

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, April 20th, 2021
7:00pm at Barnes Town Hall

(UNAPPROVED)

The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Electors of the Town of Barnes was called to order at 7:00pm by newly elected Chairperson Tom Renz. Board Supervisors Seana Frint and Eric Neff were in attendance as well as newly elected supervisors Jim Frint and Dave Scully. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judy Bourassa and Roads & Property Foreman Jeff Jordheim.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

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

7:02pm Motion made (Eric Neff, seconded by Seana Frint) to approve the agenda. Voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Approval of 2020 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were distributed upon entry. Chairperson Renz asked if there were any corrections to the minutes-there were none.

Pat Johnston and Dawn Piburn were asked to count votes and agreed to do so.

7:03pm Motion made (Chris Webb, seconded by Eric Neff) to approve the 2020 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. A hand vote was taken with 23 voting yes and 2 attending via Zoom also voted yes. 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 2020 were available upon entry to this meeting. A full copy of the audit is available at the Town Clerk's office.

ELECTION RESULTS

The result of the Spring Election for Town Board Chair was 279 for Tom Renz, he was unopposed. The results for Town Supervisor were 200 votes for Jim Frint, 171 votes for Dave Scully, 142 votes for Donna Porter and 125 votes for Susan Jansen. 340 out of 751 eligible voters voted, 45%.

The Audit Report and Treasurer's Report were presented by Clerk/Treasurer Judy Bourassa

AUDIT REPORT

The CPA firm completed the audit of our books on March 31st-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 12/31/20. On page 4, the receipts in 2020 total \$1,675,129 and the disbursements total \$1,516,209. Our receipts were approximately \$20,000 more than budgeted and our disbursement were approximately \$139,000 less than budgeted. The auditor did comment that we have a custodial credit risk due to not having a deposit policy in the event of a bank failure. One way to reduce that risk is to have funds in a Certificate of Deposit at various banks versus all in the Money Market account at Chippewa Valley Bank.

Chairperson Renz reviewed the audit and then asked if there were any questions on the audit report. Hearing none, the clerk reviewed the Annual Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT – ANNUAL

The balance in the general checking account was \$96,466.10 as of December 31, 2020, which includes \$259.64 interest earned.

The balance in the Money Market account was \$918,142.25, an increase of \$338,586.33 from last year (CD cashed out) and includes \$1,281.07 interest earned. There was a balance of \$659,710.89 in the Tax Collection account which represents the 2020 taxes collected in December. This balance was prior to payments of the January Settlements to WITC, Drummond School District and Bayfield County.

The Vatten Paddlar account had a balance of \$1,551.73.

The PayPal account opened to accept donations to the Town (primarily Tomahawk Lake Park) had an opening balance of \$200.00.

The total of all accounts as of December 31, 2020 was \$1,676,070.97, an increase of \$273,146.32 from December of 2019.

TOWN OF BARNES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Meeting April 20, 2021

General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2020	\$105,075.18
Deposits and Credits	\$1,071,465.01
Checks and Payments	(\$3,276,231.86)
Transfers to Money Market & Tax Collection Accounts	(\$241,000.00)
Transfers from Money Market & Tax Collection Accounts	\$2,466,818.16
Less outstanding checks	(\$29,920.03)
Interest Earned	\$259.64
GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$96,466.10

Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2020	\$579,555.92
Deposits and Credits	\$115,624.26
Checks and Payments	(\$19,319.00)

Transfers to General Fund Checking	\$0
Transfers from General Fund Checking	\$241,000.00
Interest Earned	\$1,281.07
MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$918,142.25

FUND BREAKDOWNS

Money Market	
General Savings	\$283,249.81
Highway Dept.	
Sinking Fund	\$140,181.55
Emer. Srvs Sinking Fund	\$135,308.83
Parks & Rec. Sinking Fund	\$37,091.66
Tomahawk Lake Park Fund	\$2,989.38
Well Water Donations Fund	\$4,365.25
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Equipment	\$6,028.16
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Training	\$0
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	\$11,255.41
Land	
Acquisition Fund	\$88,909.95
Barnes Area Dev. Fund	\$19,687.47
S.Shore	\$160,000.00
Bridge Fund	
Election Equip Sinking Fund	\$6,000.00
Total all Money Market Funds	\$918,142.25

Tax Collection Account Balance January 1, 2020	\$650,256.31
Deposits and Credits	\$2,479,687.51
Checks and Payments	(\$2,470,232.93)
TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$659,710.89

Vatten Paddlar Account balance January 1, 2020	\$1,931.09
Deposits and Credits	\$895.00
Checks and Payments	(\$1,274.36)
VATTEN PADDLAR BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$1,551.73

PayPal Account balance January 1, 2020	\$0.00
Deposits and Credits	\$200.00
Transfers to MMA	\$0.00
ASSOCIATED BANK BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2020	\$200.00

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2020 \$1,676,070.97

INDEBTEDNESS \$100,000.00

Chairperson Webb then read the Chair's Annual Report:

Annual Report 2020
Town Board Chairman, Christine Webb
April 20, 2021

The past year has been challenging, for all of us. The pandemic, employee issues, projects and many other items kept the Board busy with meetings all year long. Thank you to Judy Bourassa-Town Clerk, Tami Hoff-Deputy Clerk, Tom Renz-Ambulance Director & Fire Chief, and Board Members, fire and ambulance personnel, highway and transfer site employees for keeping up with changing demands.

The Ambulance Department took the lead in keeping the Town Board and Barnes citizens updated as to Covid guidelines, coordinated a senior food delivery system, and managed grants for reimbursement of expenses. The Town Board and I appreciate all that our Emergency Services personnel did for our community during the onset of the pandemic.

The Town of Barnes was the first township in the county to hire full-time EMTs to cover daytime hours, a time when the volunteer EMTs are unavailable due to outside employment. While the first attempt was not successful in retaining the employees, another employment offer was made to an individual who should be starting in May.

The pandemic made for some tough decisions for the Town Board. Office and Town Hall closures, cancellation of community celebrations, reduction of services in recreation and transfer site, and other things that we took for granted, conflicted the Board members but following the CDC guidelines was important in keeping our citizens safe. The pandemic continues but as more vaccinations are taking place, the Town Board can again take up consideration of opening up buildings, parks and celebrations for this summer.

The Town Board continued making progress in changing policies and procedures to follow business-rules and allow for more consistent handling of day-to-day activities. My goal was to have more documentation for current Board Members, any future Board Member, employees, committees and agencies to make transition smooth for all projects when change dictates, such as elections. To that end, the Town Board entered into Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Wisconsin DNR, Barnestormers Snowmobile Club, Friends of Tomahawk Lake, and are working on MOU with Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area, and will be meeting with Lake Country ATV. These MOU explain the relationship between the Town and area organizations, and how we work together to benefit the town.

Employee policies were updated to reflect current times and issues, such as use of over-the-counter medications, supplementary employment, and responsibility for equipment damage, to ensure current and future employees understand the Town Board's expectations.

Denver Road project was complete after having the final culverts installed and blacktop put down early last year. The East Robinson Lake Road project was delayed due to the pandemic and restrictions in place, but the Town Board authorized a pre-payment for the work to be completed in 2021. This was necessary as the money spent on highway assets each year is used in the calculation of Transportation Aid for future years. The South Shore bridge replacement is on tract and still scheduled for 2022.

The Town now has a Road Management plan that will need updating in 2021, and the Recreation Committee is working on a Park Management plan for the individual parks. The Forest Management plan is still an idea and I hope to continue working with the Town Board to draft a plan.

I want to thank all past and current board members, committee members, advisors, the town attorney, engineers and engineering firms, governmental representatives, Wisconsin Towns Association and others, for allowing me to brainstorm ideas and get guidance on how to make decisions based on current law.

Thank You to those in the community who supported my ideas; and Thank You to those who disagreed but continued to support the community by staying involved and brainstorming ideas.

Christine Webb

Annual Highway Department Report

Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman then spoke:

He started March 8th so he couldn't report on the past year's activities, but reported that both E. Robinson Lake Rd and Bony Lake Rd will be re-paved this year, he is trying to coordinate it so they can be done at the same time (one after the other) in order to save a mobilization fee. If any property owners on those roads would like to have their driveways paved, please contact him at 715-795-2573. The Highway crew will be working on Moen Road this summer. They have been grading and will continue to do so as weather permits. We have been awarded \$7,500 from the Town Road Improvement Program (TRIP) and that has been designated for work on West Church Road.

He also reported that we are now using Midland Services as our new vendor for fuel, propane and lubricants – he expects to see a reduction in costs due to the billing format they use.

He also oversees the Transfer Site and said he would like to have our own storage facility for scrap metal. We are obtaining proposals for roof replacements in the Town complex area and he hopes they will be done by Memorial Day (or July 4th at the latest) – this includes the roof on Town Hall entry, skating rink warming house, public restrooms and pavilion. He asked if there were any questions and Suzette Tremblay said loggers are not stopping on E. Idlewild Lake Rd and they've nearly been hit on more than one occasion. Jeff will make sure the stop sign is visible and will add flags if needed. It will be referred to Sheriff's office if it continues to be a problem.

Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report

Chairperson Renz said he will be resigning his position as Ambulance Director and Fire Chief effective April 30, 2021. He will remain a member of the Department, however. The board will be meeting after the Annual Meeting to discuss the appointments of the Ambulance Director and Fire Chief. He reported that the new Emergency Services Building is complete with the exception of blacktopping around the building. It has been a challenging year due to the pandemic but we have been able to keep stock of the needed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The EMTs made masks for distribution and were able to secure funds from grants to help pay some of the added expenses due to the pandemic. A shopping program was offered to residents who were unable or unwilling to shop due to the pandemic as well. An extractor washer for the ESB was also purchased with grant funds. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Forest Fire Protection Grant Program to help pay for the purchase of a UTV from Polaris. With the addition of this vehicle, we could sell 2 ATVs, a snowmobile and rescue sled.

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

7:38pm Motion made (Chris Webb, seconded by Marcia Wellnitz) to adjourn the annual town meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried with 25 votes for and 0 votes opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

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: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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