

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**  
**Work Session – December 10, 2012**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 10, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Hellquist, Johnson, Albrecht, Negard Absent: Waldhausen, Thompson

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Fire Chief Dave Hoefer, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Others: Senator Tom Saxhaug, State Representative John Persell  
Research Committee: Ron Gangeness, Bruce Hemstad, Mel Milender, Ted Vankempen, Donna Anderson

Mayor Larson stated that the purpose of the work session was to meet with area legislators to discuss the proposed Bemidji Area Fire/Rescue District concept and other city related issues.

Hospitality Tax

Chattin stated that recently he met with several Chamber members who are not in favor of a hospitality tax.

Negard commented that the business owners want to support the event center but did not say how. Negard stated that there are no funds being set aside for future maintenance on the event center.

Albrecht stated that the City should continue to explore implementation of a hospitality tax and suggested that a meeting to discuss it with a broader group of council and business owners be held.

Chattin will provide additional information to Senator Saxhaug and Representative Persell.

Fire District

Fire Chief Hoefer reviewed the Bemidji Area Fire/Rescue District concept stating that the Research Committee has recommended the creation of a Joint Power Entity, Bemidji Area Fire/Rescue District, through a joint powers agreement between all local government units (LGU) currently being served by the Bemidji Fire Department.

He stated that the City and the Bemidji Rural Fire Association desire legislation to fund the proposed fire district for the Bemidji region thereby allowing local units of government, the option to collect a fire protection fee for the purposes of providing a funding mechanism for the fire department, both operationally and for capital improvement needs.

The following items were discussed:

- Collection of the Fire Protection Fee would be allowed from all building owners who are beneficiaries of the fire protection services.
- The fee would be based upon the building value. (For example: "X" dollars per \$100,000 of value).
- Building values would be determined by a third party such as an Assessor's Office.
- The fee amounts may be adjusted as needed by the LGU or its designated entity such as a Joint Powers Authority or Entity.
- Collection of this fee would be via the respective county's property tax collection system or direct billing if no property tax collection is completed.
- Current assets, i.e., fire station, and future fire station locations.

Fire Chief Hoefer will send additional information to Senator Saxhaug and Representative Persell.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk