

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 29, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in special session on April 29, 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 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Richard Anderson, Jim Lucachick, Reed Olson and Craig Gaasvig were present.

GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No Additions or corrections were made to the Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

County Emergency Declaration

Administrator, Tom Barry began the discussion with acknowledgement of the State of Emergency Declaration on April 26, 2022 by Board Chair Tim Sumner. Mr. Barry then introduced Emergency Management Director, Chris Muller to review the status of the situation.

Due to the late snow and continued rain/snow issues, there has been wide spread flooding and damage throughout the County. The State of Emergency Declaration does not mean the situation is out of control, but is a part of the recovery process. It seems that the County will easily meet the \$95,000 threshold for State reimbursements. State declaration is 75% reimbursement for eligible work and if the \$190,000 threshold for Federal reimbursement is met, the reimbursement would be 100%. So far, early estimates are in excess of \$100,000, and \$200,000 if tribal partners co-apply. If the County falls short of eligible projects/work, then there would be nothing more we need to do but repair at our expense. Mr. Barry suggested that the County will likely seek any insurance coverages first, and as the last resort, use County reserves.

Staff recommendation is to approve the Resolution declaring Beltrami County in a State of Emergency for Response to the Flood Event of Spring 2022:

WHEREAS, Beltrami County has been impacted by flooding due to heavy rainfall and a late snow melt after several feet of snow during the winter of 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS, many county and township gravel roads have been impacted by normal spring thaw, snow melt and persistent precipitation in the month of April resulting in deteriorated road conditions; and

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of April 23rd, 2022 many areas of the county received in excess of three inches of rainfall from thunderstorms that combined with snow melt resulted in considerable overland flooding across much of Beltrami County; and

WHEREAS, overland flooding and heavy rainfall exacerbated spring road conditions, resulting in significant damage and impact to many roadways due to washouts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bemidji experienced flooding of City Hall due to the storm drainage system being overwhelmed from heavy rainfall and numerous roadways experienced culvert washouts and roadway washouts; and

WHEREAS, areas of Beltrami County continue to experience flood conditions that will likely be prolonged or aggravated by forecast precipitation in the coming days; and

WHEREAS, county, city and townships are responding to the emergency needs of the community due to flooding that is resulting in expenses in the tens of thousands of dollars in damages to public property damage; and

WHEREAS, Beltrami County is likely to exceed the threshold to qualify for disaster assistance through the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Beltrami County Department of Emergency Management requests the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners declare Beltrami County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the spring flooding event of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners declares Beltrami County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the flooding event of Spring 2022 this day of 29 of April, 2022 for a period of 30 days or until emergency conditions no longer exist.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the Resolution Declaring

Beltrami County in a State of Emergency for Response to the Flood Event of Spring 2022. Unanimously carried.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:14 a.m. was made by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, and unanimously carried.

Tim Sumner, Chair

Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator