

Charter Township of Breitung
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Main Board Room – Breitung Township Hall
Monday, December 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Olson at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Trustee Rochon, Supervisor Olson, Treasurer Taylor (6:04 p.m.), Trustee Taff, and Trustee Peterson.

Absent: Clerk Larson, excused

Also Present: Michael Day, Margie Schnapp, Sharon Reuter, Deputy Brian Polzien, Jim Paul (Daily News), DPW Superintendent Davis, Fire Chief Rose, Superintendent Mulka.

Invocation given by Supervisor Olson and the pledge was recited by all.

Public Comment: None

Approvals:

Approval of Agenda: **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve the December 11, 2023 Agenda, with the addition of 8G-Registration for Capital Conference and MTA Conference.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Supervisor Olson to approve the November 6, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes, the November 6, 2023 Special Board Meeting minutes, and the November 27, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes, all as presented. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Public Hearing: 2024 Budget Draft: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Treasurer Taylor to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget at 6:05 p.m. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** Trustee Rochon, Supervisor Olson, Treasurer Taylor, Trustee Taff, Trustee Peterson. **Nays:** None. Supervisor Olson and Superintendent Mulka asked for comments and input from the public. None were given.

Motion by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Treasurer Taylor to close the Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget and open the regular meeting at 6:06 p.m. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Old Business:

FD Recommendation to Hire: Fire Chief Rose stated that the applicant already has basic Fire Fighter training and would be a good addition to the department. He noted he would most likely be assigned to Station 2.

Motion by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to hire Jacob Metz as a Fire Fighter at Station 2.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Trustee Appointment: Supervisor Olson stated that Michael Day and Sharon Reuter were being considered for appointment to the vacant position created by Rich Wales' resignation. **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to appoint Michael Day to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Taff noted that since he has been a Board member, Mr. Day has attended almost every Township Board meeting, and is presently serving on two other boards. Trustee Peterson stated he appreciated that both candidates provided nice letters of interest to the Board. All the Board members noted it was a difficult decision. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Supervisor Olson asked Mr. Day to come to the office at his convenience over the next week to get sworn in. Mr. Day thanked the Board for their confidence, noting he had big shoes to fill, and affirmed he would do his best.

New Business:

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GIS Service Contract: Superintendent Mulka explained the service agreement. **Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve the GIS agreement for the amount of \$3,000.00.

Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

KIND Contribution for 2024: Trustee Rochon explained the purpose of the KIND program and the reason being for the increase in contribution rate. **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to provide for the KIND 2024 budget year, Breitung Township's portion of \$7,316.25. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Res. No. 12112023-1 Health Insurance Opt-Out: Superintendent Mulka explained the reason for the resolution and the history behind it. **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to approve Resolution 12112023-1 Health Insurance Opt Out. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** Trustee Rochon, Supervisor Olson, Treasurer Taylor, Trustee Taff, Trustee Peterson. **Nays:** None.

MRWA Equipment Fund Donation Request: DPW Superintendent Davis explained the donation request to the Board. Supervisor Olson asked if the DPW gave directions to look at private wells, would the MRWA (Michigan Rural Water Association) help with that request. DPW Superintendent Davis stated he would need to discuss that question with the MRWA and bring back the answer. **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to look into the legality of the donation considering we would be using the service and if legal, approve a donation for \$500. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Personnel Committee Report: Superintendent Mulka noted that all discussion pertaining to personnel would be reflected in the meeting minutes from that meeting.

Water Board Recommendations: Superintendent Mulka explained the Water/Sewer Board recommendations to the Board. He said the Water/Sewer Board also asked the Trustees to consider creating a policy addressing reduction of the connection fee when multiple taps are done at the same time and location. Trustee Peterson noted that an applicant that had come before the Water/Sewer Board recently noted that surrounding cities had significantly lower connection and tap fees. He explained that the Township taxes did not support the infrastructure like in other cities, and that the taxes in Breitung Township were substantially lower than the surrounding cities which provides a large and ongoing savings to anyone building in the Township. Treasurer Taylor offered her hope that the cost savings given to the builder be passed on to renters to help with affordability, especially if renters are seniors. **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to continue prior Board action to automatically follow the state published CPI for gallonage and to reduce the connection fees of \$3,000 per water line totaling \$12,000 by 40% to \$7,200, with this particular project able to expand with eight more lines, totaling 12 water accounts. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Registration for Capital Conference and MTA Conference: Supervisor Olson explained the conferences and asked the Board to approve costs for attendance. **Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to allow all Board members to attend the Capital Conference, to include paying for the registration fee, mileage reimbursement or use of the Township vehicle, and two nights of lodging. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Supervisor Olson noted that the Board would further discuss the MTA conference at a later date.

Reports:

Clerk's Financial Report:

Motion by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve Clerk Larson's Post Transaction Report from November 21, 2023 through December 6, 2023. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Fire Report - Highlights: Written report submitted by Fire Chief Rose. For the month of October 2023, the Breitung Township Fire Department handled the following: 5 fires, 4 vehicle accidents/other rescue, 7 medical assists, and 0 miscellaneous.

Fire Chief Rose stated he had been discussing putting a policy in place for replacing tires on a regular timeline. Trustee Peterson stated he would be in favor of such a policy. Supervisor Olson asked about the status of the fire truck. Fire Chief Rose stated it was still out of service while getting it repaired and noted that the needed repairs were extensive. He further noted that the NFPA recommended tire replacement every seven years. Trustee Peterson's opinion is that at least steers should follow the NFPA recommendation.

Supervisor Olson asked if there was a plan in place to respond to emergencies when tankers were out on other calls. Fire Chief Rose detailed all the resources in place for those situations.

Superintendent Report - Highlights: Written report submitted by Township Superintendent Mulka. Supervisor Olson asked about the camera order. Superintendent Mulka noted that an itemized invoice had just gone out and equipment had been ordered.

Committees/Boards/Commissions Reports: None

Code Enforcement Report: For the month of November 2023, the Breitung Township Officers handled the following: 7 accidents, 22 complaints, 1 code enforcement, and 2 arrests.

Board Discretionary Time:

Trustee Peterson asked about a commemorative plaque for Rich Wales. Supervisor Olson said it had not been ordered yet but would be soon.

Happy Birthday to Jose Rivera and Caroline Taylor!

Payment of Bills: **Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Peterson to approve the bill list in the amount of \$38,239.97. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Public Comment: Public Comment began at 7:17 p.m. DPW Superintendent commended Assistant Fire Chief Rick Lindow on the safe operation of the fire truck when the steer tire blew on the way to the Stephenson fire and the calm and controlled manner in which he handled the situation.

Public comment ended at 7:17 p.m.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Trustee Peterson, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to adjourn the meeting. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

The meeting was declared adjourned by Supervisor Olson at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Deputy Clerk Helen Schaller in Clerk Larson's absence.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Wendy Larson
Breitung Township Clerk

Denny Olson
Breitung Township Supervisor