

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 15, 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. Chairman Tom Renz was absent. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim and Brett and Brock Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 1/18/22 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – there were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported that 4 timber cut notices were received; a letter was received from Rural Mutual Insurance advising that our Business Owners policy renews 4/1/22 but the deductible will be \$500, up from \$250; an email was received from a homeowner on Moen Rd. after trees were cut down on the road-it was referred to the Roads and Property Foreman.

The clerk reported on information she's received from Associated Bank, Hayward Community Credit Union, National Bank of Commerce, Security State Bank and Frandsen Bank. Supervisor Frint said the local business owners are putting together a letter to Chippewa Valley Bank regarding options. The clerk will continue to compile information and it will be presented at the March meeting along with a proposal from Associated Bank.

Bids were submitted for the S. Shore Bridge project and the low bid was 21.8% higher than the engineering firm had anticipated with a new estimated cost of \$744,402.58. WisDOT requires that the sponsors (Town of Barnes and Bayfield County) approve the bid and agree to the additional cost (the town and county are responsible for 10% each, with 80% paid by the federal government). The town's cost would go up about \$16,000. The decision was made to go ahead with the project since delaying it would probably increase the cost even more.

Supervisor Scully is proposing that the town board sign a letter to Bayfield County requesting that the county remit some of the sales tax revenue (he suggested 0.25%) they receive to our town. He'd like the board to sign off on the letter which he will draft and give to the clerk.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve January vouchers

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$295,910.60 after checks were written to the County, Drummond School District and Northwood Technical College for their percentage of the property taxes collected in December. The Money Market account balance as of 1/31/22 was \$825,520.25

which includes interest of \$69.06. \$2,815.56 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The PayPal account has a balance \$4,628.52 after a donation was received for the Tomahawk Lk Park fund and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$1,157,496.02 for tax payments collected in January. Payments for the February settlement are due on the 22nd. The total of all funds was \$2,286,370.95 with \$72.87 of interest earned last month.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

The foreman requested that the board consider his request to purchase a Skeleton Rock Bucket with a grapple at a cost of \$2,850. Rental fees that have been paid have been credited towards the purchase price. Supervisor Scully commented that he feels Jeff shouldn't have to come to the board for every purchase over the \$1,500 limit, he has a budget and he should be able to spend up to his limits without board approval.

Motion made (Neff/J. Frint) to approve the purchase of a Skeleton Rock Bucket. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

An estimate for stump grinding from Solon Springs Stump Solutions was presented, however, the Foreman is withdrawing this agenda item since he feels they can do it themselves for less money.

4 applications for a highway crewmember have been received. Greg Strasser recently resigned so another employee is needed. The clerk asked the board for direction as far as setting up interviews for any/all of the candidates. The Foreman indicated he is looking at hiring someone closer to April so he and Jim will review the applications and interviews will start in March.

The foreman is requesting input from the board regarding the funding that will be available as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). We're not ready for any projects for 2022, but he'd like to put in a project for 2023, possibly the Outlet Bay/Lake Rd intersection.

He reported that someone hit the S. Shore Bridge and did some damage to the beam guard. Bob Simonsen of the Transfer Site reported that the recycling compactor should be delivered by the end of the month. He would like the board to hire a designated recycling attendant and purchase some mesh containers as a temporary storage so recycling can be sorted/checked before putting it in the compactor. We are only allowed 10% contamination so it's important that it's checked carefully. The board was reminded that we didn't budget for another attendant. Supervisor Frint asked the clerk to send the 2 applications received for the attendant position be sent to Jeff and Supervisor Scully (Transfer Site board liaison) for consideration.

Fire Department Report – Brock Frierhood

Monthly report Fire

Calls:
3 calls

- 1-Structure Fire
- 1-Landing Zone for EMS
- 1-Gas leak

We have had 3 calls in the last month. I would like to thank Jeff for coming down and sanding the driveway and Lake Road to allow the water shuttle to be completed efficiently on the structure fire.

I will be going and doing follow ups on the fire inspections that were done a couple months ago.

We have received a \$3,000 grant toward the purchase of an alternate reality fire extinguisher prop to be implemented in a Fire Safety Public Education program. I am currently trying to find additional sources of funding including grants to help with procuring this prop to implement this program.

The Foreman stressed that it's important for people to keep their driveways clear of branches enough so that emergency vehicles can get through. Supervisor Seana Frint told the Fire Chief that they will open their store if needed as a warming station and will provide water in emergency situations. The board thanked the Fire Department for their efforts during the recent structure fire on Lake Road.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Frierhood

Monthly report Ambulance

There have been 6 calls since last meeting, one requiring helicopter transport from the BES Building landing zone. Two were standby for fire department responses for a structure fire and gas leak.

Rebecca has been onboarded as a new EMT and has been filling shifts. A candidate was interviewed for the 3rd full-time position, however had previously let their out-of-state license expire and is currently unable to obtain a Wisconsin license through reciprocity.

The ambulance was taken out of service for a short period of time this week due to a check engine light. The issue that caused the light appears to have resolved itself and the dealer determined no repairs were needed. The Power Load was scheduled to ship on Feb 10th to Pomasl. I am tentatively planning the install for the first week of March. The ambulance will be out of service for 4-6 hours for the install and upgrade to the cot.

Birkie Week is coming up Feb 23rd-26th. Barnes will not be contracted for the event as we only have one ambulance and need to ensure coverage for our area, however may be called for mutual aid into Sawyer County and/or for Birkie. An EVOC class has been scheduled for March 4th and 5th. Working on scheduling a PHTLS class this spring.

I am continuing to sort through information related to the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System. Our 1 year collection period will be 12/31/2022 - 12/31/2023.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Parks & Rec Committee

An application to join the committee has been received from Mark Sutton.

A motion was made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve Mark Sutton's application to join the Parks & Rec Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A.I.S. Committee

Chris Webb was in attendance and reported that the grants we applied for were awarded including the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant. There will be a Public Hearing in April for comments on the plan for Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. This plan includes use of the barrier and might include a chemical treatment (requires DNR approval). Paid boat landing monitors have been asked to re-submit applications for the positions.

Judy Schmidt has notified the clerk that she no longer wishes to be a member of the committee.

A motion was made (S. Frint/Neff) to reluctantly accept Judy Schmidt's resignation from the A.I.S. Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Roads & Right of Way Committee-Jim Frint

The committee discussed Rabbit Hutch Rd and will use funds available from the gas tax to maintain it.

The committee chairman, Chauncey Bangs, has submitted his resignation as chairman and committee member. Supervisor Jim Frint said he was surprised since there was no mention of it at the meeting.

A motion was made (J.Frint/Scully) to accept the resignation of Chauncey Bangs from the RROW Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The timeline was reviewed-there were no updates.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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