

WORK MEETING MINUTES

Beltrami County Board of Commissioners
February 7, 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 3:04 pm

2. Introduction of New Employees

None.

3. Identify Future Work Meeting Topics

- Keep it Clean Committee update
- Joint meeting with the City of Bemidji (scheduled for May 8)
- Kevin Gish, Veterans Home Update

4. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Sumner and seconded by Commissioner Carlson to begin the closed session. Unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig to end the closed session at 4:45 pm and return to the regular Work Agenda. Unanimously carried.

5. University of MN Extension Sales Tax Study

The University of MN Extension conducted a Sales Tax Study to analyze taxable sales in Beltrami County from 1990-2020, to estimate tax proceeds generated at different levels of taxation, and to estimate what portion of the tax proceeds are paid by permanent year-round residents vs visitors, travelers and seasonal residents.

Rani Bhattacharyya, Economics Extension Educator presented the Local Option Sales Tax Analysis for Beltrami County, authored by Extension Educator Eric King, who was also available for questions at this time via Zoom.

The summary of key findings and past trends with forecasted sales proceeds from fiscal years 2021 – 2024, show that 50% of sales are derived from nonresident spending.

6. Administrator's Report

- LOST application was submitted on January 27
- Legislative lobbyist update:
 - Two bills drafted (LOST Bill & Sales Tax Exemption Bill)
 - Two more will be coming (100% general obligation bond for \$80M & direct appropriation of \$80M for construct/refurbish)
 - Has made contact with the two Senators on the Tax Committee
 - House Tax Committee not finalized yet
- State Approved Juneteenth Holiday (June 19 this year) County will honor
- HR Director has announced retirement. Effective April 28 or upon hire of her replacement
- Bemidji HS Liquor License for Birchmont Winter Bash application presented for addition to the Regular Agenda
- Dates:
 - Feb 20 offices closed for Presidents' Day
 - AMC Legislative Conference Feb 21-23

7. Other Business Items

a) Review Bills

b)

8. Review Agenda for the February 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

The following item was added to the Regular Agenda:

Liquor License for Bemidji High School Fishing Club – Birchmont Winter Bash

9. Adjourn

The Work Session was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.