

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 15, 2022**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 15, 2022, at the County Board Room, County Administration Building, Bemidji, Minnesota.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Tim Sumner, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Commissioners Richard Anderson, Jim Lucachick, Reed Olson and Craig Gaasvig were present.

GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR

None.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD

- Robyn Dwight, on behalf of the Upper Red Lake Area Association, discussed the Keep it Clean Upper/Lower Red Lake Committee's goals and commitment to tackling the problem of waste and garbage being left on the lake, shoreline and surrounding area during the fishing season. She suggested several ways to County could help, which included:
 - o Review and adjust Ordinances
 - o Add legal consequences for behavior violations
- Kristi Norland, on behalf of the Beltrami County Farm Bureau organization requested the Board to consider a Proclamation in honor of National Agriculture Week March 20-26, 2022.
 - o Commissioner Olson requested this item be added to the Regular Agenda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions and corrections were made to the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Bailiff Office Remodel Project Re-design and Cost Estimate (removed from the Regular Agenda)
- Approval of Resolution for Unorganized Townships
- Approval of Court Settlement for Closed Session Issue

The following additions were made to the Regular Agenda:

- National Agriculture Week Proclamation
- Redistricting Discussion
- Assistant Veteran Service Officer Discussion
- Administrator's Update

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 Gaasvig, 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 March 1, 2022, and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held March 1, 2022, 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 Memorandum of Understanding for Bridge Replacement

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Beltrami County and Shotley Township for Bridge Replacement Project on Otto Way, as submitted.

Approved Resolution and Agreement with MN/DOT for Construction Project

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Agreement with MN/DOT and Resolution for the construction of the TH71 and Anne Street roundabout Intersection project:

BE IT RESOLVED that Beltrami County enter into MN/DOT Agreement No. 1048789 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the costs of the bituminous and concrete surfacing, storm sewer, sidewalk, and lighting construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk

Highway No 71 from Trunk Highway No 197 to 0.8 miles north of County State Aide Highway No 59, Anne Street from 600 feet west of Trunk Highway No 71 to Trunk Highway No 71, and County State Aid Highway No 52 from Trunk Highway No 71 to 1,100 feet east of Trunk Highway No 71 within the corporate City limits under State Project No 104-070-001, State Aid Project No 105-010-018, State Project No. 004-070-028, State Aid Project No 004-652-005, and State Project No 0410-50 (TH 71=004).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen, and County Administrator, Tom Barry, are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Approved Bids for SP004-070-033 SFDR, SP 004-605-029

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the lowest responsible bidder for project SP 004-070-033 SFDR and SP 004-605-029 Bituminous surfacing bituminous shoulders, edge line rumbles and 6" pavement markings to Mark Sand & Gravel, Co. in the amount of \$2,986,613.55, as submitted.

Approved Bids for SP 004-070-034

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the bid award to the lowest responsible bidder for project SP 004-070-034 LED Stop Sign Installation to Night Train Trucking, Inc, in the amount of \$21,664.00 as submitted.

Approved Bids for SP 004-070-035

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the bid award to the lowest responsible bidder for project SP 004-070-035 Ground in Wet-Reflective Edge Line Pavement Markings to Sir Line-A-Lot LLC in the amount of \$41,964.00 as submitted.

Approved Bids for SP 004-070-036

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the bid award to the lowest responsible bidder for project SP 004-070-036 Sign & Pavement Markings to Warning Lites o Minnesota in the amount of 449,591.40 as submitted.

Approved Bids for SP 004-070-037

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the bid award to the lowest responsible bidder for project SP 004-070-037 Chevrons to Interstate Traffic Signs Inc in the amount of \$7,469.90 as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Child Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family child care licenses, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Foster Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family foster care licenses, 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.

Approved Bailiff Office Remodel Project Re-design and Cost Estimate

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the architectural re-design and cost estimate for the Bailiff Office Remodel Project, as submitted.

Approved the Resolution for Unorganized Townships

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Resolution to re-establish precincts and polling places for unorganized townships:

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Minnesota has been redistricted; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 204B.14, subd. 3(d) requires that precinct boundaries must be reestablished within 60 days of when the legislature has been redistricted or at least 19 weeks before the state primary election, whichever comes first;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Beltrami acting as Unorganized Township Board hereby reestablishes the boundaries of the voting precincts and polling places as follows:

Unorganized Precinct #1

Big Grass Township

Winner Township

Yale Township

Northwood Township

Township 157N R37W

Township 157N R36W

Mail Ballot Precinct

Auditor-Treasurer's Office

701 Minnesota Ave NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

Unorganized Precinct #2
Eland Township
Red Lake Township
Birch Island Township
Township 156N R31W
Township 156N R30W

Mail Ballot Precinct
Auditor-Treasurer's Office
701 Minnesota Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Unorganized Precinct #3
Brook Lake Township

Mail Ballot Precinct
Auditor-Treasurer's Office
701 Minnesota Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Approved Court Settlement for Closed Session Issue

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Court Settlement for Case No. 04-CV-20-3489.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing: Proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance

The Environmental Service Department and the Planning Commission have had multiple work sessions creating a Short Term Rental Ordinance including a public hearing on October 11, 2021 to hear comments from citizens. A draft Ordinance was delivered to the County Board on February 1, 2022 and a Public Hearing set for March 15, 2022.

Environmental Services Director, Brent Rud, introduced the Ordinance.

Commissioner Sumner opened the Public Hearing.

- Bruce Schuman of Hines MN, suggested several changes/clarifications to the Ordinance.
- Michelle Tuff (spelling?), owner of an Air B&B on the Mississippi River commented on the positive experiences they have had with guests.
- Muriel Gilman, resident in Northern Township and owner of a STR in Jackson Hole, WY, made suggestions to proceed conservatively.

- Mike Haws, resident in Hines Township suggested addressing RV's on undeveloped lots, permit terms and trespass in more detail in the Ordinance.
- Pat Kovar, resident & Hines Township Supervisor pointed out the hazards of parked cars blocking roadways and access.
- Miles Rouland, resident in Bagley MN and owner of Air B&B in Upper Red Lake has had no issues with renters or neighbors at his establishment.
- Deb Schuman of Hines MN, commented on noticing Realtors advertising properties in the area as potential VRBO and Air B&B property.
- Alyssa McNallan, resident in Bemidji MN and owner of a STR on Moose Lake stated that she has very strict requirements and a screening process for potential renters and has had nothing but positive experiences.

Commissioner Sumner closed the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm.

Brent Rud addressed the Board at this time to read a statement from resident Becky Livermore, stating she is against Short Term Rentals and sees no community benefit to their existence.

Comments and suggestions will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and any changes/updates to the Proposed Ordinance will then be brought back before the County Board.

Swearing-in New Sheriff Deputy

Sheriff Ernie Beitel, introduced and swore in new deputy Benjamin Powell.

National Agriculture Week Proclamation

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the National Agriculture Week Proclamation. Unanimously carried.

Read aloud by Commissioner Sumner:

WHEREAS there are more than 2 million farm families in America, (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, 2017)

WHEREAS there are close to 70,000 farm families in Minnesota, (State Summaries, USDA, NASS, 2017)

WHEREAS there are close to 600 farm families in Beltrami County, (County Profiles, MDA, NASS 2017)

WHEREAS Beltrami County agriculture and related industries support about 2,500 jobs, which accounts for 9% of the total jobs in the

County, (*County Highlights, Economic Contribution Study of MN Agriculture and Forestry, MN Agri Growth, 2020*)

WHEREAS Beltrami County has close to 170,000 acres of farmland, (*County Profiles, MDA, NAAS 2017*)

WHEREAS the Beltrami County agricultural and related industries total sales generates close to \$400 million annually, (*County Highlights, Economic Contribution Study of MN Agriculture and Forestry, MN Agri Growth, 2020*)

WHEREAS there is an estimated \$12.5 million in labor income supported by agriculture and related industries in Beltrami County, (*County Highlights, Economic Contribution Study of MN Agriculture and Forestry, MN Agri Growth, 2020*)

NOW THEREFORE, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaim the week of March 20-March 26, 2022, as National Agriculture Week and recognize to all the important contributions of Beltrami County Agriculture.

Redistricting Discussion

After further discussion around redistricting options and scenarios and the uncertainty of the potential affects from the City of Bemidji's yet to be determined redistricting, members of the Board to hold a special Work Session on April 12 from 3-5 pm to discuss and review redistricting options.

No maps were decided upon for presentation during the Public Hearing on April 5, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to hold a Special Work Session on April 12, 2022 from 3-5 pm to discuss redistricting of commissioner districts. Unanimously carried.

Assistant Veteran Services Officer Position

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Assistant Veteran Service Officer as a full-time, benefitted position with no impact to the 2022 budget and approximately a \$32,000 budget impact after 2022. Unanimously carried.

Administrator's Report

- Have received a request for a National therapy Animal Day. Will be brought to the Board for discussion.
- OSHA invited for an on-site consultation on March 29-30.
- AMC Leadership Conference March 28 - April 1

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Legislative/Lobbying Issues and Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Gaasvig has been in contact with Representative Stauber for support on delays in easement process from the State Park system for the CR 20 project. Also, several committee updates.
- Commissioner Olson reported on Legislative Conference attended by himself and Commissioner Sumner. Also, several committee updates.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next regular meeting of the County Board will be April 5, 2022, in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 6: 45 p.m. was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Olson, and unanimously carried.

Tim Sumner, Chair

Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator