was applied for, and the recreation committee would have to look at what should be scaled back on the project
- Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board – No meeting

Old Business:

Police Local 346 Union Contract

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the proposed contract with the addition of Article 7, Paid Family & Medical Leave

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Police Squad Replacement

Discussion was had regarding purchase from out of state vs a local State Bid seller. Chairman Tuchel stressed that he could not support purchasing from out of state when there wasn't evidence to show that such a purchase would be financially responsible. He tasked Chief Reing with getting a full itemized list for all parts and add-ons that would be necessary for a State Bid purchased vehicle.

Current Infrastructure Projects

- 2023 Infrastructure Project – At meeting time, JPJ was still waiting for IC-134 Forms and final signatures from Mesabi Bituminous
- McKinley Loop Trail – John Jamnick commented: plans were submitted to St Louis County, they should be the final plans. FAA requests have been reviewed and are acceptable; need right-of-way agreement for county, wetland review being done and final delineation. Easements are prepared, need to start speaking with landowners.
- Thompson Farm Road Project – Plans have been sent to Jeff Medill at MNDOT, one comment received from Eric Fallstrom of St Louis County
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Eric Fallstrom had prepared the Final Pay Estimate, waiting for Mesabi Bituminous signature and IC-134 forms
- TBWWB – Chairman Tuchel noted USDA grants were open on behalf of the TBWWB, so noted Flood/FEMA process – Attached.

Broadband Project

Nothing new to report.

McKinley Park Campground

Board members reviewed the proposed contract and decided to approve changes section by section as follows, please reference Appendix A for individual sections and options:

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve changes to Section One and include options A and B

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve changes to section two and include options A, B, C, D, and E

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve changes to section three-A and include options B, C, D, E, and F

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve changes to section three-B, with adjustments to include

Northwoods True Value as a source for miscellaneous items and the following verbiage:

"Manager is expected to use, clean, and maintain owner-provided equipment in a respectable and orderly fashion. Normal wear & tear is expected; abuse of equipment will require repair paid for by manager"

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve changes to section three-C

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve changes to sections three-D, -E, and -G and complete removal of section -F

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve changes to section three-H with the adjustment that hours during the summer season be at least 6 hours per day and hours on the shoulder season be at least 3 hours per day

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve additions of section three-I, -J, and -K

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve re-writing of section four

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve re-writing of section five with the inclusion of the word "financially" in paragraph 1, line 1 to reflect financial responsibility

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve re-writing of section 6 with adjustments of, "mangers are encouraged and may be required to attend [regular monthly meetings]", and, "Manager must attend the regular October board meeting to confirm the intent [...]"

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve section eight in its entirety as written

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve section nine in its entirety as written

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve sections ten, eleven, and twelve in their entirety as written

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to Pay Bills as Presented

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 3-0

IRRR Culture & Tourism Grant Agreement

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to authorize Chairman Tuchel and Clerk Zak to sign the IRRR FY25 Culture & Tourism Grant Agreement

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Police Internship

Chief Reing discussed an interested candidate in an unpaid internship with Breitung Township; explained that other agencies provide internship, interns need 400 riding hours, would be able to assist at events, he had spoken to township attorney Robert Pearson who would be working on liability agreement. Chairman Tuchel expressed concern about the workload associated with having an intern, would like to know more of the expectations associated with taking on an intern. Decision to approve internship tabled until next meeting

Part-time Police Applicant

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to hire Margaret Stafty pending the passing of Post Test, Fit Test, Psych Test, and Background Check

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion Passed 3-0

Tacos with Cops Income

Chief Reing indicated that this year he would be interested in utilizing the income from Tacos with Cops to help local kids in need, either by a shop-with-a-cop event or by providing needs (food, clothing, toys) to a local in need. Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve use of Tacos-with-Cops income for assisting local youth in need, Chief Reing to determine the best possible way to do so

2nd by Supervisor Peitso

Motion passed 3-0

Operating Engineers Local 49 Memorandum of Understanding

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Paid Medical Family Leave

2nd by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 3-0

Babbitt Mutual Aid

The City of Babbitt has requested short-term mutual police aid due to staffing issues. Concerns were raised regarding safety, time management; board was assured that time management would not be an issue. Clerk Zak indicated that reimbursement should include hourly benefits as well, similar to what is charged to the City of Tower for overtime hours.

Motion by Supervisor Peitso to approve and sign mutual aid agreement pending approval from township attorney Bob Pearson and adjustments to pay rate to include hourly benefit cost.

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting on 12/16/2025 at 6:00 PM

Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM

2nd by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Clerk, Breitung Township