

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 16th, 2024**  
**5:30pm at Barnes Town Hall**

**UNAPPROVED**

The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Electors of the Town of Barnes was called to order at 5:30PM by Chairperson Tom Renz. Board Supervisors Seana Frint, Eric Neff and Dave Scully were in attendance, Jim Frint arrived at 6:11PM. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Meyer, Roads & Property Foreman Jeff Jordheim, Transfer Site Supervisor, Jeff Hong, Ambulance Director Brett Frierhood and Fire Chief Brock Frierhood.

**AGENDA**

**1) STATE OF THE TOWN REPORTS**

- **Spring Election Results**
- **Discussion of Audit & Treasurer's Report**
- **Annual Report from the Chair**
- **Annual Highway Department Report**
- **Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report**

**2) Any other issues authorized by WI. Statutes 60.10**

*5:30PM Motion made (Eric Neff, seconded by Tom Renz) to approve the agenda. Voice vote was taken, motion carried.*

Approval of 2023 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were distributed upon entry. Chairperson Renz asked if there were any corrections to the minutes-there were none.

*Motion made (Eric Neff, seconded by Dave Scully) to approve the 2023 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairperson Renz stated the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to provide a statement of financial condition of the Town of Barnes pursuant to WI Stat. 60.41. Copies of revenues and expenses for 2023 were available upon entry to this meeting.

**2023 Annual Audit/Treasurers Report**

**ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the Spring Election for the Town Board is as follows: For the two Board Supervisor positions, Seana Frint received 204 votes and Eric Neff received 196 votes. There were 14 write in votes. 286 out of 761 eligible voters voted (includes 18 Election Day registration) for a 37% turnout.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – ANNUAL**

The balance in the general checking account was \$288,908.00 as of December 31, 2023. We had \$4,089,782.38 in total deposits and credits for the year and \$4,152,677.70 in checks, payments and transfers.

The balance in the Money Market account was \$830,143.14, with \$364,937.62 in deposits and credits for the year and \$278,406.91 in checks, payments and transfers. Ending balance includes \$9,484.37 of interest earned.

There was a balance of \$594,268.84 in the Tax Collection account which represents the 2023 taxes collected in December of 2023. This balance was prior to the January 2024 Settlements payments to Northwoods College, Drummond School District and Bayfield County.

The balance in the Vatten Paddlar account as of Dec. 31, 2023 was \$3,471.75.

The PayPal account, set up to accept donations to the Town (primarily Tomahawk Lake Park) had a balance of \$6,469.22.

The total of all accounts as of December 31, 2023 was \$1,727,393.10, a decrease of \$58,154.98 from December of 2022.

**AUDIT REPORT**

The CPA firm completed the audit of our books on February 21, 2024. There are copies at the back table for your review. The auditor found that the financial statements present fairly the respective modified cash basis financial position of the Town as of 12/31/23. On page 5, the receipts in 2023 total \$1,769,289.00, and the disbursements totaled \$1,778,038.00 for a deficiency of \$8,749.00 for the year.

**TOWN OF BARNES  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
Annual Meeting April 16, 2024**

<b>General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$342,785.89</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$4,089,782.38
Checks, Payments & Transfers	(\$4,143,660.27)
Less outstanding checks	(\$9,017.43)
Interest Earned	\$0.00
<b>GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$288,908.00</b>
<b>Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$734,128.06</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$364,937.62
Checks, Payments & Transfers	(\$278,406.91)
Less outstanding checks	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$9,484.37
<b>MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$830,143.14</b>

**FUND BREAKDOWNS**

Money Market General	\$532,927.0
Savings	6
Highway Dept. Sinking Fund	\$47,681.55
WI Fire Dues	\$5,708.02
Emergency Services Sinking Fund	\$143,310.2
0	0
Parks & Rec. Sinking Fund	\$7,080.41
Tomahawk Lake Park Fund	\$11,660.93
Well Water Donations Fund	\$6,924.15
WI EMS-FAP Fund -	
Equipment	\$1,122.81
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Training	\$6,210.35

Bridges Maintenance Fund	\$12,040.79
Waterways Maintenance Fund	\$10,033.99
Ambulance Billing Escrow Acct	\$1,000.00
TOB A.I.S. Sinking Fund	\$24,755.41
Barnes Area Dev. Fund	\$19,687.47
<b>Total all Money Market Funds</b>	<b>\$830,143.14</b>

<b>Tax Collection Account Balance January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$694,236.38</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$2,483,219.07
Checks, Payments	(\$2,583,026.61)
Bank Service Charges	(\$160.00)

**TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023** **\$594,268.84**

<b>Vatten Paddlar Account balance January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$3,136.81</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$6,828.74
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$6,493.80)

**VATTEN PADDLAR BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023** **\$3,471.75**

<b>Taste of Barnes Account balance January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$5,536.00</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$3,207.50
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$4,611.35)
Less outstanding checks	\$0.00

**TASTE OF BARNES ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023** **\$4,132.15**

<b>PayPal Account balance January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$5,214.56</b>
Deposits and Credits	\$6,245.15
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$4,990.49)

**PAYPAL ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022** **\$6,469.22**

**TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2023** **\$1,727,393.10**

**INDEBITINESS** **\$51,780.00**

*Motion made (Doug Westerberg/Judy Bourassa) to approve the Annual Treasurer's report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

## Chairperson Renz then gave the Chair's Annual Report:

### Town of Barnes Chairperson Annual meeting

It was a very busy last year. From all the snow we had last winter to the little bit we have had this year. It still presented some challenges because of the heavy wet snow we received at the end of the year.

Lisa Meyer had been hired and appointed to take over Judy's position and has transitioned nicely into the position. She is working hard to make it her own. We have also installed a new camera, alarm system at the Town office. We have also installed a new camera system at the Town garage that covers the front back and some of the park area.

The South Shore Bridge project was completed.

We went to a new system at the transfer site and started charging for year by charging a per year fee. This was a very controversial concept at first and to some still is. This worked and for the first time in years the transfer site household garbage operated in the black. On the recycling side we added a cardboard bailer to bale the cardboard. This has also worked as we no longer throw the cardboard in the recycle roll off saving room and weight as when the cardboard became heavy from the rain or the snow it increased the weight. We also collect a little money from the cardboard.

\*\*\* "Life is about change, sometimes it's painful, sometimes it's beautiful, but most of the time it's both." Kristin Kreuk. \*\*\*

We did not do as well as we thought we would with the roll off containers as they still operated in the red with them but we are working in that also. We increased the prices of items brought and will continue to monitor it through the year. We will continue to monitor the transfer site to make sure we can get it completely in the black.

The old salt shed was condemned by the State so we made plans and built a new shed in the back behind the ice rink. The old shed was removed.

We purchased a new mower for the side of the roads. One that is safer and keeps the employee safe and not in the open. The old one there was no longer any parts for it. Lease agreement where we are leasing some of the equipment. The cost is about the same but we no longer pay for any of the maintenance. The Lessee is responsible for all regular maintenance and all repairs.

Jeff has applied for a 50/50 matching grant to the LRIP program to do work on Ellison Lake road. We should be hearing back any day on that project. We are also in the beginning stages to look at and plan the either the repair of or build of a new Town garage. The present Town garage has issues with the roof and loss of heat. We have had people out and looked at the roof and try to fix it but it always just putting a band aid over it. We will need to analyze the cost of repairs to bring it up to standards or build a new one.

We continue to support and move forward with aquatic invasive species. These program grants are getting to be more popular thus making the grants a lot to obtain. We have received two of the four submitted. We continue to support this program. I want to thank Chris Webb for all her hard work on putting together these grants and submitting them. She also worked very hard with the DNR on submitting the reimbursement for the grants and staying on top of it. Chris will be retiring at the end of

### Annual Highway Department Report-Jeff Jordheim

**Buildings:** New sand/salt shed built in October. It has the capacity for two years of product. Also, will be used to store snow equipment for the summer months. 14 and half loads of concrete were used for walls and floor. Ten ton of re-bar were used.

The old sand/salt building was taken down and recycled. Where the old sand/salt building was, will be additional parking for park use.

**Equipment:** The board approved the addition of a flail mower for the ditch mower tractor. They approved a new grader. A new grader has been delivered and has been put into service. The town also added a new Ford 450 to replace the 2006 Chevrolet one ton. This will be used to assist the BES with any issue that may arise and town use as well. The John Deere 2755 has been sold on auction and is going to its new home in Mondovi to be used by the ATV/UTV club. The Chevrolet one ton was also sold on auction and went to its new home in Antigo.

**Roads:** The town has applied for funding to reconstruct Ellison Lake Road @ Moore Road. This is a split cost with the county and the town. Funding was also applied for Lake Road from twenty-seven to the bridge north of Upper Eau Claire Lake. Ellison Lake Road/Moore Road will begin as soon as the bidding is let. So, be aware they may some road closure for a short amount of time.

Some asphalt roads will be repaired where there is an area of the roadway that drops away and toward the shoulder. They will dig them out and filled with gravel and compacted to the correct thickness. They will remain without asphalt until the following year. Allows for the new compacted material to heal through a freeze/thaw process.

Graveling will also be done on many sand/gravel roads.

Grading will be ongoing as well.

Mowing of ditches will begin the first week in June.

**Parks:** New power will be run to the warming house and hockey rink. (upgrade).

### **Annual Transfer Site Report-Jeff Hong**

We bought and built a car port for the mattress 30yd open top roll off container to keep weight out of the box. We moved the cardboard bailer to the west about 10ft to make room to build the team a new office that would be closer and more efficient. The old little office outside was removed to make it easier to plow in the winter, more room for the open top for demo. We ran cat 5 cable to the new office for credit card transactions also. We had about 165 tires removed in 2023. We also had 14, 30 yd open top demo containers, 13, 40 yd trash compactors, and 6 ,40 yd recycle containers that went out in 2023.

---

### **Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report**

#### **Ambulance-Brett Frierhood:**

For 2023 there was a combined total of 108 calls between the ambulance and fire departments. The year started out with a higher than average number of calls leading to the projected total being around 130. Call volume did even out later in the year but still ended with an increase from the average of 100 in recent years. The ambulance responded to over 90 calls during the year.

Like all departments we continue to struggle with staffing. There are currently 17 members credentialed on the roster with over half being considered active. The majority are credentialed as EMTs, however we now have 4 EMRs by taking advantage of new rules that became effective at the start of 2024. Starting in January EMRs are no longer required to complete the National Registry written examination to obtain their certificate, and someone with previous military medical training is now eligible to apply for and receive an EMR certificate with department and medical director approval.

To supplement our volunteer responders, we continue to utilize full-time and part-time EMTs. We are currently authorized for 3 full-time positions which were all filled for a period of time in 2023. We currently operate with two full-time EMTs, one day shift and the other overnight. Two active part-time EMTs also fill-in when able. We continue to search for a second full-time for day shift.

There have been a couple changes in outside funding sources. The State's Funding Assistance Program saw a one-time \$8 million increase for the 2023 SFY but has returned to the previous level for 2024. However, the program will see a drastic change for the 2025 SFY with a very large increase in the available funding, but also expanding to include non-transporting agencies as eligible applicants. Also in 2023, Bayfield County provided \$20,000 in funding to each of the nine ambulance services that provide coverage in the County. Initially provided as a one-time award with no expectation of future funding, the County has continued with the program for 2024.

In the last year some projects and purchases we were able to complete in part due to the increased funding include upgrading the EKG monitor with carbon monoxide monitoring, purchasing a new scoop stretcher, rescue basket, ice rescue suit, and additional radios. We've also added a fold up Murphy bed to the BES Building office room to provide another place for personnel to sleep. The flag pole was also installed at the BES Building last year with the hope to eventually create a memorial area near it.

In 2024 we look to improve our efforts toward recruitment and retention, as well as community engagement.

#### **Fire-Brock Frierhood:**

Calls: 37 calls

New engine has finally been completed and in service.

We received a new 4-gas meter to replace an older version.

Purchased a gear dryer to aid in drying structural gear as well and ice rescue suits. Cuts down drying time for both to within a day, whereas just regular air drying of the gear and suits can take up to a week.

Purchased 2 portable radios through the DNR wildland grant to aid in on scene communications.

Purchased an AED for the brush truck through the DNR wildland grant.

We purchased a new brush truck at the beginning of this year, to replace the 2004 Ford QRV and the 1986 Chevy DNR Brush Truck. It has been in service and used on multiple calls already.

Had 1 new member join last year. Our current total of members is 10 with 8 of them being regularly active. As always, we are looking for members to join. If you want to know more, please get a hold of me.

A discussion took place regarding approval of R24-05-Disposal of town property. Several electors had questions regarding covenants at the industrial park, what types of businesses would be allowed and minimum lot sizes. Chairman Renz expressed that the town would only be selling the lots and building a road to access properties that would be maintained by the town, there would be no covenants as businesses would have to go through the permit process and follow the town's land use and county zoning restrictions. Electors agreed to the disposal with the stipulation that lot sizes be 2.5 acres minimum.

*Mike Trembly made a motion to approve R24-05 Disposal of Town Property with a minimum of 2.5 acre lots. Chris Neff seconded the motion. Jeanie Urban and Guy Johnston counted votes. There were 26 electors present at the meeting, 3 voters abstained from voting, 1 not voting and there were 22 Ayes and 1 Nay, motion carried.*

Chairperson Renz thanked everyone for coming and said unless there were any more questions, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

*Motion made (Chris Webb/Chris Neff) to adjourn the Annual Town meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

*These minutes represent the general subject matter discussed in the meeting but do not reflect a verbatim documentation of the subjects and conversation that took place.*

Submitted by: Lisa Meyer, Clerk-Treasurer

Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@townofbarneswi.gov Fax: 715-795-2784