

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 4, 2022**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 4, 2022 at the County Board Room, County Administration Building, Bemidji, Minnesota.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Reed Olson, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Commissioners Richard Anderson, Jim Lucachick, Tim Sumner and Craig Gaasvig were present.

GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR

Exiting Chair, Olson thank everyone and expressed his appreciation. Enjoyable learning experience.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to appoint Commissioner Tim Sumner as Board Chair for 2022. Unanimously carried.

Commissioner Sumner stated his intent to exercise his right to vote during his term as Chair.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick, and seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, to appoint Commissioner Anderson as Board Vice-Chair for 2022. Unanimously carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was added to the Regular Agenda:

- Office of County Auditor-Treasurer

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda:

- Approval of Leroy Anderson Easement
- Approval of Beltrami Electric Underground Utility Easement

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approved Agenda and Amendments

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

Approved Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Lucachick, 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 December 21, 2021, and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held December 21, 2021, 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 Elected Officials Minimum Salaries Resolution

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Resolution for the Elected Officials Minimum Salaries effective January 1, 2022, per Minnesota Statute:

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. § 384.151 Subd. 1a. (b) and Minn. Stat. § 385.373 Subd. 1a. (b), at the January meeting prior to the first date on which applicants may file for the office of County Auditor-Treasurer, the County Board of Commissioners shall set by resolution the minimum salary to be paid the County Auditor-Treasurer for the term next following; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. § 387.20 Subd. 2. (b), at the January meeting prior to the first date on which applicants may file for the office of County Sheriff, the County Board of Commissioners shall set by resolution the minimum salary to be paid the County Ssheriff for the term next following; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. § 388.18 Subd. 2., at the January meeting prior to the first date on which applicants may file for the office of County Attorney, the County Board of Commissioners shall set by resolution the minimum salary to be paid the County Attorney for the term next following.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the minimum salary as set by the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners for the elected positions for the County Auditor-Treasurer, County Sheriff, and County Attorney shall for the next term following be:

Position	Minimum Salary for 2022
Auditor-Treasurer	\$87,900.80
Sheriff	\$98,737.60
Attorney	\$104,686.40

Approved Final Pay Voucher SAP 004-622-026

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Final Pay Voucher for Project SAP 004-622-026: Grading and Aggregate Surfacing Turtle River Lake Road, to Reierson Construction in the amount of \$24,214.50, 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

Jail Committee Assignments

Sheriff Ernie Beitel provided his recommendations for filling open committee assignments and designating a point of contact during the Work Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the appointment of John Henningsgaard to fill a vacancy on the Steering Committee, Gino Anselmo to fill the Tribal Liaison vacancy and David Hanson to fill an added Attorney position on the Programming Committee; and designate point of contacts for each sub-committee: Trish Hansen Programming, Tom Barry Finance and Calandra Allen Design & Operations. Unanimously carried.

Designate Giziibii Representation and Membership

County Commissioners have delegated their representation role to staff to attend the Giziibii meetings. Zach Gutknecht has been the staff representative and has attended the Giziibii meetings when able. His role as the SWCD representative provides synergies for him to continue to be the County representative. Zach's

appointment would allow communication and representation as well as access to any potential positive outcomes. Organizational dues are \$300 annually.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick, and seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, to approve the appointment of Zach Gutknecht to the Giziibii Board and pay the annual dues of \$300. Unanimously carried.

OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard

Administrator Barry presented an overview of the current OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) during the Work Session. The Board was presented with the most recent data and requirements; which ultimately was a choice between requiring employees to be fully vaccinated or to implement a weekly testing and face covering program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, and seconded by Commissioner Lucachick, to approve staff recommendation of:

- Approve the Testing and Face Covering Approach
- Adopt the Beltrami County Vaccination, Testing, & Face Covering ETS Policy (in progress)
- Establish and Delegate an ETS Committee to Render Decisions and Ensure Compliance
 - o Composition: Public Health Director, Safety Coordinator, Human Resources Director, HHS Director, County Administrator
- Allow Testing During Work Hours - Up to 1 Hour Per Test
 - o Cover Expense with ARP COVID Leave Funding Where Appropriate
- Authorize up to 40 Hours/Week of Part-Time Staffing to Administer ETS Testing Using ARP Funding of up to \$115,000
- Authorize and Increase in the COVID Leave Funding by \$100,000 Using ARP Funds to Cover the Liability of the OSHA ETS

Vote carried 4:1. Commissioner Gaasvig voted No.

Office of Auditor-Treasurer

Auditor-Treasurer, JoDee Treat reviewed the criteria and made recommendation during the Work Session, and presented the Proposed Resolution for Intent to Consider Appointment of the Office of Auditor-Treasurer:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375A.1205 allows a County Board to appoint certain offices including the County Auditor-Treasurer;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375A.1205, Subd. 1, the County Board intends to consider the appointment of the County

Auditor-Treasurer under circumstances that there is a signed contract with the County Board and the incumbent Auditor-Treasurer, that the incumbent officer will be appointed to the position and retain tenure, pay, and benefits equal to or greater than length of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners hereby notifies the public of its intent to consider appointment of the office of County Auditor-Treasurer;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday January 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm, during its regular Board Meeting to hear citizen input on the consideration of the appointment of the Auditor-Treasurer with said appointment taking place by signed contract with the incumbent Auditor-Treasurer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaasvig and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to hold a Public Hearing on January 18, 2022 5:00 pm for citizen comments and adopt a Resolution of the intent to Consider Appointment of the Office of Auditor-Treasurer. Unanimously carried.

Approved Beltrami Electric Underground Utility Easement

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approved the Beltrami Electric Coop underground utility easement to cross Beltrami County tax-forfeited land in Alaska Township, as submitted. Carried 4:1 vote. Commissioner Gaasvig abstained.

Commissioner Lucachick requested clarification from staff regarding several details of the easement. (ie; perpetuity, transferability).

Approved Leroy Anderson Easement

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick, and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approved the easement request by Leroy Anderson to cross tax-forfeited land in Alaska Township to access his private property, as submitted. Carried 4:1 vote. Commissioner Anderson abstained.

Commissioner Lucachick requested clarification from staff regarding several details of the easement. (ie; perpetuity, transferability).

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Legislative/Lobbying Issues

- Commissioner Lucachick encouraged everyone to contact their Sate Legislators requesting prudent use of the State surplus dollars.
- Commissioner Anderson reminded everyone of the Jail Steering Committee meeting tomorrow morning.

Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Sumner noted; it was good to have Chat a Bout back in person.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next regular meeting of the County Board will be January 18, 2022 in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:22 p.m. was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Lucachick, and unanimously carried.

Tim Sumner, Chair

Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator