

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 20, 2023
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

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 Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Clerk April Powell verified public notice. Brett Frierhood, Brock Frierhood and Jeff Jordheim were also in attendance.

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 01/17/2023 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion made (S. frint/Neff) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 01/17/23 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session –None

Clerk Correspondence- An email was received from Dana Hodowanic stating that she was not operating as a short term rental but as a Bed and Breakfast and therefore she would not be paying the \$300.00 short term rental fee. She also would like to know how The Town of Barnes came up with the \$300.00 license fee as Bayfield County only charges a \$150.00 license fee; a letter was received from Janet Paulson regarding the Transfer Site Fee of \$120.00. She stated that she is only here on a seasonal basis from May-October and feels that the fee should be reduced from \$120.00 a year to \$60.00 if you are only here part of the time; An email was received from Ruth Hulstrom with Bayfield Planning and Zoning Dept. reaching out to get an update from The Town regarding planning and zoning matters. Chairman Renz will reach out to the Town's Attorney regarding the Class A Special Use Permit for shoreland grading and the request from the County as to replacing the Class A Special Use Permit with a Land Use Permit; A letter was received from Bayfield County Planning and Zoning regarding the Approval of Reclamation Plan to continue operating the existing non-metallic mine for Mathy Construction Company; Notification was received from Bayfield County regarding the Timber Cuts for Brule River LLC Attn.Hancock Forest Management.

Resolution R23-01 to amend the 2022 Budget was considered along with a transfer of unused funds from 2022 in the Money Market Savings account.

Motion made (Scully/S.Frint) to approve Resolution 23-01 and authorize the clerk/treasurer to transfer \$350,000 to the Money Market account. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Applications that were received from short term rental owners Adam Bennis, Todd Koleski & Alyssa Knutson were reviewed and considered for approval.

Motion made (Renz/ Scully) to approve the applications of Adam Bennis, Todd Koleski & Alyssa Knutson. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

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

Chairman Renz proposed that all future short term rental applications do not need to be brought to the board for approval as long as the short term rental property owners are registered with Bayfield County, have completed all the necessary paperwork and have paid their fees both at the County level as well as with the Town.

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

Operator license applications for Darlene Mackey and Harold Stitt were reviewed.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the operator licenses for Darlene Mackey and Harold Stitt. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The clerk/treasurer, April Powell is requesting the board's approval for her to attend virtually the Clerks & Treasurer's Institute from July 17-21st at a cost of \$499.99.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve April's attendance at the Institute in July. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Norvado is recommending that the Town add additional storage for the online backup at a cost of \$99.99 per year.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to approve the purchase of additional storage from Norvado. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve January vouchers

Motion made (Neff/J.Frint) to approve the January vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: April Powell

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$468,496.66 which includes the 1st Qtr General Transportation Aid, Timber Sales and reimbursement of the 2022 CBCW grant and payments for the January settlement. \$707,077.60 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account after funds were transferred to the General account for Transfer Passes purchased in December as well as Short Term Rental fees collected in December; \$3,136.81 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account (no activity). The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$1,761,033.30 for taxes collected in January and a service fee of \$20; the PayPal account has a balance \$5,480.19 (\$265.63 in donations received) and the Taste of Barnes account has a balance of \$5,306.00 for a total of all funds of \$2,945,224.56 with \$3,830.98 in interest. The February Settlement checks have been written and mailed.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Roads/Property Report: Please leave more room between any plows and your vehicles. It is very difficult for the person in the plow truck to see behind them and if you are to close and the truck backs up, there is a good chance the plow truck will run into your vehicle. Plowing

operations are on-going with the widening of roads and the opening of intersections as time allows. The Equipment has not had any major break downs.

The Highway foreman will evaluate any damage done to mail boxes and determine if the highway crew or the property owner will be responsible for repair. Mail boxes have to be set at least 42" to 48" above ground level and also should have the snow cleared away from around the mail box. When snow is not cleared out and it gets piled up around the mail box, the road crew cannot see the mail box and there is a good chance the mail box will be damaged. If homeowner's are not going to be here for the winter months, they may want to consider taking down the mail box until they return.

If a resident requests to have the road crew move some snow around for them and the road crew is in the area, they will move the snow but will only be able to help for 5-10 minutes. There will be no special trips made to move snow.

Discussion was held regarding the Highway striping for the areas of Ellison Lake Rd, George Lake Rd & Birch Lake Rd to be completed this year.

Discussion was held regarding Morgan & Parmley's Lake Rd reconditioning. Foreman Jeff Jordheim will be applying for funding on this project and will give more details at a later date.

The South Shore Bridge has an order put into place and will be happening this year. Foreman Jeff Jordheim discussed concerns regarding loosing parking on Lake Road if beam guards were put up.

Discussion was held regarding the quote from Roecker Electric LLC for upgrading the garage service entrance in the amount of \$3,450. Foreman Jeff Jordheim would also like to discuss the replacement of the furnaces in the garage area in the near future. He stated it would be around \$16,000 to replace the current ones.

Jeff Hong wanted to know how much the Transfer Site should be charging to recycle bulbs.

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

Chairman Renz asked what we were charging now versus what it is costing the Town to dispose of the bulbs. Jeff Hong stated that it was around \$140.00 to dispose of a box of bulbs which holds around 64 bulbs. Clerk Treasurer April Powell will find out what it has been costing to dispose of the bulbs. Chairman Renz stated that there is a minimum \$5.00 charge for the disposal of the bulbs and that it *would be reviewed at the annual budget to see if the cost of the bulb disposal will need to be adjusted.*

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

Jeff Hong also inquired about how many people should be working at the Transfer Site at a time. Supervisor Neff stated that for safety reasons, there should always be two people at the Transfer Site working.

Monthly report Fire-

There were 4 Calls since the last meeting; Landing zone for EMS call, 2 lift assists for EMS, snowmobile accident and Landing zone.

Brock contacted Stainless & Repair to see when the new truck might be getting built, he is still waiting to hear back. Brock submitted this year's Assistance to Firefighter's grant and he is working on fulfilling and finalizing last year's NDR FFP grant. Brock is working on inventories of all the apparatus.

Fire Chief Brock Frierhood is requesting the board approve the application of Dave Johnson to the Fire Department pending a background check.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the application of Dave Johnson to join the Fire Dept., pending the background check. Voice vote taken, Motion carried.

Chairman Renz would like the EMT Department to check into ordering a device for the cot that would extend out for larger people who need to be transported. Brett will check on this equipment.

Monthly report Ambulance-

There were nine calls since the last meeting. There was 1 missed day time call last week due to staffing. The Town of Highland has requested a monthly report of Ambulances responses into their area due to reports of Barnes not responding. The Following report was sent for the month of January; 1/11 Evergreen Drive, 1/12 Evergreen Drive, 1/14 Evergreen Drive, 1/21 Catherine Lake Rd, 1/26 Catherine Lake Rd.

The full-time EMT positions currently remain open with no pending applications. A newspaper AD was ran and is being renewed in addition to evaluating other potential publications. The positions have been posted on Indeed which have generated two received applications, however, neither have progressed further than the initial application. I received a call from someone who is interested in working full-time, however, will not be eligible until the June time frame.

The agreement for the \$20,000 in County EMS funding has been completed and returned to the County. The agreement was a requirement of the Department of Revenue and distribution of the funds would start once all the agreements were received by the deadline of February 15th. The first FAP expense report has been submitted to the State. This report is a requirement to receive the second half of the ARPA supplement funding totaling \$12,195.12. This report also provided an option of requesting a portion of about \$23,000 that was returned as part of the initial round of disbursements. The amount received will depend on the number of services opting in, but will be at least \$72.00 but could be as high as \$23,000.

Director Brett Frierhood advised the board that Kaylee Silverness has resigned as a Full Time EMT but would like to continue on as a Part Time EMT.

Motion made (Neff/Renz) to approve the employment status of Kaylee Silverness from Full Time EMT to Part time EMT effective 2/9/23. Voice vote taken, Motion carried.

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb-

Chris Webb updated the board on the status of reimbursement requests for 2022 expenses and the grants awarded for 2023.

We received Clean Boats Clean Water grant of \$20,000 to cover boat landing monitoring for five (5) boat landings: Upper Eau Claire, Middle Eau Claire, Lower Eau Claire, Tomahawk, and Robinson/Island.

We applied for and Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant in the amount of \$67,052.25 over two years for the harvesting and treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil in Tomahawk & Sand Bar Lakes. The State of Wisconsin DNR granted us only \$25,769.62 so we resubmitted the grant application for a one-year grant in the amount of \$25,769.62. LEAPS LLC revised the project to decrease the area of chemical treatment and revised the budget estimates to account for the lesser amount awarded. This grant also covers the Integrated Pest Management project that will be implemented.

Since we did not have an Aquatic Plant Management Plan in place for Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes, the amount awarded for this grant only covers the survey and mapping costs. Cost of BAISS Operations and the cost of paid divers will need to be covered by the Town and partner organizations.

We are in the second year of two-year grants for the preparation of Aquatic Plant Management Plans for Upper/Middle Eau Claire Lakes, and for Lower EC/Cranberry Lakes. These grants cover the cost of the contracts with LEAP LLC, and the cost of surveys needed for the APMs.

A grant was to be submitted, but is unclear if it has been submitted yet, for the Early Detection & Rapid Response grant. The Town of Barnes was approved to submit a grant in the amount of \$20,000 for the discovery of curly leaf Pondweed in Lower Eau Claire. The Committee will follow up with the status of submission or recommend hiring of LEAPS LLC to complete the application

Chris stated that there were four grants that she thought had been sent in but now she is finding out that not all the paperwork was sent in. She is getting together with Tami Hoff & Judy Bourassa to go through paperwork and see where things are and what is left to do. They will be getting together March 2nd.

Chris expressed how important it is for people living on the lakes in our area to volunteer to help.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Timeline – Chairman Renz would like to have a closed meeting at 6:00 March 21st for April Powell's 90 day review.

Supervisor Scully would like to sit down in April/May to discuss the grants that would pay to help fix the water channels at Bony Lake to the Middle Eau Claire with the property owners & DNR.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.