

Breitung Township
Annual Township Electors' Meeting
03-11-2025, 8:30 PM
In Person Meeting at the Breitung Community Center
33 First Avenue, Soudan MN 55782

Residents Present: Amber Zak, Dianna Sunsdahl, Tim Tomsich, Matt Tuchel, Erin Peitso, Jorgine Gornick, Lori Tomsich, Stephanie Ukkola (Timberjay), Stephen Tekautz, Greg Dostert, Trevor Banks, Terry Driscoll, Rolf Anderson, Laurie Anderson, Teresa Dolinar

Non-Residents Present: Daniel Reing, Steve Altenburg (Tower News)

Call to Order at 8:30 PM by Amber Zak

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator:

Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to name Tim Tomsich Moderator

2nd by Greg Dostert

Motion passed unanimously

Minutes:

Motion by Dianna Sunsdahl to dispense with reading of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes 03-12-2024 and the 2024 Continued Annual Meeting minutes 08/15/2024 and approve as distributed

2nd by Matt Tuchel

Motion passed unanimously

Reports:

- Financial Report – Read and explained by Tim Tomsich
Motion made by Erin Peitso to accept Financial Report as presented
2nd by Stephanie Ukkola
Motion passed unanimously
- Road and Bridge Report – included in packet, highlights mentioned by Tim Tomsich
Motion made Dianna Sunsdahl to accept Road and Bridge Report as presented
2nd Stephen Tekautz
Motion passed unanimously
- Police Report – Chief Reing discussed lowered level of calls, highlights from the year including Tacos with Cops and the retirement of Jim Hill's badge
Motion made by Matt Tuchel to accept Police Report as presented
2nd by Rolf Anderson
Motion passed unanimously

- Fire and Rescue Report – Chief Trevor Banks touched on highlights from the year and mentioned the upcoming 75th anniversary celebration of the department
Motion by Dianna Sundahl to accept Fire and Rescue Report as presented
2nd by Trevor Banks
Motion passed unanimously
- McKinley Park Report – Report included in the packet, highlights mentioned by Tim Tomsich
Motion made by Dianna Sundahl to accept McKinley Park Report as presented
2nd by Teresa Dolinar
Motion passed unanimously
- Chairman’s Report – Read by Tim Tomsich, included announcement of retirement
Motion made by Greg Doster to accept report as presented
2nd by Amber Zak
Motion passed unanimously

Tax Levy

Tim Tomsich reviewed the levy reports and stated that the Breitung Town board recommended a \$33,000/4.46% increase with funds being applied to Road & Bridge: \$3,000 for medical insurance, benefits & wages and \$30,000 for road maintenance & snow removal

Motion made by Stephen Tekautz to approve the recommended levy increase as recommended by the town board

2nd by Trevor Banks

Discussion: Dianna Sundahl questioned whether the \$20,000 left over from the Recreation levy could be used for Road & Bridge; Tim Tomsich explained the remainder was earmarked for improvements at the Baseball Field and Park repairs, further noted that the township would have the opportunity to apply for the IRRR Culture & Tourism grant this spring which, if received, would require a 50/50 match.

Amber Zak questioned what the \$30,000 increase would specifically be used for. Tim Tomsich explained that there were two projects (Center Street & Echo Point Rd) originally lined up for a \$75,000 CDBG grant but that the township had lost the grant due to higher income demographics. Due to this loss of grant funding, the township would need to levy its own funds to be able to pursue the Echo Point project. Dianna Sundahl questioned whether Center Street was still in the queue to be worked on, it was not at this time.

Ayes: 14 Nays: 1

Motion passed

Ordinance 90-03A

Tim Tomsich discussed the proposed ordinance regarding Water & Sewer, explaining the purpose of the ordinance and how it would be beneficial for Breitung Township. The ordinance was on the agenda to provide general public notification; Tomsich invited anyone interested in reviewing the ordinance to contact Breitung Township to receive a copy.

Donation Request

- Northwoods Bear Bots Robotics Team
Discussion: Breitung does not support individual sports teams, instead contributes to the Joint Powers Recreation Board, no need to support extra-curriculars outside of that organization
Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to deny the donation request
2nd by Matt Tuchel
Motion passed unanimously
- Friends of the Parks – Cook, MN
Discussion: Breitung Township has its own parks to take care of
Motion by Matt Tuchel to deny the donation request
2nd by Amber Zak
Motion passed unanimously
- Tower-Soudan Historical Society toward Historic Fire Hall restoration
Motion by Stephanie Ukkola to approve \$500 donation to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society
2nd by Stephen Tekautz
Motion passed unanimously

Funds to Support Events – funds listed below are for 2024

- 4th of July Community Picnic - \$2,000 includes food and in-kind labor
 - Big Truck Night - \$300 food
 - Old Settlers - \$200 cash donation
 - Cemetery Association - \$3000 cash donation for upkeep, \$273 cash donation for Computer Software
 - Joint Recreation Board- \$300 cash donation
- Motion by Teresa Dolinar to continue support above for all events as noted above
2nd by Dianna Sundahl
Motion passed unanimously

Other Business

Prior to adjournment, Tim Tomsich requested to take a moment to recognize former police chief Jim Hill who passed away earlier in the year. Tomsich noted that Mr. Hill had provided a significant amount of volunteer support to Breitung Township over the years including work on the Housing Corporation board, Breitung Water & Sewer Commission, and 25 years on the fire department; he stated that with his passing, there had been a void left and that it was hard to appreciate the amount of time, energy, and talent given to the community until he was gone. Dianna Sundahl questioned whether a plaque should be purchased for one of the benches around town to honor Mr. Hill.

Motion by Trevor Banks to purchase a plaque honoring Mr. Hill to be placed at a bench within Breitung Township

2nd by Rolf Anderson

Discussion: Plaque wording and location should be discussed with Pam Hill

Motion passed unanimously

Date for Next Annual Electors' Meeting:

March 10, 2026 at the Breitung Community Center following the Township Election at approximately 8:30 PM

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 by Dianna Sunsdahl

2nd by Amber Zak

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Zak
Breitung Township Resident

Timothy Tomsich
Moderator, Breitung Township