

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 7, 2023**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 7, 2023, at the County Board Room, County Administration Building, Bemidji, Minnesota.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Richard Anderson, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Commissioners Craig Gaasvig, Joe Gould, Tim Sumner, and John Carlson were present.

GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR

None.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the Regular Agenda:

- Liquor License for Bemidji High School Fishing Club
- Budget Amendment for the County Jail
- County Administrator Performance Evaluation

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approved Agenda and Amendments

A motion to approve the Agenda and Amendments was made by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Gould, and unanimously carried.

Approved Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Gould, seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, and unanimously carried.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approved Minutes

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Work Meeting held January 17, 2023, and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held January 17, 2023, as submitted.

Approved Auditor/Treasurer Warrant Payment Listing

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by the Auditor/Treasurer's Office.

Approved Payment of Auditor/Treasurer Bills

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved payment of Auditor/Treasurer bills, as submitted.

Approved Resolution of Support for CSAH 20 Project

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Resolution of Support for CSAH 20 Project:

WHEREAS, CSAH 20 is located along the north shore of Lake Bemidji and is one of the main east/west routes in Beltrami County; and

WHEREAS, there are many traffic generators on CSAH 20 such as Lake Bemidji State Park, MnDNR Regional Headquarters, Concordia Language Villages, Bemidji Town and Country Golf Club, Chippewa National Forest, multiple resorts, residential developments, seasonal recreational properties, and acres of public lands and lakes; and

WHEREAS, many bicyclists and pedestrians utilize CSAH 20 traveling from Lake Bemidji State Park to the City of Bemidji and around Lake Bemidji; and

WHEREAS, the proposed road improvements will provide a safer route, improving the narrow road and poor road surface; and

WHEREAS, the proposed road improvements will also include a multi-use trail which will provide a safer location for pedestrians and bicyclists than the existing narrow road; and

WHEREAS, Lake Bemidji is an historic and spiritual water body which serves as an important cultural and recreational resource to the region; and

WHEREAS, the combination of a high-water table and many aging residential and commercial septic systems on the Northwest and North end of Lake Bemidji pose a potential health risk and threaten the water quality of Lake Bemidji; and

WHEREAS, Ruttger's Resort, the MN DNR Regional Headquarters and Lake Bemidji State Park, which are located on the Northwest and North end of Lake Bemidji, all need to replace their aging septic systems; and

WHEREAS, Ruttger's Resort, the MN DNR Regional Headquarters and Lake Bemidji State Park have expressed their support for a proposed water and sanitary sewer project extending along Birchmont Beach Road to serve their facilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed water and sanitary sewer project will help maintain water quality of a shared natural resource of great importance to our region and improve resident's land use ability; and

WHEREAS, the extension of water and sanitary sewer services in this area has been a regional planning goal for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Combining the proposed water and sanitary sewer project with the planned Beltrami County CSAH20 roadway improvement project will greatly reduce costs and be less disruptive to businesses, residents and tourists; Now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners do hereby support the CSAH 20 Road Improvement Project and the Water and Sanitary Sewer Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners supports and encourages allocation of any State or Federal funding that may help fund the road improvement project and the important water quality project.

Approved Beltrami County Owned Land Sale Resolution

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Land Sale Resolution to Accept Beltrami County Owned Parcel Appraisals and Sale Date to replace prior Resolution 22-11-52:

WHEREAS, Beltrami County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution Number 22-11-52 on November 1, 2022 and, Parcel #39.00188.01 was inadvertently omitted from the list of parcels and is added to this resolution and, Resolution Number 22-11-52, approved by the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners on November 1, 2022, is officially rescinded as of this date; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 373.01 Subd. 1, provides for the sale of such lands owned by the County and have been reviewed by the Town Board of the town or by the governing body of the municipality in which they lie in so far as the lands located within said town or municipality are concerned; and,

WHEREAS, The County Board will provide appraisal of such lands as provided by law, and a list of such lands will be filed with the County Auditor for the purpose of offering such lands for sale at

not less than their appraised value; and,

WHEREAS, All parcels have been reviewed by the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners;

WHEREAS, The County Board is by law designated with authority to provide for the sale of such lands on terms and whereas the County Board has considered the advisability of selling on terms and has considered the accessibility of such lands, their proximity to existing public improvements and the effect of their sale and occupancy on the public burdens; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, These parcels shall be sold on the following terms, to-wit: That all sales less than \$25,000 shall be paid in full in cash by 4:30 pm on Tuesday December 20, 2022. Parcels with a bid up value of \$25,000 or greater shall be sold on the following terms, to-wit: submission of 1% of the final sale amount as a bid guarantee by 4:30 pm on Tuesday December 20, 2022 and, that all sales shall be paid in full in cash by 4:30 pm on January 16, 2023. Special assessments and the appraised price of any standing timber or timber products must be paid for in cash at the time of the sale; and in the case any parcel of land bearing standing timber or timber products is sold at auction for more than the appraised value, the amount bid in excess of the appraised value shall be allocated between the land and the timber in proportion to the respective original appraised values thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all purchasers of land shall pay 3 percent surcharge of the total sale price to be paid to Minnesota Management and Budget, a state deed fee of \$25.00, a deed filing fee of \$46.00, and a state deed tax equal to the greater of \$1.65 or 0.33% of the basic sale price.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That where any lands herein offered for sale do not adjoin or are not located on a suitable legally established and maintained public highway or road, the township wherein said lands may be located, nor any other municipality shall not for a period of five years be obligated to the establishment, construction or additional maintenance of any public roads or the expenditure of any public funds for the benefit of the owner or occupant of any lands herein purchased by reason of the ownership or occupancy of any of this land; provided further, that nothing herein shall be construed to create any obligation, directly or indirectly, on the part of any municipality for the expenditure of any money for the benefit of said parcel after the expiration of said five-year period. Responsibility for determining boundary lines of parcels purchased rests with the purchaser.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the right is reserved in the interest

of the public to withdraw from sale, any parcel, at any time prior to its sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all lands sold hereunder are sold subject to any ordinances adopted by the County Board, and all lands are sold subject to railroad and highway easements, power and pipeline easements, and subject to all flowage rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in no case shall lands be disposed of without there being reserved to the county all iron ore and other valuable minerals in and upon the lands, with right to explore for, mine and remove the iron ore and other valuable minerals, nor shall the minerals and mineral rights be disposed of, either before or after disposition of the surface rights, otherwise than by mining lease, in similar general form to that provided by section [93.20](#) for mining leases affecting state lands. The lease shall be for a term not exceeding 50 years, and be issued on a royalty basis, the royalty to be not less than 25 cents per ton of 2,240 pounds, and fix a minimum amount of royalty payable during each year, whether mineral is removed or not. Prospecting options for mining leases may be granted for periods not exceeding one year. The options shall require, among other things, periodical showings to the county board of the results of exploration work done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a notice of sale of such lands to be given by publication in the official newspaper of the County, as provided by law, that the County Auditor of Beltrami County offer such parcels of land for sale in the order in which they appear in said notice of sale and that such sales to be to the highest bidder, but not for less than the appraised value and that such sale of two parcels shall be held at a public oral auction on **December 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Beltrami County Board Room, County Administration Building, 701 Minnesota Ave. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601** and the sale of three parcels will be via private sealed bid auction on **December 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm at the Beltrami County Natural Resource Management Department, 701 Minnesota Ave. NW, Suite 234, Bemidji, MN 56601.**

Parcel #	Beltrami County Owned Legal Description	Township	Appraised Value
11.00152.00 Private Sealed Bid Auction	THE SOUTH 240 FEET OF THE NORTH 280 FEET OF THAT PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER LYING EAST OF THE PLAT OF PUPOSKY Sec Twp Rng 32 149 33	Durand Township Map acres: 0.13	Before assessments: \$0.00 Est. Market Value: \$1,600.00 After assessments: \$0.00 Min. Bid Price: \$1,600.00

<p>20.00085.00</p> <p>Private Sealed Bid Auction</p>	<p>THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER</p> <p>Sec Twp Rng 8 146 35</p>	<p>Jones Township</p> <p>Purchased: 8-11-1937</p> <p>Map acres: 40.38</p>	<p>Before assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Est. Market Value: \$71,700.00</p> <p>After assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Min. Bid Price: \$71,700.00</p>
<p>39.00188.01</p> <p>Private Sealed Bid Auction</p>	<p>THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER</p> <p>Sec Twp Range 18 151 30</p>	<p>Shooks Township</p> <p>Purchased: 9-6-1986</p> <p>Map acres = 40.08</p>	<p>Before assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Est. Market Value: \$41,200.00</p> <p>After assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Min. Bid Price: \$41,200.00</p>
<p>51.00075.00</p> <p>Public Oral Auction</p>	<p>THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER</p> <p>Sec Twp Rng 13 152 31</p>	<p>Woodrow Township</p> <p>Purchased: 12-12-1936</p> <p>Map acres: 121.18</p>	<p>Before assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Est. Market Value: \$104,400.00</p> <p>After assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Min. Bid Price: \$104,400.00</p>
<p>51.00196.00</p> <p>Public Oral Auction</p>	<p>THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER LESS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 660 FEET; THENCE NORTH 450 FEET; THENCE EAST 550 FEET; THENCE NORTH 210 FEET; THENCE EAST 50 FEET TO THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING.</p> <p>Sec Twp Rng 25 152 31</p>	<p>Woodrow Township</p> <p>Purchased: 2-20-1964</p> <p>Map acres: 34.01</p>	<p>Before assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Est. Market Value: \$35,700.00</p> <p>After assessments: \$0.00</p> <p>Min. Bid Price: \$35,700.00</p>

Approved Resolutions (2) Endorsing Sites for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved two resolutions endorsing a cooperative grant application for EPA SWIFR funding for solid waste infrastructure:

WHEREAS, Beltrami County is applying for an EPA SWIFR grant in cooperation with nine counties in Minnesota including: Mahnomen, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Marshall, Norman, Polk, and Red Lake; and,

WHEREAS, the nine-county group proposes to implement a "Hub and Spoke" solid waste management system to replace the unlined construction and demolition landfills in northwest Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, creating a regional solid waste management "Hub and Spoke" system would provide new or expand upon existing access to reuse, recycling, composting and responsible disposal of materials within our nine counties; and,

WHEREAS, creating a regional "Hub and Spoke" system would reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by facilitating the hauling of large loads in lieu of hauling many small loads to the Hub and promote beneficial reuse at each Spoke; and,

WHEREAS, if received the SWIFR grant would serve and benefit many disadvantaged communities within our nine-county region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners supports the EPA SWIFR grant funding request and if received, Beltrami County is committed to implementation of the nine-county infrastructure project to support the "Hub and Spoke" system.

Adopted by the County Board of Beltrami County this 7th day of February, 2023.

Resolution Endorsing a Cooperative Grant Application for EPA SWIFR Funding for Recycling Infrastructure:

WHEREAS, US EPA has provided for Grant funding through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) for Political Subdivisions to construct, modify or expand recycling infrastructure for CY 2023, Polk County is applying for a SWIFR grant on behalf of six (6) counties in northwestern Minnesota including: Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Norman, and Polk; and

WHEREAS, the six-county group has an extensive history of working together on cooperative regional projects including Waste-to-Energy, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill, Waste and Recyclable Processing at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Source Separated Organics Material (SSOM) Composting; and,

WHEREAS, the six-county group proposes to modify its MRF to increase the amount of, and types of recyclable material removed from the MSW material stream and recyclable material stream; and,

WHEREAS, incorporation of robotic sorters at the MRF to clean the recyclable materials to meet marketplace requirements is a main component of the grant request related to this project. The robots would fill manual sorting stations which have remained vacant for over 3 years due to lack of laborers; and,

WHEREAS, modification to the SSOM compost pad and incorporation of Aerated Static Pile (ASP) compost technologies are main components of the grant request related to this project and changes to the

Pad and integration of ASP technology would reduce composting time and increase holding and processing capacity of the SSOM Compost Facility; and,

WHEREAS, recovery of more recyclable material from the MSW and Recycle materials streams processed by the MRF results in avoidance of disposal and the GHG and CO emissions associated with Climate Change and improving the Compost Pad to be usable during and after severe weather events, which are both more frequent and severe due to Climate Change, and incorporating ASP technologies to speed up the composting process will allow more materials to be diverted from disposal to composted; and,

WHEREAS, these results and impacts of these changes made with SWIFR Grant Funds would benefit the many underserved communities within and surrounding the six-county group service area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners supports that if SWIFR grant funding is received, Beltrami County is committed to implementation of the six-county group infrastructure project to modify the MRF and SSOM Compost Facility.

Adopted by the County Board of Beltrami County this 7th day of February, 2023.

Approved 2023 Commercial Haulers Applications

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the 2023 Commercial Haulers Applications from: TC Lighting Supplies & Recycling, T&K Roll-offs, WM of Bemidji, City of Bemidji, and Jon's Refuse, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Warrant Payment List

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by Health & Human Services Department.

REGULAR AGENDA

Probation Resolution

At the AMC Board of Directors meeting on December 4, 2022 the Board approved legislative priorities for the 2023 legislative session. As in 2022, a change in the funding formula for Community Supervision and increased appropriations is one of the top priorities for the AMC Board this year. The AMC Board also recently passed a motion to encourage all 87 county boards to adopt a resolution in support of the formula change and a significant increase in appropriations from the legislature:

Endorsing the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urging the legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

WHEREAS, community supervision is a fundamental part of the criminal justice system in Minnesota and funding sufficient to ensure effective services is vital to public safety in all communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, community supervision includes services such as probation, supervised release, and intensive supervised release; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties provide essential community supervision services both as mandated by M.S. Chapter 244.19 and also as delegated by the Department of Corrections under M.S. Chapter 401; and

WHEREAS, when the Legislature decided that community supervision was best delivered through a state-county partnership, it stated a clear intent that the state would provide significant funding to the counties for the operation of local programs; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Minnesota has become the state with the lowest level of corrections funding in the nation because the Legislature has not upheld its promise to provide adequate state resources to support community supervision; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature's failure to adequately fund community supervision has increased local property taxes on residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, a revised community supervision funding formula is necessary to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have enough state funding to provide a consistent standard for effective, evidence-based community supervision services, regardless of local capacity to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) assembled the Community Supervision Work Group including county leaders and experts in community supervision from all three supervision delivery systems to study the needs of community supervision departments statewide and develop a single funding formula that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Supervision Workgroup has taken up its charge to convene stakeholders across the three probation delivery

systems to oversee a study to create a unified recommendation for an equitable and adequate funding formula and appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support a new funding formula that provides counties with the resources needed to keep communities safe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners endorses the efforts of the AMC Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

Out of State Travel Request

A motion was made by Commissioner Sumner, and seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the Resolution endorsing the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urging the legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session. Unanimously carried.

Out of State Travel Request

Minnesota's Local Public Health Association awarded stipends to select agencies across the state for attendance to the 2023 Preparedness Summit. The National Conference takes place in Atlanta, GA, April 24-27, 2023. Topics this year will include infectious disease, pandemic response, and also Opioid Crisis Management. Travel and conference expenses are covered, with no additional cost to the County. Public Health Director, Megan Heuer, is requesting permission to send Public Health Program Manager, Mercideze White to this Summit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlson, and seconded by Commissioner Gould, to approve out of state travel for Mercideze White to attend the April 24-27, 2023 Preparedness Summit in Atlanta GA, as submitted and report back to the Board. Unanimously carried.

Appointment to Jail Steering Committee

The Beltrami County Jail Steering Committee has representation from County Government, City of Bemidji Government, Beltrami County Citizens, Department of Corrections, Construction Management and Tribal Governments (Red Lake and Leech Lake reservations) Chairman Seki of the Red Lake Nation is unable to attend many of the meetings and has asked to delegate these meetings to Jerry Loud to speak and have say on his behalf. The

Jail Steering Committee voted in favor of this so the Red Lake Nations voice could be heard during this crucial time of steering this project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sumner, and seconded by Commissioner Gould, to approve the appointment of Jerry Loud to the Jail Steering Committee on behalf of Red Lake Chairman Seki. Unanimously carried.

Liquor License for Bemidji High School Fishing Club

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaasvig, and seconded by Commissioner Gould, to approve the Liquor License Application from the Bemidji High School Fishing Club at the Birchmont Winter Bash event, as submitted. Unanimously carried.

Budget Amendment for the County Jail

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlson, and seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, to approve the budget amendment to add 2 FTEs to the Jail and add \$390,000 to the FY23 Budget to cover the 2 new FTEs and to cover the additional out-of-county housing costs using ARPA dollars. Unanimously carried.

County Administrator Performance Evaluation

Commissioner Gaasvig provided a summary of the County Administrator's performance evaluation and stated that the majority of the Commissioners rated the Administrator as exceeding expectations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaasvig and seconded by Commissioner Sumner to place the County Administrator at pay grade 24 step 6 and that the County pay for all of the Administrator's premiums for family medical and to amend the Administrator's employment contract to include five hours of availability pay and update the termination provision to align it with Minnesota Statute 465.722 to allow for a 6-month severance. Unanimously carried.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Legislative/Lobbying Issues & Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Gould reported on numerous committee meetings and department head meetings. He will be attending the AMC Conference.
- Commissioner Sumner reported on numerous committee meetings. He will be attending the AMC Conference and is hoping for a meeting including Commissioner Gould and the County's Lobbyist while they were there.
- Commissioner Carlson reported on several committees. Made note of Representative Stabber coming to Bemidji next week

and efforts should be made to meet with him on Federal jail funding possibilities.

- Commissioner Gaasvig reported on various committee meetings. Notable the JAZB Airport Zoning Board. Made mention to citizens with property in the zoning areas to reach out to Commissioners/Committee members for inclusion in variance inclusion.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next regular meeting of the County Board will be February 21, 2023, in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:36 p.m. was made by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, and unanimously carried.

Richard Anderson, Chair

Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator