

Breitung Township
Annual Township Electors' Meeting
03-10-2026, 8:30 PM
In Person Meeting at the Timothy Tomsich Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782

Residents Present: Amber Zak, Nathan Cvetan, Tim Tomsich, Matt Tuchel, Erin Peitso, Linda Folstad, Larry Folstad, Isaac Tuchel (not of voting age), Stephanie Ukkola (Timberjay), Stephen Tekautz, Mindy Tuchel, Trevor Banks, Cade Gornick, Rolf Anderson, Laurie Anderson, Teresa Dolinar, Susan Ellis, Kathy Siskar, Anthony Sikora (arrived at 8:34 PM)

Non-Residents Present: Daniel Reing

Call to Order at 8:30 PM by Amber Zak

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator:

Motion by Amber Zak to name Matt Tuchel Moderator

2nd by Tim Tomsich

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes:

Motion by Steven Tekautz to dispense with reading of the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes 03-11-2025 and approve as distributed

2nd by Linda Folstad

Motion passed unanimously

Reports:

- Financial Report – Read and explained by Matt Tuchel
Resident Cade Gornick questioned the Recreation and Park funds for clarification of what those expenditures consisted of and the difference between Rec and Park; Board members offered information regarding the two funds, noting that the Park is McKinley Park, which does not have money levied for it
Motion made by Steve Tekautz to accept Financial Report as presented
2nd by Larry Folstad
Motion passed unanimously
- Road and Bridge Report – included in packet, highlights mentioned by Matt Tuchel
Motion made Larry Folstad to accept Road and Bridge Report as presented
2nd Erin Peitso
Motion passed unanimously

- Police Report – Chief Reing discussed highlights from the year including the GREAT program and noted that the department had received the highest number of calls since 2021; Tony Sikora questioned whether the statistics were for the entire service area or just Breitung Township (entire service area) and commented on his appreciation of the Breitung Police Department, these sentiments were also echoed by Stephanie Ukkola; Rolf Anderson questioned whether there were any uptrends in the calls, Chief Reing noted that traffic in general was up as well incidents around the Depot in Tower.
 Motion made by Erin Peitso to accept Police Report as presented
 2nd by Steve Tekautz
 Motion passed unanimously
- Fire and Rescue Report – Chief Trevor Banks touched on highlights from the year; Cade Gornick and Steven Tekautz applauded the efforts of the Firemen’s Relief Association 4th of July Beverage Tent, Tony Sikora commented on his appreciation of the fire department
 Motion by Larry Folstad to accept Fire and Rescue Report as presented
 2nd by Steve Tekautz
 Motion passed unanimously
- McKinley Park Report – No report was provided this year; Steve Tekautz, the Township Liaison to the campground reported on changes of the management of the campground. Steve offered his thanks to Jerry & Susie Chiabotti for their many years of excellent service, noting that they would be leaving tough shoes to fill. He announced that a new contract had been drawn up and that the contract had been out for bid and awarded to Randy Pratt & Julie Kranz. Concerns were raised by Cade Gornick regarding new hosts keeping McKinley Park in the current clean & tidy state it has been kept; Rolf Anderson questioned whether anything had been done to recognize Susie & Jerry such as a newspaper ad thanking them, the suggestion was taken in by the board members; Tim Tomsich questioned whether the seasonals had been paying in ahead for their rentals, Amber Zak explained that the policy of receiving payments had never been part of the management contract and that she was under the impression that it had been included in the camper leases provided by the Chiabotti’s; Zak went on to explain further that the new hosts preferred to collect payment at the start of the season to avoid confusion of who had paid and who hadn’t, Tomsich noted that there had been issues of receiving payment for seasonal at the Tower campground – the board took Tim’s information under advisement and committed to making sure they stayed on top of the financials with the new hosts as the season got underway.
 Motion made by Larry Folstad to accept McKinley Park Report as presented
 2nd by Trevor Banks
 Motion passed unanimously

- Chairman's Report – Matt Tuchel touched on the highlights of his report, especially those that had not already been discussed as part of other reports; Tim Tomsich questioned the contractor for the Thompson Farm Road project, Matt Tuchel informed him that Mesabi Bituminous had submitted a low bid but had not yet been approved by the county; Tim Tomsich also noted his approval of the report; Kathy Siskar questioned whether there was any sort of Liaison to Echo Point Road, Matt Tuchel explained that there were not liaisons for specific roads, but any issues could be brought to any of the supervisors and that the police force and road and bridge were regular available if there were any needs from those departments.

Anthon Sikora indicated concern about the Broadband project discussed in the Chairman's report, stating that he was unsure whether tax dollars should be going to rural areas for broadband. In his opinion, there was plenty of internet available and he did not see a clear reason to use Breitung tax dollars to fund such a project. Tim Tomsich commented that he was in support of the broadband project, comparing it similarly to a utility. Erin Peitso explained that Bois Forte was willing to take the grant on for the sole benefit of the surrounding townships and that there was no direct benefit to them, they didn't have to provide this opportunity to us. Matt Tuchel questioned the residents whether they thought the expenditure of taxpayer dollars should be left up to the residents for approval. Motion made Nathan Cvetan to approve board expending funds for that project (referencing the broadband project); amended the motion to include the stipulation that payment should only be made for the poles divided amongst the three townships that are in Breitung Township

2nd by Tim Tomsich

Ayes: 17 Nays: 1

Motion passed

Motion made by Steve Tekautz to accept report as presented

2nd by Erin Peitso

Motion passed unanimously

Tax Levy

Matt Tuchel reviewed the levy reports and stated that the Breitung Town board recommended a \$0.00/0% change with funds kept at the same levels as the current year and cited in the Public Packet document titled "Proposed 2027 Levy".

Motion made by Anthony Sikora to approve the recommended 2027 levy with the cited dollar amounts going to individual funds as recommended by the town board

2nd by Nathan Cvetan

Motion passed unanimously

Donation Request

- Best Youth Baseball
Motion by Tony Sikora to submit correspondence to Requestor that we weren't able to fund them due to statutory limitations but that we would increase our donation to the Joint Powers Recreation Board
2nd by Larry Folstad
Motion passed unanimously
- Tower-Soudan Historical Society toward Historic Fire Hall restoration
Motion by Steve Tekautz to approve \$500 donation to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society
2nd by Anthony Sikora
Motion passed unanimously

Funds to Support Events – funds listed below are for 2024

- 4th of July Community Picnic
Motion by Steve Tekautz to provide \$3000 to the community picnic for food and in-kind labor
2nd by Erin Peitso
Motion passed unanimously
- Big Truck Night
Motion by Larry Folstad to provide \$300 toward food for Big Truck Night
2nd by Teresa Dolinar
Motion passed unanimously
- Old Settlers
Motion by Nathan Cvetan to provide \$200 to the Old Settler Picnic
Discussion: Residents questioned giving more, whether it was necessary, Steve Tekautz indicated that the organization was largely self-sufficient and did not think additional money was necessary; it was also noted that a large amount of labor was provided for the set-up and tear-down of the picnic
2nd by Larry Folstad
Motion passed unanimously
- Cemetery Association
Discussion: The clerk confirmed with Leonard Stefanich earlier in the day that the dollar amounts were still correct for 2026. Residents questioned whether others (such as the City of Tower) contributed as much; it was noted that the City of Tower provided water to the cemetery without charge. Others were surprised at the dollar amount needed by the cemetery, Steve Tekautz indicated they had no money. Tony Sikora questioned whether there were any Breitung residents that could act as Cemetery Board members to be sure the money was being spent wisely, offered to be on the board as a Breitung Representative. The \$273 computer software was determined to be a shared cost between Breitung, Tower, and another unknown contributor.
Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to provide the cemetery \$3,000 for upkeep and \$273 for computer software
2nd by Amber Zak
Motion passed unanimously

- **Joint Recreation Board**
Discussion: Steve Tekautz indicated that as a Joint Powers Rec Board member, it was his intention to request an increase prior to the earlier discussion of Best Baseball; he indicated that the board may be looking to provide funding for other types of recreation.
Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to provide \$700 to the Tower Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board with a note that some of the contribution should go to Best Baseball
2nd by Nathan Cvetan
Motion passed unanimously

Other Business

Prior to adjournment, Trevor Banks requested a chance to speak. Chief Banks discussed the potential purchase of new equipment for the use of accessing emergency situations outside of areas accessible by truck. He discussed the desire to purchase a side by side, equipped with rescue and fire fighting equipment with room for up to 6 individuals. The cost of such equipment would be \$76,792.19; he indicated that he had applied for several grants and would be apply for additional grants as well; further, he discussed using the sale of the old fire truck as a potential source of funds. Residents questioned whether he ought to also have tracks for the device so it could travel in the winter on trails and lakes. It was noted that although the residents might authorize the purchase, it did not mean an immediate purchase; the board would still be responsible for authorizing the final purchase

Motion by Cade Gornick to authorize the township to spend up to \$90,000 on the purchase of a new side by side with fire fighting and rescue equipment

2nd by Nathan Cvetan

Motion passed unanimously

Date for Next Annual Electors' Meeting:

March 9, 2027 at the Timothy Tomsich Community Center following the Township Election at approximately 8:30 PM

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 10:32 by Tony Sikora

2nd by Erin Peitso

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Breitung Township Resident

Matt Tuchel
Moderator, Breitung Township