

WORK MEETING MINUTES

Beltrami County Board of Commissioners
January 4, 2022
2:00 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 Jim Lucachick, Commissioner Tim Sumner, Commissioner Richard Anderson, Commissioner Reed Olson.

1. Call to Order

Reed Olson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD Meeting – 2:00 p.m.

Public Health Division Director, Megan Heuer, introduced the new Family Health Manager, Monica Thul. Monica has been an employee of Beltrami County since November 2014.

Rural Maternity Obstetrics Management Strategies Grant Update.

- Sept 2021-Aug 2025: one year planning, 3 years implementation
- One FTE, Family Home Visitor, salary apx \$135,000/yr.
 - Will be posting external to fill this position. The goal is to be able to support this position even after the grant is completed.

COVID-19 Update

- Case numbers and trends are relatively stable.
 - Hospitalizations are down
- New quarantine guidance from CDC
 - MDH has not updated yet, Beltrami County is working of CDC guidance when possible
 - Start of symptoms, quarantine for 5 days; re assess and able to return to work with a mask for next 5 days
- Current vaccine recommendations
 - Pfizer vaccine Booster expanded to include 12-15 yr olds
 - Shortened time between vaccinations
 - Third dose authorized for immune compromise for 5-11 yr olds
 - All still need to go through Immune Advisory Committee for approval
- Omicron – most recent variant
 - More transmittable, less severe
 - Best defense is still the same layered approach

3. Introduction of New Employees

None.

4. Identify Future Work Meeting Topics

- Payday Lenders in Beltrami County
- Start time of work meetings

5. OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard

Administrator, Tom Barry discussed the County's compliance plan for the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards for the Board's consideration. The ETS is for a 6 month time frame.

On November 16th, the County Board received a presentation from County Staff regarding the Federal OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). The ETS requires, in part, employers with over 100 workers to enforce mandatory vaccination of workers or weekly testing and mask wearing. The ETS has been challenged by many States and organizations and an injunction was issued but recently nullified. The ETS is headed to the Supreme Court where it will be heard on January 7th. If upheld by the Supreme Court, compliance deadlines will not be moved.

Staff presented information and recommendations for County compliance in the event the ETS is upheld by the Supreme Court.

- 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
 - Purpose: Administer and ensure compliance with ETS Standards
 - Composition: Public Health Director, Safety Coordinator, Human Resources Director, HHS Director, County Administrator
- Allow Testing During Work Hours – Up to 1 Hour Per Test
 - 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

6. Jail Committee Assignments

Sheriff Ernie Beitel reviewed the vacant jail committee positions and positions that have been assigned but the incumbent has been consistently absent. Recommendations for appointment to these vacant positions:

- Steering Committee – replace Nancy Kingbird with John Henningsgaard
- Programming Committee – fill tribal liaison vacancy with Gino Anselmo
- Programming Committee – add representation from Attorneys Office, David Hanson, County Attorney
- Designate a point of contact for each sub-committee
 - Programming – Trish Hansen
 - Finance -Tom Barry
 - Design & Operations – Calandra Allen

7. Legislative Platform Discussion

The Legislative Session starts January 31, 2022. Senator Utke and Representatives Bliss and Grossele joined via Zoom and Senator Eichorn attended in person.

The County's legislative platform and priorities were discussed by various County Department Heads and any questions asked and answered with Legislators.

Legislators were all available and receptive to any face to face meetings in St. Paul.

8. Auditor-Treasurer Position

Auditor-Treasurer, JoDee Treat discussed the change in State Statute for the process for a County to consider the option of appointing the Office of Auditor-Treasurer. Currently, as an elected position, the qualifications are 1) at least 21 years of age and 2) eligible to vote in the County of election.

Ms. Treat reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Auditor/Treasurer position in Beltrami County and the level of responsibility required. To date, about half of Minnesota's 87 counties have opted to move to the Appointment Option. It is the recommendation of Staff, to begin the process of making the Auditor/Treasurer an appointed position. First requirement would be to hold a Public Hearing for citizen comments and make a decision regarding consideration of appointment of the Office of Auditor-Treasurer and adopt a Resolution of Intent to Consider Appointment of the Office of Auditor-Treasurer.

9. Administrator's Update

- Jail Steering Committee/Public Meeting tomorrow morning, January 5, 2022
- Planning Commission will be meeting this month on VRBO/AirBNB issue
- Upcoming agenda item on CWD in the works
- Greater MN Park & Trail Commission is looking for an appointment
- NWJTC is looking for an appointment to fill expiring 4 yr term of Commissioner Sumner
- MIS Director interviews on Friday, January 7
- AMC Tribal Relations Training February 3 & 4

10. Other Business Items

a) Review Bills

11. Review Agenda for the January 4, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

The following items were 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

12. Adjourn

The Work Session was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.