

# **CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

## **BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

### **Special Meeting – June 27, 2005**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special meeting of City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held with the Beltrami County Commissioners on Monday, June 27, 2005, at 5:15 p.m. at the Bemidji/Beltrami County Airport.

Councilmembers present: Markeson, Hellquist, Erickson, Downs, Meuers.  
Absent: Johnson and Lehmann.

County Commissioners present: Otterstad, Frost, Vene, Fairbanks. Absent: Heltzer.

Others present included: Cliff Tweedale. Susan Hoosier, Curt Oakes, Al Felix, Tony Murphy, Tim Faver and Harold VanLeeuwan.

Tweedale started the meeting by asking VanLeeuwan to provide a brief overview of the meeting. VanLeeuwen indicated this was the fourth busiest airport in the state, and that the airport was just completing a Master Plan.

Tweedale then provided an overview of the economic development initiative that was the focus of this meeting (power point presentation attached). Tweedale stated that the land and infrastructure adjacent to the airport provides major economic development opportunity. While some of the land is owned by the Airport Commission, other land is privately held and available for a broad range of development. Much of the adjacent land is served by telecommunications technology that is world class.

Finally, there are other assets that, combined with the above assets, could provide a major economic boost to the area. The Ingenuity Frontier, now in the implementation phase, provides another set of advantages to that knowledge cluster. In addition, BSU is implementing five centers of excellence that also will contribute to the area's competitive advantage for selected economic activity.

This ambitious initiative will serve to help define that recipe by identifying a unified, strategic investment and marketing strategy for the airport and adjacent land. This strategy will find a way to integrate the assets to create competitive advantage, using the airport facilities and services as a focal point.

When asked for their impressions, several City Council and County Board members indicated that this project was consistent with the vision for the community, and provided the city and county with an opportunity to work together. When asked if their body would consider a \$15,000 investment in this initiative, both expressed optimism that they would look favorably on this investment.

It was agreed that Tweedale would send a memo to each jurisdiction that would serve as the basis for this request.

The meeting concluded with a report from the County and City attorneys that proposed amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) would be readied for the Commissioners July 14 meeting. The attorneys further advised that they were studying the possible impacts to the City's well(s) and well field of the conveyance to the County of a one-half interest in airport real property, as called for under the JPA. The attorneys anticipated that a resolution of the competing goals of airport development and well/community drinking water supply

protection, could be formulated over the next several months to allow the real property conveyance to proceed.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Tweedale, HRDC