

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 17th, 2023
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Office

APPROVED

Chairman 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 Eric Neff, Dave Scully, Jim Frint and Seanna Frint in attendance. Clerk Lisa Meyer verified public notice. Also in attendance were Brock Frierhood, Jeff Jordheim and Jeff Hong. Brett Frierhood arrived at 6:43pm.

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

Chairman Renz (Neff/Scully) asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 09/19/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 9/20 and 9/27/23 Special Town Board Meetings.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 09/19/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 9/20 and 9/27/23 Special Town Board Meetings. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – Chris Webb spoke about the timelines for viewing and approving the Comprehensive Plan. After the 30 day required posting it would be up for approval at the Dec. 2023 board meeting.

Chairman Renz mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony at the salt/sand shed earlier this evening and declared the shed the “Donna Porter Salt/Sand Shed”

Clerk Correspondence – Does the board have any interest in getting a quote for wreaths to decorate for x-mas? Bayfield Co Amendatory Ordinance 2023-11 (UDC Regulation) and 2023-13 (ATV Routes) was adopted. Dept. of Safety and Professional Services (DSPA) has given conditional approval to Hunstad Cold Storage for a 6,240 sq. ft. building at 3925 County Hwy N. The Old Duck Hunters would like the use of the hall again next year for the Gordon MacQuarrie Pilgrimage Aug. 23rd through the 25th. Water sample results for the Town Hall were favorable.

Motion to rescind motion to discontinue use of Positive Pay with Associated Bank-S.Frint/Renz

A motion was made (S.Frint/Renz) to rescind motion to discontinue Positive Pay. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

7) Discussion regarding annual tax newsletter – Chris Webb to provide AIS volunteer info for newsletter and information regarding the Transfer Site pass fee of \$120/yr will be added.

8) Consider 2 year operator license application for Kristina Foss

A motion was made (Scully/Renz) to approve operator’s license for Kristina Foss. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

9) Consider making a donation to the Bayfield Co Land & Water to contribute towards placement of carcass dumpsters throughout the county

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve \$150.00 donation to Bayfield Co Land & Water for carcass dumpsters. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

10) Consider donation for tree/plaque in the Town Park as requested by Pat Johnston in memory of Marcia Wellnitz at the 9/19 board meeting.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Pat Johnson reviewed Marcia's long resume of committee involvement with the town and stated that she felt it was necessary to honor Marcia with a maple tree. Pat will research the cost and location for the purchase of the tree. The Garden club will plant and take care of the tree for 2 years.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz mentioned that if a tree was to be placed as a memorial for Marcia Wellnitz, that we should also plant one in memory of Viola Frierhood due to her long service to the town as well.

A motion was made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve a donation for a tree/plaque in memory of Marcia Wellnitz, Viola Frierhood and an additional tree so the garden club would have three total for aesthetics. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

11) Review Norvado proposal

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chris Webb explained that the internet service at the Hall was a problem for doing Zoom or Teams calls. She also said that a business class point to point system would be more robust and save the town around \$100/month

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

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve the point to point wi-fi internet proposal from Norvado. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

12) Campground Update – Dave Scully

Dave explained that the Town was not awarded the grant for the campground. He expressed the need for support from the ATV/UTV clubs. Dave is seeking approval from the board to apply for the grant again in 2024 and will work directly with the clubs to ensure approval. Item tabled for Nov. board meeting.

13) Discussion regarding Point O Pines Rd

Supervisor Scully stated that he had received complaints of residents parking on the road. Jeff Jordheim stated that he had spoken with the resident/residents parking on the road previously regarding the same matter. Chairman Renz stated that it was possibly a sheriff issue. Sending a letter was discussed. Chairman Renz and Jeff Jordheim stated they will speak to the residents again.

14) Discussion regarding renewal of Sand Creek Employee Assistance Program for employees at a cost of \$20 per employee.

A motion was made (Scully/S.Frint) to approve renewal of Sand Creek EAP Program for employees. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

15) Discuss Saving Account

Due to the FDIC only insured up to \$250,000 the board discussed taking the Towns money market savings account and splitting it between several banks to ensure no losses. Further research will be done into CD's and other interest earning savings accounts and rates offered before a decision is made.

16) Discussion regarding Town's Legal Counsel

Chairman Renz would like to seek to retain new legal counsel. He stated dissatisfaction with current counsel and also stated due to the current counsel also representing the county there could be a conflict of interest.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve contacting other legal firms. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

17) Consider making a donation to Jack Attack Show Choir

A motion was made (Neff/S.Frint) to approve a \$500.00 donation to the Jack Attack Show Choir. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The September vouchers were reviewed.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the September vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

18) Treasurer's Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$200,439.97; \$1,071,096.85 is the ending balance in the Money Market account with \$1,602.66 interest earned; \$3,471.75 is the ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account after all expenses/reimbursements have been paid; The PayPal account has a balance \$5,927.53; Taste of Barnes account has balance of \$4,132.15 and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$3869.37 for a total of all funds of \$1,284,859.47 with \$7,298.09 interest earned year to date.

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

Monthly Roads/Property Report

Highway Dept. Report-Jeff Jordheim

Jeff Hong spoke on behalf of the transfer site. He stated that Republic is raising the price to pick up mattresses and suggested that we raise the price at the transfer site. This issue was tabled for the Nov. board meeting.

1. Discussion on Tri,TRID, and Tris entitlement program. The Town of Barnes has applied for "TRI-entitlement program. Meaning, this is a 50 – 50 program. 50% Town, 50% County. Dollars to be used for the Ellison/ Moore Road intersection.

2. Lake Road re-hab: The Roads & Right of Way Committee recommends that the town move forward with seeking funding of a 90/10 split. The Board authorized the Foreman to move forward with the project.

Equipment:

Truck 42 has been repaired

Wheel Loader head plow is repaired and do deliver Oct. 18

450 E wheel backhoe: 2000-hour service by Fabick

140H Motor Grader: Axel repair by Fabick

Land Pride ditch Mower: delivered and put into service

Building (s): Salt/shed complete. Salt will be hauled next few days.

Old Salt/Sand shed to be demolished when empty

Docks: Will be removed Oct. 24th & 25th & braces installed

Monthly Fire Dept. Report

Fire Dept. Report-Brock Frierhood

Calls: 2

-1 Motorcycle crash

-1 Carbon Monoxide call

- New Engine is still being built. Being sent to paint.
- Tender 2 had to go to Boyer for service. It is back and in service.
- Searching for grants. Received and signed papers for this year's DNR FFP grant.

Monthly Ambulance Dept. Report

Ambulance Dept. Report-Brett Frierhood

7 calls since last meeting. One was to the Town of Highland and two were coverage into Iron River. Jennifer has been on-boarded and worked a few training shifts as a third. She is scheduled for a couple upcoming shifts as a second EMT. Sarah helped to cover two calls this month during her scheduled night hours.

Submitted grant report provided by A.J. of activity. Speaking with him, he advised that there has been difficulty in finding grant opportunities due to it nearing the end of the year and funding having already been given out.

The ambulance sustained a small amount of damage while taking garbage to the transfer site last week. An incident report was submitted and Pomasl is working on an estimate for repair. I have not received the estimate as of Friday, however expected time to complete the repair is 1 to 1.5 weeks primarily due to the graphics and paint work that is needed.

A copy of the 4th of July Fundraiser was also discussed.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

Land Use Planning Commission:

- Recommend approval of Short Term Rental application for Eric & Amy Altman of 3981 E Robinson Lake Rd.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the short term rental application for Eric & Amy Altman of 3981 E Robinson Lake Rd. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb

- Update on meeting with Town of Gordon Town Board
- Surface Water Grants were reviewed with DNR on Tuesday October 17th from 9-11:00 am via Teams
- Request approve of the Aquatic Management Plan, Amendment #4, for Cranberry Lake.

A motion was made (Neff/Renz) to approve Aquatic Management Plan Amendment #4 for Cranberry Lake. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

- Authorize Tom Renz, Town Chairman to submit Clean Boats Clean Waters application.

A motion was made (Neff/S.Frint) to authorize Chairman Renz to submit Clean Boats Clean Waters application. Voice vote taken, motion carried, with Chairman Renz abstaining.

Cemetery Committee – Dave Schiess

- Approval of new member – Tam Larson

A motion was made (Neff/S.Frint) to approve Tam Larson as a member of the Cemetery Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

- Placement of Kiosk

Dave Schiess recommended the kiosk be placed by the flag. Chis Webb also discussed the VFW memorial that may possibly be placed at the cemetery. Dave reported that Al Jacobson passed away the funeral will be on 11/4 and that Al worked at the transfer site and for the DNR for a very long time. The Board said the Cemetery Committee can decide where to place the kiosk.

The timeline was reviewed–Campground Presentation was moved to spring of 2024. Outlet Bay Intersection was changed to 2025/2026.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM.