

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL
BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD
Monday, May 13, 2019**

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special joint meeting of the Bemidji City Council and the Beltrami County Board of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, May 13, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Beltrami County Administration Building, Beltrami County Board Chair Lucachick presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Beltrami County Commissioners Present: Gaasvig, Olson, Anderson, Sumner, Lucachick

City Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Al Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Police Sargent Jaeger Bellows, Assistant City Engineer Sam Anderson, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Beltrami County Staff Present: County Administrator Kay Mack, MIS Division Director, Ron Pula, County Attorney David Hanson, Aquatic Invasive Species Technician Bruce Anspach

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Collaboration

Anspach explained how the city and county have been working together with regards to the fight against AIS, including decontamination and inspections. The county is exploring the possible purchase of CD3 machines which are used to clean out water lines and dry boat surfaces coming out of lakes. Larson stated that a solar power machine would be best since there is currently no electrical service at the boat landings. However, no formal discussion or decision has been made by the council regarding purchasing these machines. Anspach stated that the county receives \$200,000 a year from the state as well as some contributions from a small number of lake associations. While compliance has leveled off at 98.9%, there is still a lot of work to obtain 100%. Anspach stated that the focus is starting to shift to education and not solely on inspections.

MIS Collaboration

Pula stated that the county has been providing MIS services to the city over 10 years. The city has grown to four servers, which are housed at the county, not including the collaborative servers for GIS and law enforcement. Pula outlined the costs and services provided by the county. Currently the city pays \$81,000 a year which increases based on cost of living adjustments. Albrecht inquired of the city utilizing another provider for public WIFI in City Hall. Pula did not have an objection to that as long as it is on a separate line. Meehlhause inquired of the county using Google or G-Suite for e-mail. Pula hesitates to use cloud based applications, largely due to losing local control and expense.

Project Pride

Albrecht inquired of the county asking for any kind of relief from the tipping fees in order for the City to offer clean up days to its residents. Mack stated that due to a high cost of disposing those items, the county cannot waive those fees. Mack further stated that county residents are required to pay fees so the county cannot justify city residents not paying.

Recycling

Members discussed the new sorting machinery in Fosston which allows co-mingling of recyclables for residents. Continued issues with recycling includes contaminated materials and the high cost to the county to recycle. The absence of curbside recycling continues to be a challenge for city residents.

Out of Home Child Placement

Albrecht noted that this issue is a major issue for the county and the role city law enforcement has with child placement. Rivera inquired if there is a way the city can help with this issue. Bellows stated that the police department responds to calls within the city limits. Typically, the police department wants to place the child where they are most comfortable, that being with a family member. If that is not possible, then Beltrami County Social Services is called in to help place that child. Mack stated that due to law changes, the county must have social services staffed 24 hours. That requirement, along with the high number of child placement cases, mostly due to drug use, is the major reason the county is seeking relief from the state legislation to cover the \$3 million deficit for that

budget. Hanson cited enforcement and rehabilitation being ways the county and city can work together to find solutions for this problem. Olson stated that economic development can provide a sense of community, hope and employment which could keep people from using drugs. Council indicated they would like to send letters of support to legislators.

Public Library

Erickson summarized continued problems at the library due to homeless population using it as a day shelter. Erickson feels a part-time security officer would help alleviate some of the issues library staff are facing on a daily basis. Olson thinks this would create more low level arrests. A long term solution would be a drop in day center that provides couches, bathrooms and WIFI which are the main reasons the homeless use the library.

Luchachick stated that further discussion is warranted on these issues and others not discussed. He also encouraged that the two entities meet more frequently.

Two items not discussed because of time, but were listed on the agenda, include: (1) Community Visioning Process – County and City Roles, and (2) Community Health Needs Assessment.

Adjourn

Chair Lucachick adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk