

**Charter Township of Breitung**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
Main Board Room – Breitung Township Hall  
Monday, August 28, 2023

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

**Roll Call: Present:** Supervisor Olson, Trustee Wales (remote) Trustee Rochon, Trustee Taff  
**Absent:** Clerk Larson (excused), Treasurer Taylor (excused), Trustee Peterson (excused)

Also Present: Mark Olson, Bev and John McCole, Steve and Deb Altobelli, Tom and Kathy Nash, Leah and Steve Ziemba, William C. Rice, Susan M. and Dr. Donald G. Kube, Jr., Gwenn and Bob Rice, David and Rachelle Taff, Michael Day, Fire Chief Jim Rose, Assessor Justin Murawski, DPW Superintendent Jay Davis, Jim Paul with The Daily News, Deputy Brian Polzien, Superintendent Steve Mulka.

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

Public Comment:

Public comment began at 6:02 p.m. Comments regarding a local Airbnb rental and requests for an ordinance regarding Airbnb rentals in the Township were received by eight residents.

Those commenting were:

Rachelle Taff at W8995 Frei Drive

Tom Nash at W9000 Frei Drive

Gwenn Rice at W8985 Frei Drive on behalf of Tina Rice at W8975 Frei Drive

Leah Ziemba at W9001 Frei Drive

David Taff at W8995 Frei Drive

Steve Ziemba at W9001 Frei Drive

Steve Altobelli at W8952 Frei Drive

Bev McCole at W8926 Frei Drive

Of particular note was Airbnb renters trespassing on private property surrounding the rental house itself, renters not obeying watercraft rules, and full-size vehicles using the ATV trail running by the neighborhood.

The Board expressed that issues regarding trespassing should be directed to the Sheriff's department and issues regarding the trails and waterways must be directed to the Michigan DNR.

Public comment ended at 6:40 p.m.

**Approvals:**

Approval of Agenda:

**Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Rochon to approve the August 28, 2023, Agenda with the additions of 7c – Motion to Purchase Land and 8a – Water Department Training Request. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes:

**Motion** by Trustee Wales, **seconded** by Trustee Rochon to approve the August 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Rochon to approve the August 14, 2023, Closed Session Meeting minutes as presented. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Public Hearing: None.

**Old Business:**

Park Project Additional Fencing:

Discussion about additional fencing for the new courts, as it was noted that black marks had been laid on the brand-new courts by what looked like an off-road vehicle. **Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Rochon to fence in the remaining open three sides of the courts and include walk-in openings without a gate, using the remaining fencing in storage, and using the same vendor being currently used for the initial fencing. The project cost shall not exceed \$12,000. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Water System Projects Update:

Superintendent Mulka reported that the water systems projects have been moving along much faster than anticipated. The tank line project paving does not have a solid timeline as of yet.

Motion to Purchase Land:

A motion to purchase land after the closed strategy session at a prior meeting had not been made after returning to open session. **Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to authorize Superintendent Mulka to purchase the previously discussed land at the previously discussed price point. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**New Business:**

Water Department Training Request:

**Motion** by Trustee Taff, **seconded** by Trustee Rochon to approve Jay Davis, Chris Wilcox, and José Rivera attending the U.P. Fall Water Conference in Harris, MI on September 26-27, 2023, to include a one-night hotel stay and use of the Township vehicle, with no meals at this time. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**Reports:**

Clerk's Financial Reports:

**Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Supervisor Olson to approve Clerk Larson's Post Transaction Report from August 11, 2023, through August 23, 2023. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to receive and place on file Clerk Larson's Revenue/Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet ending 7/31/2023. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Treasurer's Financial Report:

**Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to receive and place on file Treasurer Taylor's Cash Summary by Bank for the month of July 2023. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Superintendent Report - Highlights: Written report submitted by Township Superintendent Mulka.

Assessor's Report: Written report submitted by Assessor Murawski.

Assessor Murawski further reported that field work was ramping up before winter, that the department was working on the follow-up with the State, and they would most likely be meeting with the State later in the week to get a vision of next steps. He stated that the Assessing Department has been able to multi-task in the field to shorten the time needed to complete all their tasks.

Supervisor Olson passed on compliments to the Assessing Department for their excellent work and progress.

Department of Public Works Report: Written report submitted by DPW Superintendent Davis. DPW Superintendent further reported the department is getting ready for the cemetery tree purchase and planting and noted that they are coordinating with residents who may want to purchase trees for this project.

Supervisor Olson passed on compliments to the DPW department for exceeding expectations.

Committees/Boards/Commissions Reports:

**Board Discretionary Time:**

Trustee Taff asked if there was a possibility of setting up a compost/mulch dump for residents. Superintendent Mulka said he would investigate what Township land is available that might be a candidate for a composting area.

Trustee Rochon affirmed that the courts look awesome and that he likes to see improvements like that, as do the residents. He proclaimed he would like to see more improvements like that added to the project list.

Superintendent Mulka mentioned he had received several notes of gratitude from residents about the new sidewalks installed this summer. He stated he also received some complaints about dogs running at large and announced that there were dispensers going up soon for people who forget to bring sanitation materials on their walks. Superintendent Mulka made known that while the Township does not have a dog ordinance, the County does, and that he referred the residents to the County.

Supervisor Olson stated he was getting closer to a replacement for the Planning Commission. He opened and read a thank you card from Mary Ann Hansen. He declared that he had recently received a lot of complaints, but that most had already been resolved. He further noted he has been hearing about roads and submitted that a road committee would need to be put together to address this issue. Supervisor Olson then asked for an update on the bid request list. Fire Chief Rose stated that the bid request list was almost ready.

Payment of Bills: **Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Taff to approve the bill list in the amount of \$37,362.60, and holding back the \$10,000 final bill from Morin until all work has been inspected and approved. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment:

**Motion** by Trustee Rochon, **seconded** by Trustee Wales to adjourn the meeting. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

The meeting was declared adjourned by Supervisor Olson at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Deputy Clerk Helen Schaller.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Wendy Larson  
Breitung Township Clerk

Denny Olson  
Breitung Township Supervisor