

Baudette Minnesota

A Municipal Utility Since 1906

In Baudette, place matters.

Set along the banks of the Rainy River and just minutes from Lake of the Woods, Baudette is defined in part by its setting—northern, scenic, and closely tied to the outdoors. But according to city leaders, what truly shapes the community is not just the landscape. It is also the people who call it home.

“Baudette is a small, welcoming northern Minnesota community with a cozy hometown feel,” said Tina Rennemo, City Administrator. “Life here moves at a pace that allows you to know your neighbors, support local businesses, and truly feel part of something bigger than yourself.”

That balance of natural beauty and close-knit community is central to Baudette’s identity. As a border town with world-class fishing, outdoor recreation, and year-round tourism, it offers opportunities that reach far beyond its size. Yet even with those advantages, Rennemo said the community’s greatest strength is its character.

“When something needs to get done, the community shows up.”

Investing in What Matters

That mindset is reflected in the way Baudette continues to invest in itself.

Rennemo said the community is proud of its ongoing focus on revitalization and infrastructure improvements that support both tourism and everyday quality of life. Local businesses continue to evolve and expand, while civic leadership remains focused on sustainable growth that preserves the character of the community.

Rather than chasing change for its own sake, Baudette is building thoughtfully,

strengthening the assets that matter most to residents while supporting long-term economic stability.

Powering Daily Life

Reliable local power plays a central role in that effort.

Rennemo said Baudette’s municipal electric utility does more than provide electricity. Because it is locally owned and governed, it also delivers stability, responsive service, and accountability

Where Resilience Meets the River

that residents can see and trust. Revenues are reinvested back into the community, strengthening local priorities rather than leaving them.

That reliability supports every part of life in Baudette. Tourism and hospitality businesses, fishing resorts, manufacturing operations, healthcare facilities, and schools all depend on consistent service. For residents, it means comfort and peace of mind during long northern Minnesota winters.

The Strength of Partnership

Baudette’s partnership with the Northern Municipal Power Agency has helped strengthen that foundation.

Rennemo said being part of NMPA provides “strength through partnership,” offering access to reliable power resources, long-term planning expertise, regulatory guidance, and shared services that would be difficult for a small utility to manage alone.

That collaboration has helped ensure stable rates and dependable service while preserving local control. It allows Baudette to remain locally accountable while benefiting from regional knowledge and support.

Rennemo also pointed to key upgrades at the Minnkota plant as especially meaningful. Improvements that enhanced reliability during severe weather stand out because they demonstrate the value of preparation.

“Our municipal electric utility does far more than provide power – it provides stability.”

- Tina Rennemo

“Moments when the lights stayed on during challenging conditions remind us of the value of careful planning and strong partnerships,” she said.

Looking Ahead

Like many communities, Baudette’s relationship with energy has evolved.

Rennemo said energy is now viewed as a strategic priority tied to sustainability, affordability, and long-term planning. Technology has improved efficiency and reliability, while partnerships like NMPA help communities adapt to industry changes.

Looking forward, Baudette is focused on emerging technologies, diversified energy resources, and maintaining affordability while preparing for future infrastructure needs.

Public power remains central to that approach.

“Public power means local control, accountability, and reinvestment,” Rennemo said. “Our residents aren’t just customers—they’re stakeholders.”

As NMPA celebrates 50 years, Baudette reflects on a partnership that has helped small municipal utilities remain strong, independent, and forward-thinking.

