Beltrami County Mission and Values: We will strive to be the catalyst to firmly establish a community that promotes healthy families, environmental quality, expanding economic opportunity and a quality of life second to none.

Developing a Property Tax Levy for 2020

Each year the County Board must adopt a Property Tax Levy that will be used to cover the cost of county services, which will be paid for by the property owners in Beltrami County. Budgeting for the county is a rigorous process that includes a review of the work done in every department, right along with the calculation of how much money it will take to get that work done.

Beltrami County has used a Budget Committee process for several years. The Budget Committee always includes two County Board members, the County Administrator, the Auditor-Treasurer, the Health and Human Services Director and the Sheriff or his appointee. This year’s budget committee also included the County Attorney, as it is a great way to get our newer Department Heads informed about the many services that the county provides. During the budget process, each department is asked to present information about the work being done in their department and to propose their budget needs. These needs include their operating costs as well as their capital equipment needs.

The budget process always begins with numbers that show no increases in staffing. If a department feels that they need additional staff, they must make a case for that request. The case typically includes the need for the position – new laws, growing caseloads, changing technology, growing demand for services by the public, or other relevant reasons for growth. Along with the need is the calculation of the cost of the position, the revenues that may be attached to the position (state aids, grants, encounter rates…), and in some cases, the cost of not adding the position. Regardless of how well the department head may build a case for a new position, it is extremely difficult to add a new position in light of the hard financial decisions the budget committee faces.

The 2020 Property Tax Levy being placed before the County Board is a 5.85% increase over 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Levy - 2020</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Fund</td>
<td>$917,620</td>
<td>$1,145,565</td>
<td>$1,330,334</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>$9,861,227</td>
<td>$10,184,346</td>
<td>$11,244,311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>$7,873,747</td>
<td>$8,280,539</td>
<td>$8,460,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road and Bridge</td>
<td>$2,316,639</td>
<td>$2,556,639</td>
<td>$2,556,639</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Levy</td>
<td>$21,153,253</td>
<td>$22,347,089</td>
<td>$23,575,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jail Debt</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOC Debt</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Center Debt</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$530,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service Levy</td>
<td>$1,050,000</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>$1,275,812</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Levy</td>
<td>$22,183,233</td>
<td>$23,477,089</td>
<td>$24,851,011</td>
<td>5.85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The County Board will receive a Budget Book at their meeting on September 3rd. A copy of the Budget Book is always on hand in the Administrator’s Office for the general public to review. The Proposed Levy will be adopted by the County Board on September 17th. That Proposed Levy becomes the basis for the calculation of the Proposed Property Tax statements that are mailed to each property owner in November. When the Board adopts the Final Levy in December, they are restricted from increasing it above the Proposed Levy, but can go lower.

~submitted by: County Administrator, Kay Mack
In public service work it would be so easy to get caught in the mindset that “things are just not fair!” Sometimes, or maybe even often, it would seem to be the case. It doesn’t seem fair when a major storm deals a disaster to a community. It doesn’t seem fair when a big economic driver in the community is suddenly changed by outside forces such as a global market. It doesn’t seem fair that other counties or cities get a bigger share of new state aid than our county did. The childhood-like exclamation of, “no fair!” could be expressed often when counties deal with all of the services we are required and expected to do, and when the limited revenues are taken into consideration.

That brings me to the value that I love most about Beltrami County. Rather than simply cry foul, it is in the DNA of Beltrami County to take the stronger course. And that is—“Deal with it.” The mindset of this county is truly that rather than just complain, we get into problem solving mode. Sometimes those problems are solved quickly. Sometimes it takes years and years. There are times when the problems can be addressed internally, and times when the county brings residents and outside experts into the mix. The same mindset is applied when we are not facing a problem, but a new opportunity. It is extremely gratifying to have a team of county employees that are creative and industrious in establishing new or improved services that are innovative and collaborative. It is great to have a County Board that listens to their constituents and responds with appropriate policy decisions. We all have a role in this can do mindset, from our citizens to our elected officials to our employees.

I would like to point to the articles that feature information about our County Jail. This is going to be a very significant issue to all of our citizens in the near future. Sheriff Beitel and his staff will continue to provide County Administration and the Board with the important information surrounding requirements for a jail. As the chief law enforcement officer for the county, we value, trust, and need the information that he brings forward. In turn, the Sheriff and his staff will look to the administration and the Board to put together the financial analysis and funding streams that will provide the county with the jail that serves us all well into the future. Our response to the needs of our jail will absolutely need to address correctional needs, and it will also have to be financially do-able and sustainable. This project is going to take a whole lot of teamwork!

Submitted by: Kay Mack, Administrator

Break the Public Safety Levy down, the largest department is the County Jail. 32% of all public safety dollars are spent on operating a jail. This number does not include the cost to operate the physical building, nor does it include the cost of the debt incurred to build and remodel the jail.

The Property Tax Levy that is billed to owners in Beltrami County is used to provide all county services that are not covered by outside sources. Of the Beltrami County total property tax levy, 45% goes to pay for public safety.

Beltrami County Jail—What’s in the future?

In 1988 Beltrami County built a new jail that, at the time, was a state of the art facility that was projected to serve the needs of the Sheriff and public well into the future. The county did two significant remodeling projects on our jail in 2004 and in 2015 in order to keep the jail as effective and efficient as possible. However, just like so many changing trends, the requirements of a jail are drastically different now than the requirements were thirty years ago. Beltrami County is currently faced with a major decision on how we address the jail facility needs.

Some counties have decided to not build jails in their communities, and to house prisoners with other counties. To house inmates in a different county, there is a fee of anywhere from $55 - $110 / day depending on the needs of the inmate. An additional cost for housing inmates in a different county is the transportation to and from court appointments, a cost that gets exceedingly high. Based on the number of inmates held in the Beltrami County Jail, boarding inmates out of county is simply not a reasonable alternative to running our own jail.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections is the agency that monitors jails to be sure that they are complying with the state statutes. A recent DOC inspection pointed to multiple issues with our jail and Beltrami County is taking those findings seriously. Repairs are being made in many areas of the jail in order to continue assuring the quality and safety to our inmates and employees. In addition to addressing the immediate needs, the DOC findings have prompted the county to do some serious study into whether we should again remodel our thirty-two year old jail, or build a new one.

An important factor in determining the right course of action will be in knowing how the two options impact our staffing of the jail. The design of a jail has a huge impact on how many Correctional Officers are needed, and how those employees can work in the most effective way. It is clear that our current jail does not do a good job of accommodating the rules that have been passed in the last thirty years and that we could have a positive impact of the operational costs if we had a different facility. It is often said that bricks and mortar are the affordable part of a project. The on-going staffing and operational needs are the biggest expense. Much study will be done in the near future before Beltrami County can decide our course of action. In the end the cost and how that cost gets covered, inmate and staff safety, public safety, operational effectiveness, and legal compliance will guide that decision making process.

Note: A huge amount of credit goes to our Jail staff in the great job that they do. In spite of not having a current state of the art facility, their dedication and their high work standards have served Beltrami County extremely well.

Submitted by: Administrator, Kay Mack and Sheriff, Ernie Beitel
Medical Care for Inmates—Who pays the bill?

For several years, Beltrami County has talked about changing the laws governing the payment of medical services for people that are incarcerated in our county jail. It will likely surprise many people to learn that the cost of medical care for inmates falls entirely on our county property taxes. In the case of Beltrami County, this cost is extremely high. Those of us that watch over the care of our inmates and over the cost of county government are very relieved to announce that the National Association of Counties has now put this issue high on their platform of legislative priorities.

Whether a person arrested has been under private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or Medical Assistance, by law those providers no longer need to pay for the continued health care while that person is incarcerated. Instead the cost of the inmate’s healthcare falls back upon the taxpayer through property tax payments.

“We have a problem where you lose your benefits at arrest and not at conviction. There’s also a double standard if you are arrested and you post bail, you retain your federal benefits, but if you’re housed in the county jail, you lose them,” stated Matt Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties. His summary affirms what Beltrami County officials have been asserting for many years.

Although this rule applies to all jails, Beltrami County stands out as one very disproportionately affected by the cost of medical care to inmates. In the first half of 2019 the Beltrami Jail spent over $235,000 on inmate medical care, which projects to $470,000 for the year. According to MEND Correctional Care, a medical provider that provides care in 42 jails across the upper mid-west, the health profile of the Beltrami inmates requires three to four times the number of medical visits than average. MEND asserts that this high incidence of medical visits is due to the number of inmates that have two or more chronic disease conditions.

It is important to note that Beltrami County does support providing adequate medical care for our inmates. The concerns of the county are straightforward questions about whether and why insurance coverage should stop for people that have qualified for and paid for coverage before arrest. They deserve their health care coverage, and Beltrami County citizens deserve to be free of paying the entire bill. We are looking to our state legislators as well as our US Senators and Congress members to change these laws.

~Submitted by: Administrator, Kay Mack and Sheriff, Ernie Beitel

Beltrami County Jail—What is contraband?

The Beltrami County Jail isn’t unique when it comes to contraband being smuggled into the facility. What is unique is the amount of contraband we find. Attempts to get contraband into the jail originate from jail searches or shakedowns, and unfortunately during the emergency care that is required after an inmate gets hurt.

What is contraband? Contraband is a generic term that is applied to many items that are not issued or able to be purchased by the inmate from jail canteen, items that are not allowed inside a jail facility by law or policy, or any item not used for its designated manner of use. Contraband can be weaponry or more common today, illegal drugs such as heroin, methamphetamine or pills. When in the jail these items can be bought, sold, and/or traded creating a huge health risk to inmates and jail staff, which increases the risk of civil liability to Beltrami County. Contraband is being smuggled into the jail facilities through ingestion or insertion of the contraband into body cavities.

To combat these items from entering jails across Minnesota, Beltrami County, in cooperation with other Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association has lobbied heavily to allow body scanning technology to be utilized in jail facilities to prevent the introduction of contraband. In early 2019 the Minnesota Legislature made it lawful for jails to begin using this technology and in anticipation for these legislative changes Beltrami County was poised to begin using the technology as soon as funding for the equipment became available.

The technology is a lesser form of an x-ray that you may get in a doctor’s office or dentist office, but more than what is currently used in airports by the Transportation Safety Administration. Without getting extremely technical the difference is an x-ray would show a defined foreign object in the body. The scanner used by the TSA will show an area on the outside of the body that may contain a foreign object. The Body Scanner technology being proposed for use in the jail will show evidence of the body’s natural reaction to a foreign object in the body.

After a scan, an inmate with a purported foreign object inside the body can be transported to a medical facility for proper treatment.

~Submitted by: Sheriff Ernie Beitel
When it Comes to our Roads—SAFETY FIRST!

Center Buffer Safety Project

Providing safe roads is the core component of what the County Highway Department does. Through ongoing maintenance and construction projects we are continually making safety improvements to our road system. Recent changes to the lane configuration on County State Aid Highway 9 (Cardinal Road) is an example of a County safety improvement project.

The most common type of crash in Beltrami County, and across the State, is where someone leaves the lane. They either run off the road to the right or left. When vehicles leave the lane they can hit an obstacle, another vehicle, roll or flip. Safety projects to prevent lane departure help to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities. Examples of such projects include: edge rumbles, centerline rumbles, wider or enhanced lane striping, and adding two foot paved shoulders. The project on CSAH 9 will incorporate all of these and it will also include a center buffer. The center buffer is created by allocating some of the paved shoulder on the right to the center of the road. This reconfiguration moves the traffic lane to the right and provides a shoulder on both the right and left sides. Rumbles and paved shoulders on both sides will help keep traffic from departing the lane. Additionally, the center buffer will also provide left turning traffic an area to move into.

Remember to drive safely through work zones. Slow down and pay attention. Please feel free to contact the Beltrami County Highway at 218-333-8173 or stop in to see us if you ever have questions or concerns.

“Submitted by: Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen

Speed Limits

Have you ever wondered how speed limits are determined for our County roads? Have you ever thought that there was an inappropriate speed limit posted? Who do you contact?

Speed limits on all roads in Minnesota are set in accordance with Minn. Statute 169.14. There are standard speed limits for roads such as interstate highways, city streets, and alleyways. The standard limit for County roads is 55 mph. A speed limit other than 55 mph is set based on an engineering and traffic investigation, they are not arbitrarily set. The investigation is conducted by MnDOT and the final approval comes from the Commissioner of Transportation.

An important part of the traffic investigation is the speed study because drivers already take into account many factors when choosing a speed. People tend to drive at a speed that they consider to be safe and reasonable. Radar checks are used to determine the 85th percentile, the speed that most people are traveling at. It is used because studies have shown that traveling faster or slower than that value can increase the chances of being in a crash.

If you believe that there is a safety concern or an inappropriate speed limit posted the proper contact would be the road authority: State, City, Township or the County. If you do not know who the road authority is you can always contact the County Highway Department.

If you have any questions on speed limits please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department (218) 333-8173.

“Submitted by: Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen

HANDS FREE—It’s the Law

The new Hands Free law has been one of the most significant changes to Minnesota’s traffic laws since seat belt use became mandatory in the late 1980’s. Despite this technology being a relatively “new” technology it has inundated so much of our daily lives-everything we seem to do- including while we drive our cars included using a phone. After years of seeing horrific, senseless crashes the Minnesota Legislature finally restricted the use of them while you drive by creating Minnesota’s HANDS-FREE law. So what can I do or not do with my cellular device while driving:

YOU CAN make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone.

YOU CANT use your phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos stored on the phone, using non-navigation apps, reading texts and scrolling or typing on the phone.

The only time you can use your device as a hand-held unit is when you are obtaining emergency assistance which is a threat to life, safety or if you’re an emergency vehicle performing official duties.

And while this exemption exists by law it will be the policy of the Beltrami County Sheriff’s Office that all Sheriff’s Office employees, when feasible, will be hands free. All of the vehicles in our fleet, with the exception of our older vehicles have the manufactures Bluetooth capability. The older vehicles have been equipped with aftermarket devices to make this possible. Unfortunately, there are circumstances in which Deputies need to be on their devices to carry out their duties. Although this is different than situations other drivers find themselves in, the dangers are the same. We’re well aware of those dangers from a law enforcement perspective and are encouraging people to follow the law regardless of whether they have an exemption.

Will all of this make our roads safer? Minnesota is joining 15 other states that are hands free. Of those 15 states, 12 of them saw a reductions in fatalities by an average 15 percent.

For more easy to read information follow the link below:

https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/hands-free/Documents/hands-free-faq.PDF

“Submitted by: Sheriff, Ernie Beitel

Keep ‘Em on the Wheel

Toward Zero Deaths
The SWCD is here to Help

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are local government units that are part of a broader system, bringing programs from the federal and state levels into their communities to help landowners make a difference on the landscape on a voluntary basis. The SWCD is locally led by citizen board member who are passionate about conservation in Beltrami County. SWCD staff members are responsible for rolling out state and federal initiatives, serving as the local contact for conservation efforts for landowners, and helping determine how these initiatives affect local resource and people.

Conservation issues such as drainage, low soil fertility, water erosion, poor pastures, forest management, and wildlife and recreation needs were the driving forces in the development of the original Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Today, the Beltrami SWCD and Beltrami County work cooperatively to implement the mission and vision of the SWCD utilizing County Staff in a cooperative agreement setting. The main priority for the SWCD is water quality.

Major projects of the Beltrami SWCD include:

- The SWCD implements a cost-share program created to provide funds to share the cost of systems or practices for erosion control, sedimentation control, or water quality improvements that are designed to protect and improve soil and water resources. Through the State Cost-Share Program, landowners can request financial and technical assistance for the implementation of conservation practices.

- Beltrami County has annual dedicated funds for the SWCD to monitor water quality throughout the county. In 2012 Beltrami County completed screening on 19 of our larger lakes with heavy development. What we found was that none of the lakes had enough chemical data for a trend analysis. Since that time, we have been sampling a large number of lakes for water quality and now have the data available for trend analysis on those lakes and have received grant funds in 2017 to update our lake reports for 16 of those lakes and add another 20 lakes to the list for in-depth reports.

- Beltrami SWCD is also involved with stormwater and erosion projects. The goal is to assist cities and landowners with implementation of stormwater best management practices; that could include rain gardens, infiltration basins, and stormwater ponds, by assisting landowners with technical and financial assistance to identify and correct issues.

- The Beltrami SWCD was also awarded a grant from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry. The grant program accelerates the pace of proactive watershed protection, benefitting drinking water supplies, freshwater systems, and floodplains. The grant was awarded to nine different organizations nationally with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Our program supports working forest protection, though innovative techniques developed in northern Minnesota. With the funds, the SWCD will be able to help private forest landowners improve their working forests, provide additional economic opportunities, protect our most valuable lakes and rivers, and expand wildlife habitat.

Anyone wanting to stay up to date on SWCD activities and programs can join us on Facebook!

*Submitted by: Clean Water Specialist, Zach Gutknecht

The Beltrami SWCD hosted its first Water festival for Bemidji 5th graders this past spring at Gene Dillion Elementary. The Water Festival is an all-day outdoor classroom in which local environmental agency professionals communicate with students on various water-related topics, such as:

- **Tree Planting** - tree planting in has been a major part of the SWCD history. This session focused on how to properly plant a tree and then use what is learned to plant trees in the planned area.
- **River Dynamics** - Rivers move! This is live demonstration on how rivers change though time and different land uses that can affect that movement.
- **Rain Simulator** - What happens to all the water when it rains? This is live demonstration of how different land uses can impact where the water goes when it rains and illustrate the benefits and negatives when that happens.
- **Forests and Water** - Our local high quality resources have very much been dependent on our large forest resources. This session focus will be to make that connection as well as learn about local trees and there value.
- **Groundwater** - The Groundwater Model is an interactive classroom tool that is designed to show the flow of water and toxins though differing gradients. It demonstrates flowage through confined and unconfined aquifers as well as the effects of pumping these aquifers.

**AND MANY MORE!**

A special thank you goes out to all of the school staff and volunteers that helped us with our first Bemidji Water Festival!

**Why It Matters**

Hospitals. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of your community. Each year, the results help determine how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities. It’s also mandated by the Constitution: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.
2019 Beltrami County Fair

The 2019 Beltrami County Fair was the scene of numerous memory making moments and fun again this year. From all reports it appears to have been a "winner" with perfect weather, lots of events, and additional places to sit, visit and have lunch (donations and grant money paid for 16 picnic tables, fifteen 6’ benches and eighteen 4’ benches). Grandstand events, live music, an increase in vendors and something for everyone to enjoy dominated the Fairgrounds. Live demonstrations in the Fine Arts division, outside on the grounds and other activities helped to provide a variety. The Midway, scene of the Carnival, was well attended with a 6% increase in use. Preliminary reports indicate we topped our attendance from last year to 29,000 plus Fairgoers. As of July 2, we had 3,176 entries registered with anticipated numbers to be much higher at Fair time. The Fairboard looks forward to reports from all of our Superintendents and associates (based on talking with Fair attendees) on results, successes or not, and other information which helps us plan next year’s Fair, a process that will start immediately. We want to thank the many folks and volunteers who came out to enjoy and support the Fair in so many ways. You made it the success it was.

On another note, are you interested in being recognized as a Farm Family? Or honoring the legacy of your family involved in agriculture? The Farm Family Recognition Program, sponsored by the University of Minnesota and your local Beltrami County Extension Committee, has existed for over 30 years and honors farm families from throughout Minnesota. Farm families are chosen annually, one per county, by local County Extension committees, based on their demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture. The Farm Family program welcomes any and all families or individuals engaged in activities related to agriculture including raising or keeping animals - small to large, flowers, vegetables/produce, bee-keeping, assorted crops, or other endeavors that embrace growing, nurturing and caring for the land and sustaining a way of life that benefits others. Community service including volunteering, conducting educational tours or talks with others regarding your agricultural pursuits, or other activities are counted as part of the process of selection.

If interested, please submit your name, current phone number and mail or drop off to: Beltrami County Extension Office, 7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bldg. 7, Suite A, Bemidji MN 56601. The Extension Committee will contact you. Additional information is available on the University of MN website, http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/

~Submitted on behalf of the Beltrami County Ag Association Fairboard, Beryl Wernberg, Recording Secretary

The Frenzel Family Farm

2019 Beltrami County Farm Family

The University of Minnesota Extension and Beltrami County are proud to announce the 2019 Beltrami County Farm Family of the Year is the FRENZEL FAMILY from Blackduck, Minnesota. Terry and Misty Frenzel and sons Slayde and Peyton work side by side on the farm.

Beltrami County 4-H

4-H is a Youth Development Organization, where youth teach youth, adults mentor youth, and everyone participates in learning by doing as they pursue and grow a passion for learning.

Youth leadership skills soar as youth discover their spark and showcase their accomplishments at events such as the Beltrami County Fair. (August 7-11, 2019) This year over 250 youth, grades K-13 registered over 3,100 exhibits. From Alpaca to Robotics to Zoonotics Education, Beltrami 4-H youth have researched, explored, showcased and provided public education on over 70 project areas!

4-H is part of the Extension programing through the University of Minnesota. Nearly 6,000 youth (grades K-13) are enrolled in Minnesota 4-H.

Learn more at http://www3.extension.umn.edu/local/beltrami/4-h Contact the Beltrami Extension Office, 218-444-5722, Ann Marie Ward, Program Coordinator ward003@umn.edu Join one of the 15 Clubs in Beltrami 4-H or become a volunteer today! www.mn.4HOnline.com
Driver’s License 101—REAL ID

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act established minimum security standards for state issued driver’s licenses and id cards. The Act refers to federal anti-terrorism laws and regulations that control access to federally regulated commercial aircraft and federal facilities.

As of November 2018, all requirements were met and Minnesota is in full compliance with the Federal REAL ID Act. Federal agencies will continue to accept standard Minnesota driver’s licenses and id cards for official purposes until October 2020. Starting October 2020, a REAL ID, Enhanced driver’s license or passport will be required for boarding domestic flights or access to federal facilities such as military bases or nuclear power facilities.

At this time there are three options when you come into renew your driver’s license:

The State has a “Help Me Choose” feature that can either be accessed through the County’s website www.co.beltrami.mn.us or on the Minnesota Driver & Vehicle Services website www.dps.mn.gov

By answering a few Yes or No questions, this feature will help you choose the id that best fits your needs. Also on those websites is a list of accepted documents and an indication if a particular document can be used for more than one requirement.

Beltrami County License Center is located at 701 Minnesota Ave, Bemidji. Office Hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. REAL ID or Enhanced ID Processing Hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm.

The Natural Resource Management Department has always strived to offer a first class park system. In a continued effort towards this goal, the Department has developed a new Park and Recreation app that allows exploration of your park and recreation areas like never before. Located in the Online Mapping gallery of the County’s website, this app allows you to view interactive maps, park amenities and rules, and shelter or campsite reservations for the numerous recreation areas within the County. In addition to these sections, the Amenities and Activities page allows you to see an overview map and find areas that meet your recreational needs, just click and see which park or recreation area has what you are looking for!

Renters of the shelter buildings or Mississippi High Bank primitive campsite can view up to date calendars showing availability, fill out reservation forms online and email them (if their internet browser supports it) to the Department to start the reservation process. Cross country skiers can access maps, check to see if trails have been groomed, or connect to get a Great Minnesota Ski Pass. Grouse hunters can use this app to get information on the three grouse management areas located on Beltrami County managed land and use the interactive map to view the hunter walking trails before a hunt.

Whether a newcomer to the Beltrami County park system or a longtime patron, this interactive app can connect you to your park and recreation areas in a whole new way.

Community Service Center Building Improvements

For those of you that have had an opportunity to come to the Community Services Building in the last six months, you may have noticed some changes. In an attempt to improve customer service and address space issues within our work areas, we have implemented changes to how services are provided in our building.

The first step in determining whether we should remodel the 23 year old building was a planning and design process recommended by the County Administrator and passed by the County Board. The space needs analysis incorporated all of the staffing changes that had occurred since the building was first designed. The study also addressed the many changes in how the state laws impacted the work flow and how we serve our clients. The study findings on ways to become more efficient were then brought before the County Board for support.

Phase one of our building project included remodeling the second floor of the Community Services Building. Instead of providing reception on the second and third floors we have created one integrated reception area for child support, economic assistance, workforce impact and social services. We also developed new meeting rooms that allow our clients to meet with whichever staff is necessary to address their needs.

This allows the people we serve to receive all of their services in one area, and has improved efficiency.

Phase two of this project is in development, and when approved, will include the remodeling of our third floor. When both phases of the project are complete, there will be improved service integration, and privacy for employees and the people we serve.

Submitted by : Social Services Division Director, Jeff Lind
ONE 2019 Remote Transfer Site
Clean Up Events Left
SATURDAY September 21, 2019
10 am—1 pm
(or until all containers are filled)
Fourtown Rural Site
68030 Hwy 89 NW
Residents are expected to assist in unloading their items

FREE:
Household Waste, Car Tires, E-Waste (Radios, Computers, Etc.), Appliances, Fluorescent Tubes, Household Hazardous Waste, AG Wrap (Recapture Bags), Batteries, Scrap Metal
Limit to 12 tires per household and 8 oil filters — anything more can be brought to either the Beltrami or Blackduck Transfer Station

NOT FREE:
Demolition Debris ($12 Per Yard)
By-Pass Material: Furniture Treated Wood, anything not considered Demolition Debris ($24 per Yard)
Large tires (truck and/or tractor) will cost:
• Semi Truck Tires: $10 EA
• Tractor Tires: $65 EA

Future Solid Waste Facility Operations

Goals: Ensure viable outlets for waste materials, expand programs in order to continue to provide County residents and businesses with an environmentally responsible, reliable, sustainable, convenient, and cost effective solid waste management program

On July 16, 2019 the Board voted to allow the Public Works and Solid Waste Department to create a unit that manages the Beltrami County Transfer Stations, Demolition Landfill, Remote Solid Waste Facilities, and all services currently provided by contract. County management of the facility will begin January 1, 2020.

Why should the County do this?
1. $350,000 estimated cost savings
2. Current ownership of facilities and equipment allows the County to be able to make decisions on who operates these facilities and how they are operated.

What does this mean for you?
1. There will be no increase in Solid Waste Residential Service fee in the near future.
2. No change in Services, Seamless transition from Contracted Operated Facilities to County Operated Facilities.
3. Employment Opportunities

—Submitted by: Solid Waste Manager & Public Works Safety Coordinator, Brian Olson