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NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2019 - For Immediate Release

BECKER COUNTY
ANNOUNCES A NEW COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Becker County, MN — The Board Chair, John Okeson and County Commissioners welcome the new County Administrator, Mr. Mike Brethorst, who will officially assume office on March 4, 2019. His appointment was made official during the January 22, 2019 regular Commission meeting. He will be replacing County Administrator, Jack Ingstad, who has retired from a long and distinguished career in government.

The Chairman said he was impressed with the other county administrator applications gathered by the Springsted-Waters Group, an executive recruitment organization. “There was a great pool of candidates with experience running cities and counties in Minnesota. Brethorst’s ties to the region and experience were a strong factor in the decision to hire him. “He knows governmental operations and he knows greater Minnesota,” Okeson said. “To know where to go for information and resources is a major advantage when advocating for our residents.”

For the past eight (8) years Brethorst has served as city administrator in Melrose, Minnesota with a budget of over \$22 million dollars. He assisted in leading his community and region during some very stressful and growth filled times. For the past 21 years, Brethorst has served in the Minnesota National Guard where he has attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He currently holds the position of Deputy Senior Intelligence Officer.

Brethorst has a strong background in health and human services, which he gained during his tenure with the Department of Veteran Affairs in Fargo as the Administrative Officer for Primary and Specialty Medicine.

Brethorst will administrator the day to day business of the county government in accordance with policies and goals as determined by the County Board. The position exercises wide latitude for independent judgment and decision-making under broad policy guidance and direction from the County Board and supervises nine department heads. Brethorst will work closely on budgeting matters with the County Attorney, County Auditor/Treasurer, Recorder, and Sheriff.

Brethorst stated that he plans to implement an approach that he has implemented in Melrose, but will adapt it to Becker County. He calls this the “One Becker County” this approach comes from his personal leadership style, which is to listen, then speak, help others, and know the facts, so we can make sound and educated recommendations to the elected and appointed officials. “It is an extraordinary honor to be selected.

I look forward to carrying on the hard work of my predecessors as we continue in our efforts serve the people of Becker County and its leadership” he said.

Brethorst earned his Master’s Degree in Public, Human Services, and Health Administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration from St. Cloud State University and an Associates of Arts Degree from M-State, Fergus Falls. He also holds the title of Credentialed City/County Manager from the International City/County Manager Association.

Brethorst and his family plan to move to Becker County in the coming months and look forward to a new opportunity.