

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 2022
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Supervisor Seana Frint 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 and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Chairperson Tom Renz was absent. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Brett Friermood and Brock Friermood and Jeff Hong of the Highway Dept. were also in attendance in the Town Hall. Foreman Jeff Jordheim was absent.

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

Supervisor Frint asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 9/20/2022 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 9/6, 9/13 and 9/21/2022 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the minutes of the 9/20 monthly board meeting and the minutes of the 9/6, 9/13 and 9/21 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session –there were none

Clerk Correspondence – a letter was received from the county clerk with the amendment to the zoning ordinance as previously notified; a letter from the county administrator regarding a proposal to supplement funding for local Emergency Medical Services; another letter was received from the administrator regarding requesting letters of support for broadband funding.

Discussion regarding a donation to the CWD Prevention Program of \$150.

Motion made (Scully/J. Frint) to donate \$150 to the CWD Prevention Program. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the opening of County roads in Bayfield to ATV use. The County is surveying towns/villages looking for feedback. The clerk reported that the Highway Foreman does not object to the opening of county roads. Supervisor Jim Frint said he was not in favor of it due to safety concerns.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) that we approve the opening of the county roads but allow the municipalities to use their discretion on opening of roads in their own community. Roll call vote taken, with Supervisors Jim and Seana Frint voting no and Supervisors Scully and Neff voting yes (one board member was absent); motion failed.

The clerk asked the board for input of items to include in the 2023 Newsletter that is sent out with the tax bills in early December. The board will advise the clerk of any items they would like to be included.

The board reviewed the Cigarette and Tobacco Products license application from Tracks, Inn.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the application of Tracks Inn. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Resolution 22-06 to adopt the Rules of Conduct at Town Meetings was approved at the June 21 meeting. The clerk is requesting that the board members sign the resolution. Supervisor Seana Frint read the resolution and the board members signed the resolution.

With the resignation of Florence Prickett as the Chief Election Inspector, the clerk would like the board to appoint Carol Westerberg as the new Chief. Carol has completing her training and will serve as Chief at the November 8th election. The clerk would also like the board to appoint two new election inspectors, Vicki Tello as a regular inspector and Darlene Hehl as an alternate inspector.

Motion made (S.Frint/Scully) to appoint Carol Westerberg as Chief Election Inspector and Vicki Tello as a regular election inspector and Darlene Hehl as an alternate election inspector. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Resolution 22-07 was considered- it allows the clerk to use less than 7 election inspectors as required by state statute. The clerk can determine how many inspectors are needed, with a minimum of 3. Supervisor Seana Frint read the resolution.

Motion made (S.Frint/J.Frint) to adopt Resolution 22-07, Number of Election Officials. Roll call vote taken, with all members voting yes, motion carried.

The clerk asked the board to discuss whether or not the Vatten Paddlar coordinator position would be a paid position and if so, what would the compensation be. The previous coordinator received compensation of \$1,400 one year, but was not paid any other year.

Motion made (S. Frint/Neff) to pay the Vatten Paddlar Coordinator a fee of \$1,400 this year if someone steps forward.

Discussion followed with Supervisor Scully concerned that if the Vatten Paddlar Coordinator is compensated, then should the Taste of Barnes Coordinator also be? Supervisor Seana Frint mentioned the 4th of July Coordinator – should they be compensated as well?

Roll call vote taken with Supervisors S. Frint and Neff voting yes, Supervisors J. Frint and Scully voting no, motion failed.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve September vouchers

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$573,224.40 which includes the transfers from the Money Market account. 814,143.40 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account after funds were transferred to the General account for the SCBA units purchased by the Fire Dept; \$3,140.81 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$2,001.39; the PayPal account has a balance \$4,970.50 and the Taste of Barnes account has a balance of \$4,790.00 for a total of all funds of \$1,397,480.50 with \$1,702.55 in interest earned so far this year.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Supervisor Seana Frint read the Foreman's report:

September Road/Property Report

Roads: Hwy N shoulder @ Lake Road Is complete. County placed the gravel. Town of Barnes hauled the gravel and staged it behind the garage. County hauled the gravel from there to the project location. The town did supply the second the second grader w/the wheel packer. The Local ATV/UTV Club purchased the gravel.

Salt/Sand: Have been in contact with Iron River and Gravel to start mixing five hundred ton for the season. There should be an adequate amount of salt from last year for the mix this year. May have to purchase a small amount to get through the season after the first of the year.

Equipment: Plow trucks will be changed over when the salt/sand haul is complete. Truck 42 is schedule for new drive tires this month. Truck 30 is waiting for a conveyor chain, expected any day now. Grader will be set-up for snow plowing after freeze up. Mowers will be washed and parked in the transfer site building.

Parks/Cemetery: Final mowing is ongoing as well as leave clean-up at the parks and at the cemetery.

Docks: Docks are being removed. The post will be placed in the channel later, dependent on weather.

Transfer Site: Cardboard Baler is due any day now. Thinking last week in October. The town will be accepting cardboard from the residents as well as businesses.

1. Discussion was held regarding proposed changes as to how fees are collected at the Transfer Site. Jeff Hong, Hwy crewmember, has worked in the field for many years and has visited area sites and recommends issuing an annual card to property owners at a cost of \$120 per year for garbage (\$5 for a 2nd card). A new debit/credit card system would be implemented and cash would no longer be accepted; checks would still be accepted. Fees for non-garbage would still be charged the same fees (and would be paid by credit/debit card) and recycling and scrap metal would still be free. There would be additional startup costs with the purchase of two hand held card readers (one free), the cards, upgrade of router and electrical and a monthly fee of \$16.99 for the router. The cost per transaction would be .85 of 1.00% plus .03 per transaction and a monthly fee of \$10.00 month.

Supervisor Scully said he doesn't want this to be a money maker for the town, he just wants to break even (cover the expenses of the Transfer Site).

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

Chris Webb was in attendance and the board asked her opinion. She thought it was a good idea and she thought it would streamline things and that some of the elderly property owners would appreciate the convenience of not having to pay each time. Doug Westerberg asked if there is a cap (limited number of bags per year), Jeff said as long as its household garbage, no. Guy Johnston asked about the cost to replace a card, it would cost \$5. He also asked if it would be open to non-residents, the board said that might be something to consider.

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

Motion made (Neff/J. Frint) that we change fee collection to the card system and credit card payments. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Monthly report Fire

Calls: 1 call-vehicle fire in Highland

Met with Stainless and Repair to finalize and sign the contract for the new truck build. Right now they are expecting it to be completed 4th quarter of next year.

Recently received 2 grants, one is the DNR wildland grant. The other is a \$3300 grant from Compeer Financial. Will be working on getting the items that were requested under these grants.

The auction items should be on the auction block soon.

Had 2 members finish the operator part of driver/operator. The Fire Department was recognized for their commitment to fire safety and prevention and was awarded the Larry Cerreta Fire Safety Education Award. Supervisor Scully congratulated Brock on all his hard work obtaining grants and on receipt of the award and a round of applause was given by all in attendance.

Monthly report Ambulance

After a run of multiple calls last month, there has been 1 ambulance call since the last meeting. The fire department had an additional call into Highland that medical was not dispatched for.

The full-time EMTs have been working on the surplus auction items and have uploaded the information. A grant through Enbridge has been applied for that can supply up to \$7500. An inventory list has been created detailing location of equipment and supplies for each cabinet of the ambulance.

Most members are currently working on the online refresher class. The online portion is open through the end of November with an in-person skills day scheduled for November 5th.

The awarded total for the EMS Flex grant was increased to \$1895. The grant has been accepted and a revised budget submitted, but the award has not been received yet. The new radios have arrived and are being programmed and tested. Information has been submitted to the State for use on WISCOM and I am currently waiting on confirmation it has been completed prior to distributing the radios.

Bayfield County has included a provision in the 2023 budget to provide \$20,000 in additional funding to each of the 9 ambulance services within the County. This provision would also create a county level non-transporting Mass Casualty Incident team to provide resources in case of large incidents.

I have received an application from Les Luder to join the department as a volunteer EMT. Les is a retired paramedic and is often in the area and would be able to help respond to calls.

Brett presented the application of Les Luder as a part-time EMT. He requested that the board approve his appointment to the Barnes Emergency Services.

Motion made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve Les Luder's application as a part time EMT. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb

Chris updated the board on A.I.S. activities and the grant applications that are being submitted for 2023. The activities have wrapped up and the boat landing monitors are finished now with the Musky Tournament the first weekend in October. 4 grants are being applied for in 2023 and

includes the Lower Eau Claire Lake where curly-leaf pondweed was recently detected. Reimbursement requests will be submitted over the next month or so. They continue to need volunteers and want to reach out to new residents/property owners. They would like the board to consider increasing the boat landing monitors wage to \$15/hr. Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes has committed some funding with donations.

Cemetery Committee

The committee would like the board to budget funds in the 2023 budget to pay for new kiosk/message boards at the cemetery. They aren't waterproof and are in disrepair.

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

Chris Webb addressed the board regarding a veteran memorial that was proposed a few years back. She is asking that the board consider NOT placing any new kiosks where they currently are as the VFW Auxiliary is looking into developing that area for a veteran memorial.

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

Supervisor Frint reviewed the Timeline –

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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