

**Breitung Township**  
**Regular Board Meeting 12-16-2025, 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 Stephen Tekautz, Clerk Amber Zak, Treasurer Teresa Dolinar

**Public:** Police Chief Daniel Reing, Stephanie Ukkola (The Timberjay Newspaper), Dale Swanson

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 “Pay Period Adjustment” to the New Business segment of the meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion Passed 2-0

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to approve the minutes of the 11-18-2025 Regular Board Meeting as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to accept the November 2025 Treasurers Report as presented

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Discussion between Chair and Treasurer: updated software in the new year would provide clearer information on the monthly report including fund balance, year to date income/expenditures, and budget

Motion passed 2-0

**Correspondence**

- Arrowhead Library System – Bookmobile
- League of Minnesota Cities – Regional Safety Group
- St. Louis County Association of Townships
- St. Louis County – Environmental Services Department

Correspondence so noted.

**Public Input**

None

## **Reports**

- Police – Attached, Chief Reing reviewed his report, remarked on two important reminders to the public: 1. Remove vehicles from roadways for plowing, 2. Move over for emergency vehicles
- Fire – Attached
- Road and Bridge – Attached
- Water – Attached, Chairman Tuchel remarked that this would be a new report to be included monthly, citing the creation of the water department due to the dissolution of the Breitung Water Board, inclusion of the report had been previously overlooked but would now be a regular part of meeting packets
- Wastewater Board – Chairman Tuchel stated that the new plant was 95% complete, most items to be completed were cosmetic but the plant is 100% operational
- Ambulance – Meeting held 12/1/2025, Supervisor Peitso not in attendance to comment on it. Chairman Tuchel noted that the Sprint Medic was anticipated to start on January 5, 2026; in answer to questions regarding the medic, Chairman Tuchel explained that there would be no cost to having the medic, we were fortunate to be part of a pilot project funded by the State of MN, medic would be roving the general area to support the City of Tower and area townships
- Housing – No meeting/report
- Recreation – No meeting/report
- Lake Vermilion Lodging Tax Joint Powers Board – No meeting/report

## **Old Business:**

### **Police Squad Replacement**

Review of an updated quote from ESU pursuits indicated a vehicle cost of \$48,500 with a 6 month lead time; Lundgren Motor's gave a verbal cost of around \$44,259 with a 6 month lead time. Although pricing was not available for equipment add-ons and decals, it was clear that the cost would be better to go with Lundgren's. Chairman Tuchel advised Chief Reing to check locally with Dan Lenci for graphics placement. Motion by Chairman Tuchel for Chief Reing to order a 2026 Ford Explorer from Lundgren Motors with the price not to exceed \$48,500 and to place orders for equipment and installation.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### **Current Infrastructure Projects**

- 2023 Infrastructure Project – Received signed documents from JPJ: Partial Payment Estimate #2, Final Payment Estimate, Contract Change Order #3, Certificate of Substantial Completion, and IC-134 Forms for contractor employees. Chairman Tuchel also noted that a total amount of \$186,492.69 was paid from Township funds toward this project, indicating that although grant funding is available, it is getting harder and harder to have projects fully funded. Motion by Chairman Tuchel to sign pay estimates, change order, and certificate and to submit payment to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$91,588.07  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz  
Motion passed 2-0
- McKinley Loop Trail – Chairman Tuchel reviewed conversation with John Jamnick; Easements were drawn up but were incorrectly labeled as City of Tower jurisdiction instead of Breitung Township; upon correction, meetings with landowners could begin taking place. It was noted that there were 6 landowners to work with; it may be possible to start the projects without the easements in place but chairman was unsure of this and would need to check with county before beginning the project. There would be a meeting on 1-9-2026 regarding the approval of wetlands and then should be able to go out for bids. SEH was close on having the FAA piece complete.

- Thompson Farm Road Project – Received approval from MNDoT, advertising to go out for bids, expectation to award bids at the February county board meeting. Tree clearing would need to be done prior to April 15, this would be included as part of the bid.
- Stuntz Bay Access Road – Waiting for Mesabi Bituminous signature and IC-134 forms.

Flood/FEMA process – Attached.

Broadband Project – Nothing to report.

McKinley Park Campground

Two proposals for McKinley Park Campground Manager were received: Casey Sundahl with an \$80k proposal and Randy Pratt & Julie Kranz with a \$36k proposal with a negotiation to sublet the host camp site and receive assistance with some of the duties. Discussion was had with regard to whether additional bids should be called for as suggested by a Breitung Resident, concerns with respect to Pratt/Kranz proposal to run both Hoodoo Point Campground and McKinley Park Campground simultaneously, and concerns regarding sublet hosts. There was concern from Chairman Tichel that if the call for proposals was re-opened, would the current bidders be lost with the potential to wind up without a host at all; discussion indicated a fiscally responsible need to award the contract to Pratt/Kranz.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to accept the proposal for McKinley Park Campground Management by Randy Pratt and Julie Kranz

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tichel

Motion passed 2-0

**New Business:**

Pay Bills as Presented

Motion by Chairman Tichel to Pay Bills as Presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 2-0

City of Tower Police Agreement

Motion by Chairman Tichel to agree to and sign the proposed 3-year contract with the City of Tower for police coverage.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion Passed 2-0

Temporary Maintenance Assistant

Chairman Tichel discussed the issue of having the Maintenance Assistant out on Workers' Compensation and the need for additional help in the winter, specifically due to plowing needs. Local Union 49 was contacted regarding the Township's options; they approved of a temporary replacement for the Maintenance Assistant Position at full union pay but without union benefits.

Motion by Supervisor Tichel to promote seasonal employee Zachary Poderzay to fill the temporary full-time Maintenance Assistant position at union pay, without union benefits retroactive to December 1, 2025.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Cigarette License

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to issue a License to Sell Tobacco to Soudan's Only Store contingent on receiving a completed License Application, Certificate of Compliance, Certificate of Liability Insurance, and a \$50.00 fee.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

#### McKinley Park Rates

Chairman Tuchel discussed camping rate increases over the last two years as well as showing comparable rates at nearby campgrounds. Supervisor Tekautz indicated a desire to not continue to raise rates; a request to provide long-term rental rates for tent sites was reviewed.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to keep rates the same, but to include a seasonal rate for non-electric tent sites of \$2100.00.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Motion passed 2-0

#### Breitung/Kugler Fire Contract

Chairman Tuchel summarized the intent of the Breitung Kugler Township Fire Contract has having been considered so that Breitung could take over coverage of portions of Kugler Township currently covered by Tower Fire Department; there were approximately 79 addresses that would be covered by Breitung Township according to the St Louis County Communications Fire Coverage Map. In conversation with Kugler Township, which was having its own regular board meeting, it was discovered that they may prefer some negotiation of the contract.

Motion by Supervisor Tekautz to approve Chairman Tuchel to enter into negotiations with Kugler Township representative and sign the typo-corrected contract upon agreement

2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Tuchel

Discussion: Clerk Zak questioned whether Chairman Tuchel was sure there was no conflict of interest; he indicated that although he generally abstains for potential conflict of interest in matters of the fire department, he had received information that conflict of interest comes into play when there is personal gain to be had; in this case, there was no personal gain to be had, therefore and since Supervisor Peitso was not present, he would vote on the issue.

Motion passed 2-0

#### TechBytes Reservation System Quote

After reviewing the options offered by TechBytes for the McKinley Park reservation system, it was decided it may be best to speak with the newly appointed campground managers to get their thoughts on the best option

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to authorize Supervisor Tekautz to choose and sign a website option based on recommendations from Randy Pratt and Julie Kranz

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

#### 2025 Ambulance Vehicle Aid

Chairman Tuchel spoke on the invoice received by Breitung Township, explaining that the request for payment was what came out of the latest ambulance meeting. The #2 ambulance currently has over 100k miles on it and is a 2019 model, these funds would be put to use for the purchase of a new truck in the future.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to pay \$13,250.00 to the City of Tower for 2025 Ambulance Vehicle Aid.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Fund Transfers

Chairman Tuchel spoke on several financial matters, first that projects were no longer being fully funded on a regular basis, there was minimal or no funding available for the types of projects that need to be done within the township, such as blacktopping and broadband. With that said, he would like to have the board begin putting money aside specifically for projects, something which had not been previously budgeted for. He pointed out that in January of 2025, \$120k had been moved from the General fund to the Road & Bridge fund to help cover flood work payments; since that time, the township had recouped much of the money spent on flood related items from FEMA and it would be in the township's interest to place that money in the Projects fund.

It was also noted that the 2024 Building Rehabilitation payment (directed to the township's equipment replacement fund) had not been made due to lack of funds from stemming from flood-related projects. Finally, \$70k had been taken from the Fire fund instead of the Equipment Replacement Fund to pay for SCBA equipment and the downpayment on the fire truck.

Finally, he noted that in 2026 we would need to match the \$28,200 grant from IRRR for the recreation project.

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to move funds as follows to rectify the above referenced events:

1. \$120k from Road & Bridge to Projects
2. \$35k from General to the Equipment Replacement Fund
3. \$70k from General (Equipment Replacement Fund) to Fire
4. \$15k from General to recreation
5. \$15k from Park to recreation

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Pay Period Adjustment

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to change the Township Pay Period from Tuesday – Monday to Sunday to Saturday, beginning January 1, 2026 based on Treasurer Dolinar's recommendation.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

### Next Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting on 01/20/2025 at 6:00 PM

### Adjourn

Motion by Chairman Tuchel to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Tekautz

Motion passed 2-0

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak  
Clerk, Breitung Township