

WORK MEETING MINUTES

Beltrami County Board of Commissioners

January 18, 2022

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 Jim Lucachick, Commissioner Tim Sumner, Commissioner Richard Anderson, Commissioner Reed Olson.

1. Call to Order

Tim Sumner called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Olson to begin the closed session for attorney client privilege information. Unanimously carried.

2. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioners ended the close session and returned to the regular Work agenda at 3:38 pm.

3. Introduction of New Employees

Many new staff from the Sheriff's Office were introduced, as well as two new staff in the Human Resources office and the new MIS Director, current employee Kevin Warne promotion.

4. Identify Future Work Meeting Topics

None at this time.

5. Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Erik Thorson, MN DNR Wildlife Supervisor provided an overview of the CWD surveillance plan conduction last fall. Six areas of the State of MN were assessed during the fall of 2021. Sampling goals were to achieve 99% confidence that CWD would be detected if present in 1% of the local deer population.

In the NW surveillance zone (Beltrami County) 1,840 samples were taken and there was no detection of CWD. Samples will be taken for two more years.

DNR deer feeding ban has expanded to include 44 counties.

6. Sheriff's Office 2022 Budget Amendment

Sheriff, Ernie Beitel, discussed two programs that were not originally budgeted for in 2022. First being the expansion of the Office Wellness Program, and second encryption of current radio communication system to comply with new FBI CJDN rules. The funding source for these two programs would be utilizing budget savings from 2021 Sheriff's Office budget. Most of these budget savings have been salary savings.

Recommendation from Staff is to:

1. Expand the Sheriff's Office current Officer Wellness program allocating \$60,000 realized from 2021 budget surplus.
2. The entire State of MN is out of compliance with CJIS regulation and violates FBI rules. Request is for \$60,000 of realized funds from 2021.

7. AWCL Lease

Aurora Waaskone Community of Learners (AWCL) charter school entered into a 3-year lease with the County for 8,712 square feet of space located in the County's Community Services Center Building on July 1, 2021. AWCL is now requesting early termination of their lease by two years. The potential impact to the County is approximately \$275,000. Representatives from AWCL will be present to discuss their proposal.

Anna Wallin reviewed the issues and discussed the reasons why they want out of the lease. They have outgrown the space and have found a new location that will better accommodate their needs and growth. Ms Wallin pointed out that they have explored numerous options to accommodate their needs and keep them in compliance with charter school regulations; all of which have not been successful. The school feels its last resort is to terminate the lease with Beltrami County.

Administrator Barry has been working under the direction of the Board, to assure that the County remains whole and work with the AWCL to find a suitable tenant to take over their lease and pursuing other options that arise, such as the possibility of the County Public Health Division taking some of the space.

The Board also expressed their extreme disappointment in the letter that was received from the AWCL Attorney, stating their intent to break the lease if necessary and implications as to the integrity of the County Board. The Board has been very clear in their willingness to work with the School with the understanding that the County is to remain whole on the terms of the three year lease.

The Board will continue to negotiate with the school through the office of the County Administrator; under the direction that the school must find a suitable tenant before the County will consider terminating their lease.

8. Administrator's Report

This item was moved to the Regular Agenda.

9. Other Business Items

a) Review Bills

b)

10. Review Agenda for the January 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

The following items were added to the Consent Agenda:

Regular Agenda:

11. Adjourn

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