

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
Bemidji City Council/Blackduck City Council/
Beltrami County Board of Commissioners
February 9, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, City Council of the City of Blackduck and the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on February 9, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Commissioner Joe Vene presiding.

Bemidji Council present: Nancy Erickson, Barbara Meuers, Richard Lehmann, Onen Markeson, Roger Hellquist, Jerry Downs and Ron Johnson
Blackduck Council present: Bob Gannon, Marcia Larson, Jason Riggs, Scott Palmer and Kevin Beck
Commissioners present: Joe Vene, Quentin Fairbanks, Jim Heltzer, Ron Otterstad and Jack Frost

Staff present: Tony Murphy, Tim Faver, David Minke and Kay Murphy-Schuett

Commissioner Vene stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss library services for Beltrami County. He stated that this should be looked upon as an opportunity instead of an impediment.

County Administrator Tony Murphy provided an overview "charting a new future for library services in Beltrami County". He reviewed the issues that have brought the services at the library to the point they are today. He stated that everyone must acknowledge that Bemidji, Blackduck and Beltrami County will pay more for library services in the future – if we stay with Kitchigami Regional Library (KRL) or if we join another system.

Murphy reviewed the following options for library services:

- 1) Stay with KRL (either live with the reductions in services or cave into the KRL funding demands);
- 2) Create independent library (loss of state grants, no interlibrary loan, cooperate with schools?);
- 3) Join Arrowhead Library System (Federated system, huge geography, St. Louis County influence, do not want us);
- 4) Join Lake Agassiz Regional Library (Consolidated system, funding formula – 80% borrowers, 10% population, 10% ANTC), no mobile library, library link sites, strong and progressive organization); or
- 5) Join Northwest Regional Library (Federated-hybrid no mobile library, lean organization, great director, big fish in small pond?).

Murphy stated that if the group decided to leave KRL, the following steps would need to be taken: 1) KRL notice to rescind agreement and negotiate KRL departure, 2) create a steering committee or library action committee to conduct an objective review of local library services.

Fairbanks asked if the County and Cities met KRL funding request would KRL restore the library services.

Murphy responded that he is not sure but KRL have stated they would restore the services.

Consensus of the group was that they leave KRL and negotiate with another library service. Otterstad recommended that Murphy and Faver draft the appropriate letter to rescind from the KRL system.

After discussion, the group agreed that one council/commission member from each entity plus David Minke, Tony Murphy and Marcia Larson would serve on the library steering/action committee.

Legislative Priorities

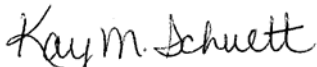
Downs provided an overview of the City's bonding request to complete the Paul Bunyan Trail on Southeast Lake Bemidji.

Discussion continued on various legislative priorities. Beltrami County handed out their 2006 legislative priorities which included Extend Limited Market Value to Resorts, Social Services and Human Services for the Red Lake Nation.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk