

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
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 7:45pm. 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 Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim, Brett Frierhood and Brock Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

Jim Frint requested the Mathy Construction's conditional use application be moved up in the agenda since representatives were in attendance.

A motion was made (J.Frint/Neff) to amend the agenda to move item #18a2 to #7 on the agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Neff/D.Scully) to approve the minutes of the 3/15/22 Monthly Board Meeting and the 3/30/22 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported that 3 timber cut notices were received, all for Edward Meddaugh; a letter was received from Vilas County containing a letter they sent to our elected officials, including the Governor, protesting our current levy limits and asking us to join in the protest. The clerk also reported that the Town's website address has been changed to www.townofbarneswi.gov and that official town email addresses will be updated to the new domain name as well, following the same protocols. However, emails sent to the old email addresses will be automatically forwarded to the new email addresses for a period of time.

The agreement between the Town of Barnes and Inspector Rob Agency, LLC for Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) Enforcement Services was reviewed. The agreement was signed in 2017 and Chairman Renz wanted to review it as he has heard some complaints about the inspector not returning calls. The clerk provided the board with a list of Bayfield County towns, cities and villages and who they are contracted with. There are 4 inspectors currently serving Bayfield County towns. Supervisor Neff suggested the board reach out to Mr. Lietha and share our concerns which the chair agreed to do. It will be on the May agenda for an update.

Mathy Construction Co. of 48520 State Hwy 27 has submitted a conditional use application for a 10 year permit renewal and a standardization of hours at the quarry. They are requesting that the hours be 6am-6pm Monday thru Friday with "quiet work" and maintenance from 6pm-8pm. They would like the hours on Saturdays to be 6am-2pm, operations only. Brandon Lende of Mathy Construction addressed the board stating they want to be good neighbors and they are just trying to get in and get out as quickly as possible. The Commission recommends that the Town Board approve their application.

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

Cris Neff asked what the hours would be. Brandon reported that 6am-6pm Monday thru Friday would be for operations (crushing, drilling, and blasting) with quiet hours from 6pm-8pm and Saturdays from 6am-2pm would be for operations. Chairman Renz asked if they are requesting the same hours in Iron River and Brandon said they run until 9pm weekdays in Iron River.

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

A motion was made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve Mathy Construction Co.'s conditional use permit for 10 years and allow the hours as requested. Roll call vote taken, S. Frint voting yes, D. Scully voting yes, E. Neff voting yes, J. Frint voting yes and T. Renz voting yes, motion carried.

The Wisconsin Town Association membership dues for 2022-2023 are due by June 15th at a cost of \$871.96.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to renew the town's membership with WTA. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion regarding the issuance of picnic licenses for the Taste of Barnes event was held. Supervisor Scully has spoken with Mario Altuzar of the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue. Organizers of the event are looking into creating a Chamber of Commerce which would allow them to be granted a picnic license. He read a letter from P.J. Foat in which he encouraged the town and local businesses to promote more events and enhance tourism. Supervisor Scully stated that the event will start on Friday at 7pm with music, Saturday there will be crafts from 10-3 and food at 11. Volunteers for the dunk tank are needed. This agenda item will be tabled for now.

Text of P.J.'s Note: I highly encourage the town and businesses to utilize picnic licensing available to promote more events on town property. Picnic licensing available would allow businesses and organizations to sell beer or wine on municipal property and would not interfere with Ruckus Works, LLC's licensing. The only difference is hard liquor which is a state/federal licensing and requires an extremely extensive background investigation and more oversight. If anybody is interested in selling hard liquor on the premises I'd be more than happy to get together with them and develop a plan. The town board has clear interest in promoting the town of Barnes and encouraging growth to enhance our tourism and I 100% support them in their endeavors. Thank you for your service! PJ

Tracks Inn, LLC, agent Danielle Johnson has requested an original Alcohol Beverage Retail License. She is purchasing Doorn's Inn in early May. The license would be effective May 3rd and will expire June 30th, at which time a renewal application will need to be submitted for approval.

A motion was made (Neff/S.Frint) to approve the license application for Tracks Inn, LLC. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Mark Mulder and Sarah Juleff have applied for 2 year operator's licenses.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the 2 year operator's license applications of Mark Mulder and Sarah Juleff. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The motion made at the March 15th meeting regarding the days/hours of operation of the Transfer Site needs to be rescinded. The board has agreed to have the Transfer Site be open 3 days per week (Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) as of April 1st with 2 attendants.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to rescind the motion made March 15th. Voice vote taken, with all voting yes, motion carried.

A request from Lake County ATV Club to open a new route on County Road A towards Iron River for ATVs and Side by Sides was reviewed. The route is a total of .3 miles from Correll Road to Kelly Lake Rd. Currently, only the section of County Road A that is open is from County Hwy N to Kickapoo Trail. The President of the Club, Paul Solberg, requested that the board consider opening up County Road A all the way up to the Hall Road (1.3 miles) as he anticipates that will be requested as well.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to recommend the opening of County Road A from County Hwy N to the Hall Road, with the County's approval. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The clerk/treasurer's 3 year appointment expires May 2, 2022. She has indicated she would only consider a one year appointment as she is reaching retirement age and would like to cut back.

A motion was made (Renz/S.Frint) to appoint Judy Bourassa to a one year term. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion was held at Chairman Renz's request in regard to calling in for meetings. He doesn't think that should be allowed. We don't allow our citizens to do it so we need to hold ourselves to the same standard.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to not allow calling in for meetings. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve March vouchers

A motion was made (Renz/S.Frint) to approve the March vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$728,362.37. The Money Market account balance as of 3/31/22 was \$859,330.31 and includes interest of \$85.92. \$2,815.56 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The PayPal account has a balance \$4,884.44 after donations for the Tomahawk Lk Park fund and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$2,068.40 which is the amount of outstanding checks. The total of all funds was \$1,597,461.08 with \$232.75 of interest earned year to date.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Report from the highway department

Plow trucks changed from winter to summer use.

Spring sweeping @ intersections has begun.

Looking for equipment to repair aluminum docks.

John Deere yellow brush mower is apart and being welded where it had broken last year.

New Holland Boom brush mower is now ready to go to work. Installed a new battery for it already.

Highway crew will finish hauling the rest of the salt/sand mix when road bans come off.

Grading has started on north roads, keying up on where the loggers are working.

A discussion was held regarding the hiring of additional highway employees as well as Transfer Site attendants. The Foreman requested that the clerk place an ad for a fulltime employee with applications due by 5/6, with interviews scheduled for the week of 5/9 and potential action by board on 5/17.

A motion was made (Scully/S. Frint) to hire Zach Desrosiers for the 4th part time position. Roll call vote taken, with Supervisors Scully and Seana Frint voting yes, Eric Neff voting no, Jim Frint voting yes and Tom Renz voting no. Motion carried.

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

BJ Skweres addressed the board regarding the hiring of part time employees (possibly under 18) over the summer months to assist with parks maintenance and boat landings, and possibly at the Transfer Site (they would not operate the compactors). Work permits would be required for those under 18 and Chairman Renz reviewed the restrictions (and what tasks they are allowed to perform).

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz said he was in favor of hiring only one part time employee at this time. Supervisor Neff noted that it makes sense to pay a part time employee a lower wage than what we'd pay a current full time employee.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to hire one part-time employee (maximum of 32 hours per week). Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Highway Foreman requested that new electrical service be installed at the ball field (200 amp) and that the highway garage electrical be upgraded to 200 amp at a cost of approx. \$7,000. The current service isn't up to code and there are safety concerns.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to authorize the foreman to go ahead with the meter upgrade. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Highway Foreman requested that Dave Schiess be hired as an as-needed consultant to the Highway Department for training purposes. Chairman Renz is concerned that would create a conflict of interest since he is the Roads & Right of Way chair. No motion was made so no action taken.

Fire Department Report – Brock Friermood

Monthly report Fire

No calls.

Tracks have been received and installed on the UTV.

We are getting ready for wildfire season coming up. Have had members attending DNR trainings.

We have received a \$12,000 grant toward the purchase of an alternate reality fire extinguisher prop, along with the \$3,000 previously received. The FIAR has been approved for purchase with the remaining cost coming from the fire department fundraising account. This has been ordered and is currently in shipping.

I have made repeated attempts to contact members and receive town equipment from members that haven't appeared for a while, with varying results. None have shown up yet, however some have said they intend to show up.

Supervisor S. Frint wanted to recognize Brock Friermood regarding his prompt response to a citizen who is hard of hearing and was in need of a "bed shaker" alarm. Within 9 hours, she received a thank you from the citizen saying Brock had already contacted her.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Friermood

Monthly report Ambulance

6 calls since last meeting. A new part-time EMT has been hired and will begin training as soon as her schedule allows.

An EMT student reached out to me about possible employment after completing the class and getting licensed. I answered questions they had and encouraged them to apply for the third full-time position. Dawn Piburn recently had surgery and is unavailable until into June, possibly July. Rebecca has been filling open shifts as able.

Rescheduled EVOC driving taking place this Saturday. PHTLS class in May has reached capacity and will be going ahead.

Sawyer County has contracted with LifeQuest for billing who has requested a new intercept agreement be signed between the two Services. The proposed agreement is attached for review and approval.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to authorize the Ambulance Director to sign the Emergency Medical Services & Ambulance Transportation Joint Response "Intercept" Billing/Reimbursement/Revenue Sharing Agreement. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Supervisor Scully said the EMTs have been given grants to write and they haven't been done which is part of their job description. It was recommended that this issue be addressed in a future closed session. Chairman Renz said the EMTs should reach out to the clerk (or appropriate Committee chair for additional information required to complete the grant applications.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission –

Chairman Renz reported that Elliott Hough has agreed to serve a 3 year term as a Land Use Planning Commissioner. The clerk will draft the required document for the board to sign.

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

Chris Webb of the AIS Committee said there is an Aquatic Invasive Species training session this Friday, April 22nd, from noon to 3pm, presented by Andy Teal, AIS coordinator. Boat landing and shoreland monitors are requested to attend, however, any and all interested parties are invited to attend.

Boat Landing Monitors applications have been reviewed and the following have been appointed as follows:

Judith Schmidt at Tomahawk Lake, Sally Pease at Robinson Lake, John Loughren at the Middle, Rocky Clements at the Upper and Kim Jones at the Lower Eau Claire Lake. Alternates include John Weideman, James Basacker, Doug Stearly, Therene Stearly and Barb Clements.

The AIS Program Coordinator will be Barb Clements, with Sally Pease as an alternate/assistant.

The divers are all returning from last year, they are Terry Bauer, Cris Neff, Bruce Piburn and Jim Warn.

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The timeline was reviewed and will updated as needed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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