

WORK MEETING MINUTES

Beltrami County Board of Commissioners

January 17, 2023

3:00 pm

Meeting to be held in the County Board Room
County Administration Building, 701 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN

A link to the [livestream](#) will be available on the Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes page of the County Website.

Present: Commissioner Craig Gaasvig, Commissioner John Carlson, Commissioner Tim Sumner, Commissioner Richard Anderson, Commissioner Joe Gould.

1. Call to Order

Richard Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

2. Introduction of New Employees

None.

3. Identify Future Work Meeting Topics

- Update on opioids/fentanyl/drugs in our community

4. Legislative Platform Discussion with Legislators

The 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session began on January 3, 2023. The County has identified 13 legislative priorities in its 2023 Legislative Platform. Senator Green and Representatives Bliss and Grossell were invited to attend via Zoom for discussion. Representatives Bliss and Grossell were in attendance, Senator Green was in session.

Staff members: Administrator Barry, Public Health Director Megan Heuer, Health & Human Services Social Services Director, Jeff Lind, and Health & Human Services Director, Anne Lindseth, reviewed each of the 13 legislative priorities and answered questions from Legislators and members of the Board.

5. Jail Project Update

Ben Mattson, project manager for Construction Engineers provided a review of the project to date and provided a timeline of the steps going forward in the process.

Commissioners discussed the various Committees, their rolls in the process and committee members. New Committee assignments would include Sheriff Jason Riggs to the Steering Committee, Commissioner Gould to the Programming Committee, Commissioner Carlson to the Design & Operations Committee. Jim Boell, Consulting Engineer, to the Design & Operations Committee, and DOC Inspection/Building Lead position updated to Justin Roberts.

Commissioner Sumner inquired about committee assignment proxies. Steering Committee member Darrell Seki, Red Lake Chairman has been unable to attend meetings and has been sending Jerry Loud in his place. It was discussed that all Committee assignments and any alternates or proxies must be approved by the County Board.

This item was added to the Regular Agenda for further discussion.

Sheriff Jason Riggs spoke to his new position as Steering Committee Chair. Sheriff Riggs is comfortable with his position and Chief Deputy Walton has been a great resource in getting him up to speed. Sheriff Riggs is also doing community outreach through various venues.

Commissioner Sumner read from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 10, 2023, an article called 'New National Report Sheds Light On the Devastating Cycle of Native Americans being Jailed up to 7 Times more often than White People'.

6. Quarterly Community Health Board Meeting

Public Health Director, Megan Heuer provided the quarterly update from the Community Health Board:

- Public Health 101
 - MN Local Public Health Act: 145A dictates the parameters of what the CHB can and cannot do.
 - The CHB is funded through grants and reimbursements. No levy dollars.
 - Community Health Assessment and improvement Plan will be due in 2025.
 - Responsibilities of a CHB: A framework for governmental public health in Minnesota; creating healthy communities. This is accomplished through the collaboration with various partners, such as North Country, Quin, Leech Lake & Red Lake.
- Equity in Lactation Grant
 - Beltrami County WIC office was awarded a Grant to commission a local artist to create a sculpture to promote breastfeeding in our community and help initiate conversations, with a special focus on supporting American Indian Families. The sculpture and handmade earrings are on display on the Sanford campus.
- Family Home Visiting Partnerships
 - Utilization of resources and limited in what they can do with staff they have.
- Blue Plus Transition with Managed Care
 - Transition is complete. Currently there are only 2 members who are on Blue Plus.

7. Administrator's Report

- City of Bemidji would like to schedule a joint meeting to discuss various common interests. Suggested date: May 8, 2023 at 5:30 in the County Board Room.
 - Commissioners were supportive and directed staff to develop the Agenda
- HRA Director, Naomi Carlson sent a letter requesting financial Support from the County and discussion around properties purchased for future County projects.
 - Commissioners requested a future Work Session Agenda item on this topic
- UofM Sales Tax Study is complete. Preliminary review indicates that 50% of LOST collected in Beltrami County would come from outside of county residents. Official presentation will be at the February 7 meeting.
- County LOST Application in on track to be submitted on time.
- AWCL Administration & Attorney have requested a meeting since their receipt of the County issued letter of demand. The two new commissioners are not up to speed on this issue.
 - All Commissioners directed staff to proceed as previously directed and provide a future update to members of the Board on the complete issue.
- AMC legislative conference is January 25-27
- January 24 is tentative Board Meeting regarding selection of legislative lobbyist
- January 31 – Veterans Home stakeholder meeting

8. Other Business Items

a) Review Bills

b)

9. Review Agenda for the January 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

The following item was added to the Regular Agenda:

- Approval of Jail Committee Assignments

10. Adjourn

The Work Session was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.