

WORK MEETING MINUTES

Beltrami County Board of Commissioners

December 21, 2021

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 Richard Anderson, Commissioner Reed Olson. , Commissioner Tim Sumner attended via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Reed Olson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

2. Identify Future Work Meeting Topics

None.

3. 2021 Apportionment Distribution

Each year the County Board must set the percentages for the tax-forfeited apportionment. Net proceeds from 2021 will be apportioned to the following: County Development, Forest Development (reforestation), Parks, General Revenue, School Districts, townships, and cities. The County Board has the ability to determine the percentage for County Development, Timber Development, and County Parks. The combination of County Development and Timber Development cannot exceed thirty (30) percent of net revenues.

Natural Resource Management Director, Richard Moore proposed the following:

Reforestation Fund currently has a balance of 28 cents.

- 2021 balance in tax-forfeited fund \$700,000
- 30% to economic development fund and timber development \$210,000
- Estimated NRM reforestation needs for 2022 \$225,000
- Grant reimbursement for 2021 \$ 13,500
- Grant reimbursement for 2022 \$ 15,000
- Transfer to PILT to reimburse 2021 costs \$ 11,000

Balance: \$227,500

Proposed 2021 Apportionment:

- Economic Development \$0
- Reforestation (timber dev) \$210,000
- Parks & Recreation areas \$140,000
- County general revenue \$140,000
- Townships/cities \$ 70,000
- School Districts \$140,000

Per Statute 282.08 and after Board Discussion, it was agreed to Allocate 90% of the 30% (of net revenues) of the Economic Development and Reforestation Fund to Reforestation and 10% of the 30% to the Economic Development Fund.

4. Body Worn Camera Audit Update

Captain Riggs provided an overview of the BCSO's first body-worn camera (BWC) audit. Minnesota State Statutes 171, 13.825, and 626.8473 require law enforcement agencies that use BWC's arrange for an independent, biennial audit of the data to determine whether data was:

- Appropriately being classified
- That the data was properly being used
- Whether the data is being destroyed as required under the statute
- Verify compliance with subdivisions 7 and 8 of the statute.

Upon review, the governing body with jurisdiction over the budget of the agency determines that the agency is not complying with this section or other applicable law, the governing body may order additional independent audits. A report summarizing the results of each audit must be provided to the governing body with jurisdiction over the budget of the law enforcement agency and to the Legislative Commission on Data Practices and Personal Data Privacy no later than 60 days following completion of the audit.

The audit determined that the BCSO Body Worn Camera Program is substantially compliant, with three exceptions:

- Certain data required a one year retention period. BCSO had been retaining that data for 6 years.
- BCSO did not have a written policy requiring internal audits and/or supervisory review
- A BCSO Policy allowed a supervisor the authority to authorize the use of personally owned recording devices by on-duty personnel

All of the above was resolved through minor amendments to the BCSO Policy.

5. Opioid Litigation Settlement

In 2018 the Beltrami County Board gave authorization to the Beltrami County Attorney to pursue litigation regarding opioid addiction in our community. County Attorney, David Hanson recommended contracting with out-side counsel, which the county did. After filing a lawsuit in federal court, several counties in Minnesota, along with the Minnesota Attorney General's office entered into settlement negotiations. Attorney Hanson is recommending to the Beltrami Board of Commissioners that it agree to accept the settlement disbursement formula that our outside counsel, the MCAA, and AMC have negotiated; Attorney Hanson is further recommending that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners passes a resolution authorizing staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure Beltrami County participation in the settlement.

6. AWCL School Lease Revision

Aurora Waaskone Community Learners (AWCL) charter school, entered into a 3-year lease with the County for 8,712 sq/ft of space in the Community Service 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 were present to discuss their proposal or answer questions, Anna Wallin, AWCL Director, joined the meeting via Zoom and Bob Kiewatt, Realtor for the AWCL School was also present.

Commissioners made it clear that they were in support and understanding of the schools needs to grow and expand, but that they were also obligated to the citizens of Beltrami County. If there was a way to have the lease fulfilled by another party, the County would be open to that but are not willing to terminate the lease without a solution for the remaining two years and \$275,000 dollars. Mr. Kiewatt indicated that he has had conversations with the ISD 31 Head Start Program Director and they are interested in the space. It was determined that they should be in contact with Administrator Barry to begin discussions. The AWCL is under some pressure to move rather quickly. The next opportunity for the Board to make any decision or have discussions would be at the January 4, 2022 County Board Meeting.

Facilities Manager, Steve Shadrick, also indicated that the Public Health Department, located on the same floor as the AWCL, is looking at a potential remodel and would possible be interested in utilizing some of the space currently leased to the School.

Commissioners agreed to move this item to the Regular Agenda to vote on a clear definition of their position on the situation.

7. Health & Human Services Cost Share Related to State Operated Services

Health & Human Services Director, Becky Secore, and Social Services Division Director, Jeff Lind, discussed the Minnesota State Operated Services provide services to county citizens related to acute mental health issues. These services are implemented through the Department of Human Services Direct Care and Treatment. Counties have always had financial responsibility for some of these services. Once a person does not meet clinical necessity the State Hospital requires counties to pay 100% of the costs. Many times people receiving services have a long history of violence, suicidal ideation, or other difficult behaviors. At times this means it is difficult to find alternative community services. With COVID and other workforce issues this has become a much larger issue.

Ms Secore reviewed the Summary of Legislative Requests that will be discussed with legislators in an effort to develop the missing layer of service to keep this volatile population off the streets, out of emergency rooms and out of jails and prisons across the state.

8. Administrator's Report

- Leech Lake Joint meeting tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2022 1-3 pm. Location yet to be determined.
- United Way/County Nonprofit Grant
 - 21 applications received and 12 were funded with the \$200,000
- Jail Project Update
 - RFP process closed. Two firms responded and are under review
 - Joint Steering and Advisory Committee meeting will be January 5, 2022 at 10:30 am. Public meeting and will have a quorum of the Board present

- Interviews for the MIS Director Position will be on January 7, 2022
- County offices are closed on Friday Dec. 24 and 31 for holidays

9. Other Business Items

a) Review Bills

b)

10. Review Agenda for the December 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

The following item was corrected on the Consent Agenda:

- Apportionment Resolution correction

The following item was added to the Regular Agenda:

- Approval of AWCL Lease Negotiation Process

11. Adjourn

The Work Session was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.