

**City of Menahga**  
**Special City Council Minutes**  
**Board of Review and Interviews**  
**Friday, April 19, 2024**

**1. Call to Order**

The Menahga City Council held a Special Meeting for the purpose of the Board of Review and Interviews for the City Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk positions on Friday, April 19, 2024.  
Mayor Elizabeth Olson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2. Roll Call**

Comprising a quorum of the council, the following members were present:

Mayor Elizabeth Olson	Durwin Tomperi	Mike Netland
Jody Bjornson	Dan Warmbold	

Staff present: Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Jensine Kurtti and Acting Deputy Clerk Alvina Kytta

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Board of Review**

Mayor Olson announced the purpose of the meeting and immediately turned it over to Wadena County Assessor Lee Brekke. Brekke introduced himself and introduced his staff members; Rhonda Nelson, Kiya Hanson, and Jason Jorgensen. Brekke stated that there were 17 sales in the City in the last year, with the total EMV (Estimated Market Value) being \$139,336,000. This amount included R.E. EMV of \$95,801,400; Personal Property EMV of \$1,694,400, Mobile Home EMV of \$0; Exempt EMV of \$41,840,200. Also discussed was the Homestead Exclusion.

There was no one in attendance at the meeting who wished to speak. Lee Brekke then went on to address the individual properties that had contacted his office. The first parcel was #17-410-0050 Jody Bjornson. Brekke noted that since Bjornson is a member of the Council, he should abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest. After discussion it was decided that the property should be lowered from \$198,700 to \$193,600 due to the field card showing a sauna building on the property that had been removed 2 years earlier.

**Main Motion: To approve the adjustment to 17-410-0050 from \$198,700 to \$193,600 reflecting the removal of the sauna building.**

Moved by:	Tomperi
Seconded by:	Warmbold
Action:	Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote - Abstain Bjornson
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Netland, Warmbold
Opposed:	None

Lee Brekke then addressed the remaining parcels and after his review of the properties, made the following recommendations:

**Terence Berttunen** #17-460-0060 to keep the value the same but remove the relative homestead on the property.

**Ralph Weber (Weber Revocable Trust)** #17-027-1035 to lower the completion rate from 50% completion to 25% completion. This lowered the property value from \$133,900 to \$85,200.

**Randall Redetzke** #17-330-0160 to reduce the value after viewing the interior due to the condition. This lowered the value from \$133,700 to \$125,300.

**Carrie Martire** #17-440-0160 to reduce the value due to condition for multiple factors. This lowered the value from \$96,600 to \$73,400.

**Main Motion: To approve the adjustments as listed above.**

Moved by:	Bjornson
Seconded by:	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Warmbold, Bjornson, Netland
Opposed:	None

Lee Brekke then was asked a few questions regarding tax valuations, tax capacity, etc. Kurtti asked Brekke for clarification on tax capacity, if tax exempt properties are included in the total tax capacity. Brekke stated that tax exempt properties such as the school, churches, Greenwood Connections, City Hall and Liquor Store were not part of tax capacity calculation, only taxable properties are included. With no further business, Brekke asked for an adjournment.

Mayor Olson adjourned the Board of Review portion of the meeting at 9:28 a.m. and requested a brief recess before the Deputy Clerk Candidate interview. The Council reconvened at 9:54 a.m.

**5. Interviews – Deputy Clerk**

- a. Kelly Kumpula - Prior to the interview, Acting Deputy Clerk Alvina Kytta gave a test to the applicant which covered debits and credits, as well as a word test that was to be completed in Excel, building a spreadsheet to calculate the word problem. Questions were then presented to Ms. Kumpula by the Council and Staff.
- b. Stephanie Arnold – Withdrew her application as she had taken another job.

**6. Applicant Discussion and Possible Action**

By consensus, the Council requested to have another session of interviews due to the fact that Stephanie Arnold withdrew her application on April 23, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Olson then called for a recess at 10:40. Since the candidate for the City Clerk/Treasurer had arrived early, the interview for City Clerk/Treasurer began at 10:44 a.m.

**7. Interviews – City Clerk/Treasurer**

- a. Brett Gagnonpalick
- b. Erin O'Donnell - Withdrew her application as she had taken another job.

**8. Applicant Discussion and Possible Action**

After much discussion regarding Brett Gagnonpalick’s interview and his past work experience and accomplishments, it was the consensus of the Council to offer the position of City Clerk/Treasurer to Brett Ganonpalick.

**Main Motion: To approve the hiring of Brett Gagnonpalick for the position of City Clerk/Treasurer with a starting wage of \$85,000 per year with the standard benefits, subject to a successful background check. This position has a 6-month probationary period.**

Moved by:	Netland
Seconded by:	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Warmbold, Bjornson, Netland
Opposed:	none

## 9. Adjournment

### Main Motion: To adjourn at 12:45 pm

Moved by:	Bjornson
Seconded by:	Tomperi
Action:	Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote
In favor:	Olson, Tomperi, Warmbold, Bjornson, Netland
Opposed:	None

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Jensine Kurtti, Interim Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor Elizabeth Olson