

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 2020

UNAPPROVED

The Special Town Board Meeting was called to Order by Chairperson Webb at 9:10am and a Roll Call was done to establish a Quorum with Donna Porter, Susan Jansen, Tom Emerson and Seana Frint in attendance via Zoom Video Conferencing. Also in attendance via Zoom was Ambulance Director/ Fire Chief, Tom Renz, Roads & Property Foreman, Eric Polkoski and EMTs Leah Holsclaw and Irene Bott. Clerk Bourassa verified notice.

A motion was made (Frint/Porter) to approve the Agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Tom Renz provided an update from the Emergency Operations Center. No changes from last week, still operating the same. The volunteer community assistance program has been put in place and one person has requested the service and about 15 people have volunteered to help. The EMTs have been making masks. Tom has been participating in several webinars and reports our stock of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) is adequate for the next few weeks. The Town Hall was decontaminated before and during the election and the Town Office has also been sprayed. There are still just 3 reported cases (and no deaths) in Bayfield County. As of yesterday, there has been 1 case reported in Sawyer County.

The Ambulance Dept. application for Betty Ebert was reviewed. She is the Ambulance Director in Gordon and is offering her services. Tom Renz has offered his services to Gordon as well.

A motion was made (Porter/Frint) to approve the application of Betty Ebert to be added to the Ambulance Department. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

A discussion regarding fees to be charged for Liquor, Beer, Cigarette & Tobacco Products and Operator's licenses then followed. It was proposed that the fees for Liquor, Beer and Cigarette & Tobacco Products be reduced due to the hardship our local businesses are enduring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A motion was made (Porter/Emerson) to charge license fees for 2020 of \$50 for liquor licenses and \$5 for Cigarette and Tobacco Products and waive all other fees (Beer and Operator's licenses and publishing fees). A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes except Seana Frint, who abstained. The motion carried.

A discussion regarding the Annual Meeting was held with Chairperson Webb suggesting that the board call the meeting to order on April 21st at the Town Hall and immediately recess and postpone the meeting until May 19th. All board members were in agreement so the clerk will post a notice.

2 purchase orders submitted by Tom Renz, one for Lexipol (a policy and training subscription for emergency personnel) and one for an extractor washing machine were reviewed and debated. Chief Renz reminded the board that this was included in the 2020 budget.

A motion was made (Frint/Porter) to approve the purchase of an annual subscription of Lexipol at a cost of \$2,843.00 with the understanding that it be presented to other townships at budget time for possible participation (and cost sharing). A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting yes. The motion carried.

Chief Renz noted that he wants to protect our emergency personnel as best we can and especially with the current pandemic he wants them to be able to wash clothing and equipment at the Emergency Services Building to prevent exposing their families. This was included in the fundraising drive and this extractor machine would remove chemicals that emergency personnel are exposed to during fires and other emergency situations. Supervisor Jansen stated that normal washing machines will remove any contaminants such as COVID-19. Chairperson Webb recognized Irene Bott who stated as an EMT and Fire Fighter who is in the thick of it and in a confined space such as ambulance, she wants to be able to wash her clothing at the ESB and not potentially expose her family to any contaminants that may be on her clothing. She has had to throw clothing away (and been reimbursed) and she feels strongly that this washer should be purchased.

A motion was made (Porter/Frint) to approve the purchase of the washer extractor in the amount of \$7,550.00. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. The motion carried.

Chairperson Webb reviewed the April 9th update regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town Of Barnes' Operations Potential Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Update April 9, 2020

- *March 16, 2020, Centers for Disease Control Guidelines for COVID-19 implemented by BES.*
- *March 19, 2020, Bayfield County declared a county-wide Public Health Emergency.*
- *March 23, 2020, Town of Barnes declared a Public Health Emergency. Designates Tom Renz, Emergency Coordinator to lead and advise.*
- *March 23, 2020, Governor Evers' issues Safer At Home Executive Order*
- *April 3, 2020, Additional safety suggestions for volunteer EMT and Firefighters added to procedures.*
- *April 4, 2020, Wisconsin's Disaster Declaration is approved.*

- *Town of Barnes Emergency Services, EMTs and Firefighters, are updated with information as pertains to the spread of COVID-19. Additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) have been received and plans are to continue ordering equipment to ensure safety for our volunteers; and supplies to ensure safety for our community. If you are in-need of masks, please call (715)795-2424.*

- *The Town Office is distributing information on the website, Facebook, public postings on bulletin boards and businesses open to the public, and by email to organizations for distribution among their members.*
- *The Town Office is open to the public by appointment only. For assistance, please call the Town Clerk's Office at (715)795-2782. The Town Board members' contact information is available on the website.*

- *To minimize the number of employees who could potentially be exposed to COVID-19, and to comply with Governor Evers' Safer At Home Order, part-time employees were furloughed until the order is lifted. While the date is to be determined, it is hoped that normal operations will resume in May.*
- *Full-time employees are Town Clerk-Treasurer, Roads & Property Department (3), EMTs (2). Please understand that these employees have been assigned additional duties at this time. If you have any issues you wish to have addressed, we ask that you contact a Town Board member directly.*

- *On April 2, 2020, the Town of Barnes Emergency Services initiated an assistance program for those complying with Governor Evers' Safer-At-Home order, who can't, or do not wish to leave their homes for food or medications. The BES is pairing volunteers with those in-need to have supplies delivered to their homes. If you need this service, or are willing to volunteer, please call BES at (715)795-2424.*
- *The Transfer Site is open on Wednesday and Saturday during the month of April. Roads and Property Department employees are on-site to assist patrons. Normal operations and fees have been reinstated.*
- *The Open Book will be held on April 14th from 2-4pm by phone, email or video conference-no in person*
- *Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at Town Hall. It is expected that the Annual Meeting will recess until May 19, 2020.*
- *The Town Board monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2020 online using Zoom Video Conferencing. Details needed to access Zoom will be made part of the posted Notice of Meeting.*
- *Regularly scheduled meetings of Town Committees will be held only if necessary, using Zoom Video Conferencing. Committees wishing to meet should contact the Town Chairman with details.*
- *Public buildings will remain close while Governor Evers' Safer-At-Home order is in effect.*
- *Senior meals—Contact Bayfield County Aging/Disability Services 715-373-6144 for substitute program.*
- *Wisconsin DNR/UW Ext System has suspended the Clean Boats/Clean Water program until June.*
- *The DNR has suspended all burning permits. No burning of any kind is allowed.*

Advice and actions related to response to COVID-19 in the US can change quickly so it is important to continue to monitor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website which will continue to be the source of all public information.

A motion was made (Porter/Frint) to adjourn. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31am.

Judy Bourassa, Town of Barnes Clerk-Treasurer
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