

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 15, 2024**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 15, 2024, at the County Board Room, County Administration Building, Bemidji, Minnesota.

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair John Carlson, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Commissioners Craig Gaasvig, Joe Gould, Tim Sumner, and Richard Anderson were present.

**GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR**

**CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD**

- Jim Lucachick, County resident on Wildwood Rd. NE, Bemidji, addressed the Board regarding the redistricting lawsuit. Now that the lawsuit is settled, he is requesting that the Board publish an article in the County Newsletter about the issue. Mr. Lucachick stated he is also advocating for a legislative change for compensation in such legal battles.
- CT Marhula, County resident on Birchmont Dr NE, Bemidji, had three points to made; 1) He fully agrees with and supports Mr. Lucachick, 2) Shout-out to Beltrami County for the work and award received from NACo for the RESET Program, and 3) Shout-out for the good work in producing the County Newsletter.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following items were added to the Regular Agenda:

- Continuation of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Designation agenda item from the Work Session.
- Administrator's Report.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Approved Agenda and Amendments

A motion to approve the Agenda and Amendments was made by Commissioner Gaasvig, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, and unanimously carried.

Approved Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, and unanimously carried.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Approved Minutes

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Work Meeting held October 1, 2024, and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held October 1, 2024, as submitted.

Approved Auditor/Treasurer Warrant Payment Listing

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by the Auditor/Treasurer's Office.

Approved Payment of Auditor/Treasurer Bills

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved payment of Auditor/Treasurer bills, as submitted.

Approved 2025 Juvenile Center Host County Contract

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the 2025 Host County Agreement with the NW MN Juvenile Center, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Child Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family child care licenses, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Foster Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family foster care licenses, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Warrant Payment List

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by Health & Human Services Department.

Approved and Certification of Unpaid Delinquent Solid Waste Accounts

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved and certified the list of un-paid solid waste accounts from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, as submitted.

Approved Resolution of Support of MPCA Grant Request

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Resolution to allow the Solid Waste Department to apply for a Greater MN reduction, reuse, recycling and composting Grant.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Program Authorization Resolution:

WHEREAS, Beltrami County has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY2025 Greater MN Recycling and Composting Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, if MPCA funding is received, Beltrami County is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, MPCA requires that Beltrami County enter into a grant agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Beltrami Board of Commissioner's hereby agrees to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grant agreement and authorizes and directs Solid Waste Director to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

##### MCIT Voting Delegate & Alternate

Human Resources Director, Ann Schroeder reviewed the current MCIT voting delegates as: Richard Anderson and alternate Reed Olson (no longer a County commissioner). The MCIT Annual Meeting is coming up in December and MCIT has requested Counties to update their delegate designee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sumner, and seconded by Commissioner Gaasvig, to appoint Administrator Tom Barry as the MCIT voting delegate and Commissioner John Carlson as the alternate. Unanimously carried.

##### Continuation of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Designation

Sheriff's Captain Joe Kleszyk and Sergeant David Hart continued with their update.

The HIDTA Designation is indefinite, funding is for specific initiatives and approved annually. Initiatives will be targeted activities with the objective of combatting drug trafficking in our area. The drug problem has a significant impact on our community and they presented statistics on overdoses, connected crime and supporting examples.

The intended goals with HIDTA is to increase networking, intelligence, analytical supports, increased funding and geographical area of impact to make a difference in the fight against drugs.

### Administrator's Report

- Administrator is on the new Airport Affairs Council and involved in helping the airport develop their mission, goals and future focus efforts. A future Work Session update will be scheduled.
- Legislative Platform will be developed over the next few weeks. Board members can submit items to be added to the list.
  - Current Lobbyist contract will be expiring. Does the board want to continue the Contract? It is in the budget.
- The county manages many leases; currently working on:
  - GSA lease for Federal Probation under review and updating to reflect current space in the Old Courthouse.
  - New lease in the CSC (former Northwoods Caregivers space) with the MN Indian Affairs Council. This lease should be ready for board approval next month.
- Reminders
  - Open enrollment until October 31
  - ChatAbout schedule. Administrator covering Nov. 12
- Important Dates
  - Opioid Settlement Committee update and public meeting tonight at 6 pm
  - Next Board meeting not until November 12

### **COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS**

#### Legislative/Lobbying Issues & Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Gould provided several committee updates
- Commissioner Anderson had some ChatAbout schedule update requests.
  - November 19 & December 17 will be Anderson
  - December 3 will be Carlson
- Commissioner Carlson provided several committee updates

#### Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next regular meeting of the County Board will be November 12, 2024, in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:58 p.m. was made by Commissioner Gaasvig, seconded by Commissioner Gould, and unanimously carried.

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John Carlson, Chair

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Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator