

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2021 BUDGET HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
and MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday – November 17, 2020 at 6:00PM
At Barnes Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conferencing
(UNAPPROVED)**

At 6:00PM, Chairperson Chris Webb called the Annual Public Budget Hearing to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Donna Porter, Seana Frint, Susan Jansen and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Also present via Zoom was Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer. Tom Renz was also present at the Town Hall. Judy Bourassa verified public notice. The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

Discussion of the 2021 Proposed Town Budget –Chairperson Webb reviewed the budget summary, explaining the various categories in revenues and expenses. The levy for 2020 (payable in 2021) would be \$821,578.00, an increase of \$4,657.00 which is allowable for net new construction. The chair asked if there are any questions, there were none.

Motion made (Tom Renz/Susan Jansen) to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Public Budget Hearing adjourned at 6:31PM.

At 6:32M, the Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to order. There were Electors present, 7 in person and 4 via Zoom video conferencing.

Webb read the language of Resolution R20-05 as follows: “BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the qualified electors of the Town of Barnes here assembled in a Special Town Meeting this 17th day of November, 2020, to adopt the 2020 town tax levy to be paid in 2021 in the sum of \$821,578.00 which will be levied for the purpose of Operating Expenses for the year 2021.”

Motion made (Eric Neff/Donna Porter) to adopt Resolution 20-05. A roll call vote was taken with 11 voting yes and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made (Eric Neff/Tom Renz) to adjourn the Town Electors meeting at 6:34PM. Roll call vote taken with 11 voting yes and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

The Town Meeting of the Electors adjourned at 6:34M.

Loren Bohl and BJ Skweres joined the meeting at the Town Hall and Pam Toshner joined via Zoom.

At 6:35PM Chairman Webb called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 10/20/2020 Monthly Board meeting and the 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/21 and 10/30 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Roll call vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

Presentation of fuel and propane proposal from a Midland Cooperative representative, Steve Thurber. They are a cooperative and would be able to offer all services (including propane, lubricants and fuel) and offer an annual reimbursement that’s averaged 7%. They hire locally and are currently working with other municipalities. They monitor the tanks and fill as needed. They would swap out the tanks

we don't own, perform safety checks and they don't charge rental or delivery fees. Chairperson Webb asked if any board members had any questions, there were none. This will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Town of Barnes 2021 Budget –

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to adopt the Town of Barnes budget of \$1,529,134 for fiscal year 2021. Roll call vote taken with Neff, Frint, Porter, Jansen and Webb all voting yes to adopt the 2021 budget. Motion carried.

Public Comment Session –

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to open the floor to public comments for 5 minute limit for those not on the agenda. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Motion (Porter/Neff) to close the floor to public comments. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence-The clerk reported timber cut notices were received for property owned by Cheryl Appledorn & Thomas Schettler. The clerk reported that the Notice of the Spring Election has been posted. The town Chair and Board Supervisors Porter and Jansen are the incumbents. The election will take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Nomination papers can be circulated beginning December 1, 2020 and are due on January 5, 2021.

Consider Resolution 20-06 Budget Amendment. The board voted to take out a 5 year loan with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands so a new account "Proceeds from Long Term Debt" was added and the "Transfer from other Funds" account was reduced by \$100,000. Chairperson Webb read Resolution 20-06.

Motion made (Neff/Porter) to adopt Resolution 20-06. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Update on sale of Tomahawk Lake lot.

The DNR is requesting authorization to include the following in the original submitted application and the town's willingness to proceed with abandonment and incorporating a Deed Restriction and Management Plan for boat landing and fishing pier.

Motion made (Jansen/Frint) to proceed with the abandonment of the Tomahawk Lake Rd public access and maintain a boat landing and fishing pier. Roll call vote was taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to authorize the Town Chair to sign the deed restriction and have it recorded. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Discussion on health insurance for full time employees for 2021-the effective date is changed from November to January (calendar year) and the high deductible plan will be through Health Partners. Enrollment of employees will be done in December. The HSA contribution for 2021 will be \$3,000 per employee and the employees will pay 15% of the total premium.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to approve the effective date of health insurance with Health Partners to be January 1, 2021. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Voucher's Approval –

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to approve the October vouchers. Roll call vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

The October Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Judy Bourassa. The 10/31 ending balance in the General Checking account was \$394,842.64. The balance in the Money Market account was \$837,719.58 as of 10/31. There was no activity in either the Vatten Paddlar or Tax Collection accounts, with ending balances of \$1,551.73 and \$811.39, respectively. Including year-to-date interest earnings of \$1,294.29, the balance in all accounts totals \$1,234,925.34.

Motion made (Neff/Porter) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

TOB Department Head Reports:
Highway Department Monthly Report-

BJ Skweres and Loren Bohl, Highway Crewmembers, were in attendance and reported that Cat was here to check out an issue with the Backhoe. The one-ton truck is having some work done on it but they should be getting it back soon. They reported that unauthorized dumping is occurring on the Moore Rd and in the salt/sand shed. Supervisor Frint reports unauthorized dumping at business dumpster.

The Design Study for the South Shore Bridge Replacement project was reviewed.

Motion made (Neff/Porter) to approve the South Shore Bridge Replacement Design Study. Roll call vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

The road length of Fahrner Road was discussed. Chairperson Webb stated there has been some miscommunication/misunderstanding regarding where the road should be plowed to. The property owner would like to board to ensure that the road will be maintained by the town. Chairperson Webb said that the town crew is aware of the situation and will maintain the road, by plowing to the gate at the end of the road and using turn-around on that property. The Town Board will research potential of renaming that portion of road separate from Fahrner Road.

Fire & Ambulance Departments Monthly Reports-Tom Renz

Monthly report
November 17, 2020
Ambulance

3 - no transport
3 – transported to Hayward
2 – Hayward
1 – Sawyer County mutual aid only one EMT responded
1 – Standby by for fire

Fire

1 – fire alarm Town of Highland
1 – Power Line Down

BES building

Gas line to generator was complete.

Tom Renz read Resolution 20-89 issued by Bayfield County declaring November 16-20, 2020 as Bayfield County EMS Appreciation Week and recognizes our Emergency Medical Services and thanking them for their efforts during this pandemic. The Town Board of the Town of Barnes wishes to recognize our EMS team and thank them for their service to the town.

The application of Dawn Piburn to the Barnes Ambulance Service was reviewed. Tom Renz recommends approval of her application.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve the application of Dawn Piburn to the Barnes Ambulance Service. Roll call vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

a) Planning Commission-Seana Frint

1) Jeanne Riese of 51150 Lake Rd – Class A application for short term rental. Supervisor Frint reported that the Planning Commission approved the application as the septic is up to date and it fits in with the Land Use Planning Commission's plan.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to recommend approval of the Class A application for Jeanne Riese of 51140 Lake Rd. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

b) EMS Committee – Guy Johnston

1) Update on letter and survey- a letter would be sent to state representatives requesting their assistance with implementing a Mobile Health Integrated Program in Barnes. This program will monitor the health of community members in their homes free of charge and supplement traditional primary care.

Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to authorize the mailing of a letter to state representatives. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Guy Johnston requested the board's approval to include a Community Health survey with the tax bills.

Motion made (Neff/ Jansen) to approve the sending of the survey to taxpayers. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

c) A.I.S. Committee- Chris Webb

1) 2021 Grants update-2021 grant applications were submitted October 30th. Final summary and request for payment on 2020 grants will be mailed this week.

d) Parks & Rec Committee-Pat Johnston

1) Update on cost of garage move and hunting signs at Tomahawk Lk Park

Pat reported receiving a proposal of \$3,500 to move the garage, much less than building a new garage. The Committee requested that the board approve the ordering of two signs to be posted at Tomahawk Lake Park making the public aware that hunting and trapping is allowed on town and county properties.

Motion made (Jansen/Frint) to authorize the Parks & Rec Committee to order two signs to be posted at Tomahawk Lake Park. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Chairperson Webb requested that other costs be determined (concrete, gravel...) so the board can make an informed decision in regard to moving the garage. Pat has requested that hand sanitizer be available in the bathrooms at the park, even though they are closed they aren't locked and are still being used. Pat will ask Gary to turn off the pump at the park.

Action Items/Timeline-the issues were reviewed

Motion to adjourn (Frint/Porter) was made. Roll call vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Monthly Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:39PM.

Submitted by Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer