

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
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 6:30PM. 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.

Chairman Renz asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 8/16/2022 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 8/16 and 8/23/2022 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to amend the agenda moving item #16a (AIS Committee) to item #6. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (Scully/S.Frint) to approve the minutes of the 8/16 monthly board meeting and the minutes of the 8/16 and 8/23 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session -there were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – Timber cutting notices were received, copies on the back table; the clerk reported receiving the resignation of the Deputy Clerk, Tami Hoff, effective 12/31/2022. The Chief Inspector of Elections, Florence Prickett, is also resigning her position, she will be replaced by alternate election inspector, Carol Westerberg. An email was received from Jim Bakken reporting Lake Gauging Graphs on several area lakes thru September 1st; the affidavit of publication of the short-term rental ordinance was received; Bayfield County Economic Development Corp. sent a letter requesting a contribution; an email was received from Lynn Divine, Bayfield Co. clerk regarding a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment; a letter was received from DNR listing the properties that have applied MFL designation and asked that it be reviewed; a letter was received asking for \$150 to facilitate the placement of dumpsters for CWD prevention; another Election Security Subgrant Program was announced which could provide \$1,200 in funding for election security. The clerk would like the board to consider purchasing another ExpressVote machine with funds, this would be a 2023 budget item.

A.I.S. Committee-Chris Webb

The Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference is looking for topics for next year's meeting – it has been suggested that the town might do a presentation about the barrier that was used in Tomahawk. They also discussed the increase in purple loosestrife and how we can combat it. Beetles can be raised and harvested and moved to areas where it's abundant. Lee Wiesner spearheaded the removal of Arrow Arnum and Wild Horseradish on the Middle. The water tests results will be posted on the town website. 3 grants are to be submitted and resolutions are needed from the board.

The committee is requesting the board approve the 3 Resolutions (CBCW, Surface Water Planning and Early Detection, Rapid Response) for DNR Grants.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve Resolution R22-03, Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant for the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, Barnes Area Lakes; Resolution R22-04, Surface Water Planning Grant for the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, Barnes Area Lakes and Resolution R22-05, Early Detection, Rapid Response Grant for the Lower Eau Claire Lake. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The A.I.S. Committee would like the board to hire LEAPS, LLC for \$2,000 to apply for 2023 grants.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to approve the hiring of LEAPS, LLC to apply for 2023 grants. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Committee would like the board to ok the use of town property by the Conservation Club building to raise and harvest beetles for use in controlling purple loosestrife.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to allow the use of town property to raise and harvest beetles. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the Vatten Paddlar Coordinator vacancy. David DeForge has resigned and no one has stepped up to take his place.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to advertise for the Coordinator position. The clerk will put out a notice. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the reduction of the speed limit on Pease Rd. Supervisor Neff reported concerns about people speeding (55 mph is the limit) on that road. The town has the authority to reduce the speed no more than 10 mph with an engineering and traffic investigation. If the board elects not to lower the speed, he would like to see the board have signs on the blind hills installed warning of pedestrians on the road. Supervisor Seana Frint said there are issues with pedestrians on Lake Road as well. Supervisor Scully asked the Foreman if we have signs available to install, they would have to be ordered. Chairman Renz cautioned the board that there are other roads in town that may now also request the installation of signs.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) that warning signs be installed on Pease Rd. Voice vote taken with Tom Renz voting no and all other board members voting yes, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the re-opening of bids for parcels 2587 & 2589. Parcel 2587 is 36.297 acres and 2589 is 17.52 acres off of Lynx Rd. Bids must meet the \$1,000/acre minimum.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the posting of the bid notice by the clerk. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The EAP (Employee Assistance Program) thru Sand Creek is up for renewal-cost is \$20/yr per employee.

Motion made (Neff/S. Frint) to approve the renewal with Sand Creek. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion of renewing short term disability insurance thru Sun Life. Rates are increasing approximately 20%. This was tabled so the clerk can gather some other quotes from Horton.

Review of proposal from Midland Services for propane in 2023. The quote is \$1.79/gal assuming 12,000 gallons with “pay as you go” pricing. The Foreman is recommending that we sign the agreement with Midland Services for 2023.

Motion made (J. Frint/Neff) to sign the contract with Midland Services for 2023. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Consider placing an ad in the Bayfield Co. Visitor and Recreation guide. Last year we had a ¼ page ad at a cost of \$550.00.

Motion made (Neff/J.Frint) to advertise in the Guide for 1/4 page for \$550. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve August vouchers

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the August vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$659,445.78 which includes the 2nd installment of property taxes collected. \$863,535.93 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account after funds were transferred to the General account for the electrical upgrade at the Town Park and the tennis/pickleball court re-surfacing; \$3,144.81 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$2,025.39; the PayPal account has a balance \$4,926.44 and the Taste of Barnes account has a balance of \$4,164.00 for a total of all funds of \$1,533,078.35 with \$1,227.68 in interest earned so far this year.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim – Pine Chip has been double chip sealed, the docks will be removed on October 15th (the clerk will post that on the website). He reported he spoke with Bob Anderson, Bayfield County Highway Commissioner, who recommended that the town consider advising the town attorney of the situation since there is a possibility that the bid might need to be re-let which would most likely result in increased costs. The clerk will contact the attorney to make him aware of the concern.

1. Review the county’s mailbox policy- the USPS recently advised many residents that their mailboxes need to be raised. The desired height is 42-46” high. The town doesn’t have a mailbox policy, we follow the county’s policy.
2. Discussion on a Track Excavator-lease or buy. The highway crew used the bucket to dig a grave recently which was too big/long for the space so they looked into renting one. The foreman would like permission to be able to rent one if needed, the board gave their permission.
3. Discussion on proposed changes to the Foreman’s job description-Bayfield County dispatch called him out for a recent car accident but that isn’t spelled out in the job description. The board said it’s covered under “and other duties as assigned”.
4. Discussion regarding harassment of town employees-need a policy? Chairman Renz says the Sheriff’s office should be notified so there’s a record of it. Any town employee that’s

being harassed should report it (call 911). If there is another incident with the un-named property owner/resident, they will no longer be allowed to use the Transfer Site.

Monthly report Fire

Agenda Items:-Request to sell old MSA SCBA units and accessories, ATV tank sprayer, Fuel Tank, ATV that didn't get sold last time

Calls: 5 calls

- Carbon Monoxide alarm
- Power line
- Car accident
- debris pile burn
- mutual aid to Drummond for car accident

Submitted a grant a couple weeks ago for \$3300. Have a meeting with Stainless and Repair about the new truck build on Wednesday. Recently had 2 members finish the driving portion of driver/operator. The full-time EMT's have been cataloging and taking pictures of all items I am requesting to be placed on the auction site. Working on next year's budget.

Chairman Renz questioned selling the Fuel Tank, it was used for the Germann Road fire but Brock said that was the last time it was used. Supervisor Scully complimented Brock on his efforts to get grant funds. He also asked Brock to let Ricky Renz know that he did a great job with security for the Ruckus in the Woods event.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to authorize the sale of old MSA SCBA units and accessories, ATV tank sprayer, Fuel Tank and ATV. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Monthly report Ambulance

We have had 14 calls since the last meeting. As many may already know, a fatal mass casualty vehicle incident occurred on Friday of Labor Day weekend. I would like to thank our mutual aid partners including Great Divide, Gordon-Wascott, and Iron River ambulances for responding to help with the multiple patients. I would also like to thank the many bystanders who lent a hand in managing the situation. The responding ambulance and fire personnel did a fantastic job with all patients assessed, treated, and/or transported within 1 hour.

The full-time EMTs continue to work on grants. Currently looking into an Alliant Energy grant and the possibility of an Enbridge Grant. The State EMS Flex Grant is still being processed but awards have not been made yet. We have been told all departments that have applied will receive funding, however the actual amounts as compared to what was requested has not been determined. It has been reported over half of the 800 EMS agencies in the State applied for the grant, with a requested total of \$65 million as compared to the \$12 million set aside for the grant. At a state level these figures as well as feedback on the ARPA supplement to the FAP funding are being used to further show the need for increased EMS funding and push for EMS to become an essential service.

I continue to receive inquiries into EMT positions, however have not received any applications recently. I will be working on a new job posting for the open full-time position as well as looking for additional part-time.

I have ordered 6 portable radios using the first half of the ARPA supplement funding with the plan of taking the older Motorola XTS radios out of front line use and moving some of the newer grant radios to the fire department. The plan is to purchase additional radios with the second half of the funding when it is received in the spring.

The automatic side door step on the ambulance is currently out of service. The electric actuator has failed and the model has been obsoleted by the manufacturer. Pomasl has been assisting in locating a replacement but so far has been unsuccessful. The entire step may need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

The Public Participation Plan that the Comprehensive Plan Use Update Committee was reviewed. The Land Use Planning Commission recommends the board adopt the plan.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to adopt the Public Participation Plan as recommended. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Class A Special Use application for Michael & Lizabeth Kusay of 50010 Point O Pines Rd for a short term rental was approved by the LUPC and recommends the board approve as well.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to approve Short Term Rental application of the Kusays until December 31st at which time they will need to get a license. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Cemetery Committee-Dave Schiess

Dave reported that there are 2 vacancies on the committee so the clerk will put out a notice trying to recruit additional members.

A proposal from Scott Construction to chip seal the cemetery roads was reviewed. The cost is \$35,500. It was suggested that that be considered as a budget item and possibly putting funds aside for 3 or 4 years.

Parks & Rec Committee

The committee would like to request bids for a garage to be built at Tomahawk Lake Park. Supervisor Scully asked if the committee has the funds for the concrete slab and Chairman Renz said yes.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to authorize the clerk to post bid notices for the 30x32 garage. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Timeline—a campground presentation will be done in April; the 2nd Saturday in September will be designated as an annual town picnic for employees and volunteers; the Employee of the Year program will be re-instated in December-accepting nominations for 2022.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.