

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Tom Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting in the Town Hall to order at 6:46PM. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim, Brett Frierhood and Brock Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag was said by all.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/27/2021 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 4/2, 4/20 and 4/27/2021 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

The clerk requested that the 4/27/2021 minutes be amended in regard to the re-hiring of Stan Maki, it had not previously been approved as stated by Chairman Renz.

Motion made (J. Frint/Neff) to approve the amended minutes of the 4/27 meeting as requested by the clerk and the minutes of the meetings in April. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes – there were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – an email from Jo Shaddy was received regarding the trees on Bony Lake Rd

Carol LeBreck addressed the board regarding the cutting of 3 large pines on Bony Lake Rd. She requested that the board NOT remove the 3 pines.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to open the floor for comment. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chair Renz asked Dave Schiess what was the criteria for tree removal in the Potawatomi area and he stated that that is platted land so it was based on the 33' right of way. Cris Neff said she agreed with Carol that we need to preserve trees because that's why people come to the area. Mike Tremblay suggested that a policy should be made or an ordinance in place with an appeal process. Chris Webb said years ago the RROW Committee decided to follow state statutes. Chair Renz said a policy needs to be developed and would like it referred back to the RROW Committee.

Motion made (Renz/J. Frint) to close the floor to comment. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area was reviewed. Eric Neff said he appreciated the cooperation between the town and FOECLA, Chairman Renz said he had concerns about the reference to a voluntary no wake program. Jim Bakken of FOECLA said the wording was open for discussion. Seana Frint said the town previously posted notices requesting compliance with a no wake rule and thought an educational approach would work best versus an enforcement approach. Cris Neff said the Lakes Committee recommended education efforts but

were never directed to do so. The board and the FOECLA group will meet to discuss the language and it will be on the June agenda.

Dave Scully gave a recap of his listening session with town business owners held May 12th. They met at Cedar Lodge and one suggestion was to institute a Chamber of Commerce. They would like to have more community based events like a Taste of Barnes, or an ice fishing contest and other events to draw people to the area. One issue is not having places for people to stay (besides Short Term Rentals) such as a campground. It was also suggested that businesses be allowed to dispose of their garbage at the Transfer Site. A Welcome Basket for new residents was suggested to make them aware of what Barnes has to offer. They would like the county to offer more services for Barnes residents since our town is a significant tax base for the county. There was also a suggestion that the Constable position be re-instated. They would also like to see the Tourism Committee be re-activated. He plans to meet again with the businesses in August and quarterly going forward.

Motion made (Scully/Renz) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Mike Tremblay said that with the increase in ATV traffic there is quite a bit of garbage being left on the side of the roads. He said if you want to increase traffic you have to deal with the downside such as more littering.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Dedication of UTV to George Stone Memorial. Chair Renz said that the family of George Stone asked that any money donated in George's name go to the Barnes Emergency Services and those funds were used to purchase the UTV. So as an ardent Chicago Cubs fan, a decal will be put on the UTV in George's memory.

Discussion regarding purchasing a portable speaker for use during Zoom meetings. Eric Neff said that Zoom meetings are here to stay, especially for committee meetings so he'd like Town funds be used to purchase a portable speaker that zeroes in on the speaker and allows everyone to hear.

Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) asking Eric Neff to research the purchase a speaker and report back to the board with costs. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A membership with the Iron River Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$95 was discussed.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to join the Iron River Chamber of Commerce. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Renewal of the Town's membership with the Wisconsin Town's Association at a cost of \$818.72 was discussed. This membership is very beneficial to the town so the board would like to continue our membership.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the renewal of the Town's WTA membership. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve April vouchers

Motion made (Renz/S. Frint) to approve the April vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$764,306.75 after transferring the tax collections into the General Fund. \$808,849.54 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account which includes donation to the Tomahawk Lake Park fund; \$3,981.04 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account with additional sponsorship checks received. The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$1,814.26, there are still a few refund checks outstanding; the PayPal account has a balance \$2,487.36 (all TLP donations) for a total of all funds of \$1,581,438.95 with \$344.77 in interest earned so far this year.

Motion made (Scully/S. Frint) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Roads

Honeymoon trail has been repaired

Grader operations have stopped due to dry weather

Breaker run, 1 ¼ ¾ gravel has been hauled and stocked pile behind ring for quick fixes

Cold mix has been hauled and stocked pile as well

Shouldering has started on Pease road and will continue through the town until completed

Reason for this is to keep the asphalt from breaking off.

Raking at the cemetery

Pulverizes will start this week, it will be doing both roads

The pulverized roads will set for a couple weeks before paving starts. Per Jon Humburg/Northwoods Paving

Fire Hall-parking lot paving soon to have the bid. This will be paved at the same time as the roads.

Equipment

The old brush mower has been welded and new blades ordered, new rear tires have been ordered waiting for them to show up and the shop will remove take tires and rims to Pomp's for the change out.

Pomp's charges \$135.00/hr plus fuel to come here and do it on site. That rate starts when they leave the shop and return to their shop.

The Ba 25 broom for the wheel loader is on and being used

John Deere Lawn mower is ready for the summer. Deck is overhauled along with the broom, new bearing, balance wheels, wafers

The newer John Deere brush mower has been gone through and is ready. Also, waiting for new front tires for that as well.

A representative of Lulich Implement asked the board to re-consider the purchase of a boom tractor at a cost of \$86,500. There is a price increase coming and he's offering a rent to purchase, and would take our two tractors in trade. He wants \$26,500 down and after 200 hours (or by the 1st of January at the latest) the balance would be due. He stated if it's something the board is considering for next year's budget it makes sense to purchase it now which would save approximately \$15k over the cost next year. Since it isn't an agenda item, no action was taken.

Jeff provided a drawing of the paving at the ESB (Emergency Services Building) to see if that is what the board is looking to do. Chairman Renz said yes. Jeff asked if the board would like to get a quote for the Highway Garage/Town Hall pavement. The board said yes, to proceed with getting a quote.

A discussion was held regarding allowing commercial businesses to use the brush site and if so, what fees would be charged. Jeff suggested charging commercial businesses \$25 for a commercial load of stumps. The cost to bring in a shredder is \$5,500/day. Some counties are banning burning and Bayfield County may eventually do the same. Supervisor Frint asked what others are charging commercial businesses, Jeff said he would call around. The board tabled the charging for commercial loads until Jeff researches what others are charging.

Fire Department Report – Brock Friermood

Monthly report Fire

0 Runs

The side by side is ready for operation. The forestry grant for this has been closed out as we have received the reimbursement. I will be looking at applying for the forestry grant for the upcoming fiscal year, applications are due by July 1st. One member has recently completed their entry level training, looking forward to them responding to calls. I will continue to serve as the training officer for the time being. I will be attending the County Fire Association meeting next week, there is a couple items they will be discussing that could impact the fire department in the future. One being how dispatch pages out for structure fires and the other being WISCOM updates.

Brock requested that an Assistant Fire Chief be named and provided a proposal for a new Fire Engine Truck. He would like Richard Renz to be appointed as Assistant Fire Chief.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to put out a request for bids due by the July monthly board meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to appoint Richard Renz as Assistant Fire Chief. Roll call vote taken, with Scully, J. Frint, Neff and S. Frint voting yes, Tom Renz abstained.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Friermood

Monthly report Ambulance

2 Ambulance calls at time of this report since last Board meeting. One to the Town of Highland for a trauma incident, the second in Barnes for an allergic reaction.

Kaylee has started in her full-time position. I took vacation from my regular job to train her during her first week. She is very enthusiastic and I think she will be a good fit for the Town.

The ambulance currently has a needed repair pending for a DEF tank heater failure. The repair is entirely covered under warranty and will be taking place as soon as the new part is received by the dealer and an appointment is scheduled. The coverage agreement with Sawyer County was invoked during the diagnostic appointment last week, and will likely be used for the repair appointment.

Betty Ebert, Director of Gordon-Wascott Ambulance, has contacted me about putting a Coverage/Backup and Mutual Aid agreement into place between the two services. We do not currently have a coverage agreement with Gordon-Wascott and are unsure of an existing mutual aid agreement. We are currently working on a draft agreement which I will plan on bringing to the Board possibly at the June meeting. Betty has also been on our roster as an EMT and has chosen to end her employment with the Town.

Bayfield County Board is currently commissioning an EMS Study Committee with replies for participation and comments on their resolution requested by the end of May. The State of Wisconsin has released new statewide EMS protocols which are currently being reviewed for possible adoption by the Bayfield-Ashland Counties EMS Council and member services.

I am continuing to onboard new members who are in various stages of licensure. Current roster: 7 EMTs, 2 EMRs, 1 EMT Trainee, 2 EMT Students.

Brett introduced the new full-time EMT, Kaylee Silverness and requested the appointment of a Secretary/Treasurer following the resignation of Donna Porter. Brett submitted Robin

Friermood's name as his nomination for Secretary/Treasurer. He said no one else on the service was interested in the position.

Motion made (S.Frint/Neff) to name Robin Friermood as the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Ambulance Service, voice vote taken, motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

1. Corey Buttke of 53590 Phillips Dr-Class A Special Use application for a camper in a R-2 zoning district

Motion made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the application of Corey Buttke. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

2. Mountaineer Properties LLC of 52230 Moen Rd-Re-zone application to change zoning district from Commercial to Industrial to continue sawmill activities on County Hwy N.

Motion made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the application of Mountaineer Properties LLC re-zone application. Voice vote taken, motion carried

3. Thomas Mitchell & Jill Marten of 5055 Hall Rd-Class A Special Use application to build a residence/cabin on property zoned F-1

Motion made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve the application of Thomas Mitchell & Jill Marten. Voice vote taken, motion carried

4. Jesse Miller of 48665 Stone Rd-Class A Special Use application for short term rentals

Motion made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve the application of Jesse Miller for short term rentals. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb –Baiss operations are scheduled to start June 2nd, we have 2 divers set up, Terrance Bauer and Cris Neff, both dove last year. A herbicide barrier is going to be built for use next year. CBCW boat landing monitoring has begun and the shoreline monitors have been contacted. A training session for identifying aquatic invasive species is being organized, hopefully to take place in June. Maps of the locations of A.I.S. in the various lakes will be displayed at the boat landings. Chris Webb asked the board to approve the appointment of Judith Schmidt to the committee. She currently works as a paid boat landing monitor.

Motion made (Renz/S. Frint) to approve the appointment of Judith Schmidt as a member of the committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Parks & Rec Committee - Pat Johnston

Update on Town Parks

The sign in front of the Town Hall needs to be maintained (updated with meeting notices) which Donna Porter had been doing but is no longer able to. Chairman Renz suggested that the EMTs

could maintain it but Pat suggested that Gary Scharlau have the responsibility. A form needs to be completed and filed with the clerk who will then provide the information to Hwy Dept.

A sub-committee has been formed to look into replacing the tennis courts and will get some quotes.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to open the floor so Donna Porter can be recognized. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

She reported that the cracks that have been tarred can't be fixed and the base is good but the top has to be replaced. Marcia Wellnitz thought the tennis court base was put in in 1978.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The dock at TLP needs to be repaired and installed since swimming will be allowed this summer as the lake will not be chemically treated this year. Jeff will work with Pat to get that done.

The sledding hill was discussed and there is a need for off road parking. Town land is owned across the road so that could possibly be used for parking. She will work with Jeff Jordheim on that.

Roads & Right Of Way Committee: Jim Frint

Jim Frint reported the resignation of Don Dealing as chair and requested approval to appoint Chauncey Bangs as a member of the committee.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the appointment of Chauncey Bangs as a member of the committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (S.Frint/Neff) to accept the resignation of Don Dealing as chair. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Timeline.

Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chris Webb wanted the minutes to reflect that on June 3rd Bayfield County is holding a listening session at the Town Pavilion in the Town Park at 10am regarding the senior meals. She wants to get the word out so we get a good turnout and requested people attend and let their voices be heard.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.