

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2022 BUDGET HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
and MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday – November 16, 2021 at 6:00PM
At Barnes Town Hall
(UNAPPROVED)**

At 6:00PM, Chairman Tom Renz called the Annual Public Budget Hearing to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Dave Scully and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Supervisors Seana and Jim Frint joined via conference call. Also present was Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman, Brett Frierhood, Ambulance Director and Brock Frierhood, Fire Chief. Judy Bourassa verified public notice. The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

Discussion of the 2022 Proposed Town Budget –

The levy for 2021 (payable in 2022) would be \$851,387.00, an increase of \$29,809.00 which is allowable net new construction and the amount of the principal and interest payment on the loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. Chairman Renz asked if there are any questions regarding the 2022 budget. Chris Webb asked about financing for the new fire engine, Chairman Renz stated since we don't know when the truck will be completed, we have approximately \$180,000 in a sinking fund and the remainder will be financed, possibly in 2023. Ron Kalla asked if there was any funding for the campground and was told no, there is not. Tami Hoff asked why there is such a large increase in the Public Safety budget and the Conservation & Development budget and Chairman Renz stated that is due to adding a 3rd EMT for the overnight shift. The increase in Conservation & Development is due to additional grants and the hiring of a grant writer. Cecil Hehl asked if the budget reflects any new blacktopping projects and Chairman Renz stated we did Bony Lake Rd and E. Robinson Lake Rd this year and the S. Shore Bridge project is the main project for 2022. We have to payout the full cost (estimated at \$420k) but will be reimbursed 80% Federal, 10% State and 10% County once the project is completed. Donna Porter asked about the EMT issue, there are currently 12 EMTs so why aren't they responding? She also asked about the new ESB having a sleeping area to accommodate out of town responders and was anyone recruiting EMT's from the surrounding communities who might volunteer. Chairman Renz said all departments have a shortage of EMTs. She asked about the requirement that EMTs successfully complete a entry level firefighter class and was told that would be removed. Lee Weisner asked about the budget for Conservation & Development (which includes 2 new grants and a wage increase for boat landing monitors). Cecil Hehl asked about the docks on Breakfast Lake and Island Lake and was told they would be the responsibility of Potawatomi, not the town. Carol LeBreck requested that the details of the Profit & Loss and Levy Limit worksheet be available online on the website. She asked about the Intergovernmental Revenues and if those are anticipated income or guaranteed. She also asked about depleting the sinking funds. Lee Weisner asked if the re-surfacing of the tennis courts is included and it is. Guy Johnston asked about the purchase of the Transfer Site recycling compactor and was told it will significantly reduce our "tipping" fees and we anticipate we will re-coup the cost in just over a year. Pat Johnston asked about how the recycled materials will be handled, they will be compacted and sorted at the Republic Services facility. Tami Hoff asked about the wages for the janitorial work, Chairman Renz said it's part of the Highway Department.

Motion made (Chris Webb/Pat Johnston) to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Public Budget Hearing adjourned at 6:38PM.

At 6:39PM, the Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to order. There were 32 Electors present, including the board members and Jim and Seana Frint via conference call.

Chairman Renz read the language of Resolution R21-07 as follows: "BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the qualified electors of the Town of Barnes here assembled in a Special Town Meeting this 16th day of November, 2021, to adopt the 2021 town tax levy to be paid in 2022 in the sum of \$851,387.00 which will be levied for the purpose of Operating Expenses for the year 2022."

Motion made (Chris Webb/Guy Johnston) to adopt Resolution 21-07. A count of hands was taken with voting 31 yes and 1 voting no. Motion carried.

Resolution #21-08, Authorization to sell town property, was read. Two parcels, #2587 & 2589, approximately 40 acres each, are landlocked so Supervisor Jim Frint suggested at a previous meeting that the town should consider selling them. They are off of Lynx Rd in Potawatomi. Sue Weisner asked what the money received from the sale of property will go towards. Chairman Renz said it would go into the General Fund.

Motion made (Tami Hoff/Lee Weisner) to authorize the Town Board to sell Parcels 2587 & 2589. A roll call vote was taken with 31 voting yes and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made (Rose Baldwin/Terry Kolberg) to adjourn the Town Electors meeting at 6:57PM. Voice vote taken with all voting yes and no one voting no. Motion carried.

The Town Meeting of the Electors adjourned at 6:57PM.

At 6:58PM Chairman Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order.

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

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the minutes of the 10/19/2021 Monthly Board meeting and the 10/6, 10/12, 10/20 and 10/25/21 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Town of Barnes 2022 Budget –

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to adopt the Town of Barnes budget of \$1,996,873 for fiscal year 2022. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – Lee Weisner said that people are dropping off furniture, TVs etc at the corner of Hwy 27 and E. Shore Rd and he would like that stopped. It has also been an issue at Barnes Rd and Island Lake Rd. He talked about Oak Wilt and how easiyy it spreads. He said you shouldn't be cutting down or pruning Oak trees between April and July. He'd like it communicated to property owners to educate them about the issue, possibly via the website and/or Facebook page.

Clerk Correspondence-The clerk reported that Jim Bakken submitted November lake levels for the board's review and that the new election equipment has been ordered and will be in use for the February Election. The county is contributing \$1,500 towards the cost. The clerk reported that the Notice of the Spring Election has been posted. The Town Board Supervisors Eric Neff and Seana Frint are the incumbents and the election will take place on Tuesday, April 5, 2021. Nomination papers can be circulated beginning December 1, 2021 and are due in the clerk's office on January 4, 2022.

Grant Brugger of 53030 Honeymoon Trail (parcel #2885) would like the Town to share in the cost of having electrical service run to his property (which is adjacent to Town of Barnes property). He said an

easement would also be needed. The board discussed that an easement shouldn't be necessary if they run it along the road. Chairman Renz said he would let the property owner know that the town will not be participating in the cost sharing.

The Roads & Property Foreman has requested a payout of some of the comp time he has accrued. He currently has over 240 hours of comp time and the board has the discretion to pay out comp time once an employee accrues more than 120 hours. He requesting a payout of 120 hours. Chairman Renz said any overtime should be approved by the board liaison before the time is worked.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to pay out 120 hours of comp time to Jeff Jordheim. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Voucher's Approval –

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

The October Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Judy Bourassa. The 10/31 ending balance in the General Checking account was \$390,115.67. The balance in the Money Market account was \$766,158.20 as of 10/31 after funds were transferred to the General Fund to pay for the New Holland tractor and the raw materials for the new fire engine. There was no activity in either the Vatten Paddlar, Paypal or Tax Collection accounts, with ending balances of \$3,414.92, \$4,556.67 and \$822.91, respectively. Including year-to-date interest earnings of \$784.59, the balance in all accounts totals \$1,165,068.37.

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

TOB Department Head Reports:

Highway Department Monthly Report-Jeff Jordheim

Salt/Sand has been hauled, Salt shed is full.
Plow trucks are changed over and road ready.

Concrete is poured at transfer site, as of 11/11/21 Larry was setting up the power to the compactor. We will be ready for install when the compactor is delivered. In talking with the transfer site crew, they expressed to me that they may need another person for the recyclable compactor. I will explore this when that time arrives. I will be available to help if that indeed is the issue.

Application for Lake Road/Box Culvert has been sent in. It is going under the "LRIP- S" program. Which is an 80/20 program. But again the Town will have to pay it in full then wait for reimbursement. I did speak with Bob Anderson on this issue, he thinks we have a chance of being awarded the funding for this project. The town has up to six years to complete the project.

I have been looking into possibly leasing a new grader. I hope to have some numbers here in the coming days. Reason for the lease program is the town will be only paying for what they use of the grader. Also, there would be no large outlay money to update our current high hour machine. The grader is the most valuable piece of equipment for the town. I don't think that the town can continue to stay with a 180 month exchange rate. Meaning that this new equipment and all the electronics we have to be mindful of warranty issue. Normally warranty can be purchased at the time of purchase for a term that can be decided for the length of leasing that piece of equipment. In talking with other towns such as Barnes, the number that keeps coming back into conversation is 5 years @ 1000 hours a year or 7 years @ 700 hours a year for the best trade value or lease of another machine. The 7 year lease program is the farthest you can go out for additional warranty. The Town of Barnes should be looking at the 7 year – 700 hours a year. The magic number is 5000 hours for best trade value.

I have contacted the builder of the EMS building for replacement of the window on the north side that has been broken, possibility when the brush mower was there. He told me to check with other glass company, like Indianhead Glass.

Docks have been removed. The channels will be braced this week.
Hockey Rink should be completed this week as well

Bathrooms are winterized.

TLP gravel has been hauled and placed as requested.

Discussion regarding hiring of a 3rd fulltime highway employee. Jim Frint, Dave Scully and Jeff Jordheim interviewed two candidates and recommend the hiring of John Mueller as a highway crewmember.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to hire John Mueller at a wage of \$22/hr subject to a background check, physical and a negative drug screen. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

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

Lee Weisner said E. Shore Rd needs some gravel because the blacktop is breaking off. The foreman will check into tomorrow.

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

Discussion regarding removal of the gasoline barrel. There isn't much equipment that uses the fuel. Brett Frierhood asked which fuel the generator uses for emergencies and Jeff wasn't sure. This was tabled until more information is obtained.

Discussion regarding the purchase order process. Jeff would like to change the purchase order process to only be required for purchases more than a specified amount. Supervisor Jim Frint suggested \$2,000. The clerk agreed the process is a burden of paperwork for both the foreman and clerk and suggested a \$1,500 limit.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to require purchase orders only for expenses \$1,500 or more. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Fire & Ambulance Departments Monthly Reports-Brock & Brett Frierhood

Monthly report
November 17, 2021
Ambulance

5 calls since last meeting, 1 no transport.

COVID-19 is still active in the area and we have had 1-2 probable cases that have been transported. Hospital diversions are becoming a reality with overwhelming patient counts and staffing shortages. Additionally hospitals are having difficulty transferring out critical patients. I-35 construction in Duluth is extending transport and overall run times. Although it has not effected Barnes to a great degree, there is a continuing trend of increasing numbers of higher acuity patients.

Jake Coleson has accepted the offer for the full-time EMT and will be starting December 1st. Continuing to fill open shifts with part-time as able.

First meeting of the Bayfield County EMS Study Committee occurred in October. Data is being gathered from services and committee members for review at the next meeting, scheduled for the end of the month.

Oxygen cylinder cart has been purchased with intention of moving storage location from the highway garage to the BES building.

Jake Coleson has been hired as a full time EMT beginning December 1, 2021.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to appoint Jake Coleson as a full time EMT. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Fire

Calls:

1 car/deer, provided traffic control

Working on submitting the AFG grant. Kaylee has started this years application which is due December 17th. Working on doing inventory on all our PPE for this.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

a) Planning Commission-Seana Frint

Mobile Home Park off Hwy 27 and Point o Pines Rd - The new owners are looking for input from the Town Board and the County. The Land Use Planning Commission would like it to be cleaned up but are ok with it remaining a mobile home park. A future meeting will be scheduled with the commission, county representative and members of the town board. The Chairman will contact Karl Kastrosky to arrange a meeting.

b) RROW Committee – Jim Frint

The committee met and recommend that the town choose to have a guardrail installed on S. Shore bridge (instead of a fence).

c) Transfer Site Committee- Dave Scully thanked Chris Peterson for his assistance with the pouring of the concrete and thanked Jeremy Driscoll for providing the forms for the new recycling compactor.

1) review estimate from Roecker Electric of \$4,180.00 for new recycling compactor electrical.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to hire Roecker Electric to do the electrical work at the Transfer Site. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Action Items/Timeline-the upcoming Taste of Barnes will take place in June 2022. A public information meeting will be held in January regarding the campground proposal.

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

Carol LeBreck requested that the website be updated with the campground information prior to the meeting and was assured it would be by Supervisor Scully.

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

Motion to adjourn (Scully/Neff) was made. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Monthly Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM.

Submitted by Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer