

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conferencing

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson 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 Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim was also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

Motion made (Neff/S. Frint) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 3/16/2021 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 3/4, 3/16 and 3/29/2021 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Roll call vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes

There were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – Timber Cutting Notices for James and Jeanna (Seana) Frint, Darlene Pliss, Robert Rucker and William and Katherine Stewart were received. Governor Evers proclaimed April 18-24 as Municipal Treasurers Appreciation Week and The Town of Barnes recognized the week of May 2-8 as Professional Municipal Clerks Week. A letter to the Town Board was received from Susan Jansen regarding her attempt to create a community information platform. She is no longer interested in pursuing it but offered to pass on the contact information. A letter from Bayfield Co. Planning & Zoning Department was received regarding the conditional use application from Alan & Susan Bain for multiple structures that was granted on the condition that no short term rentals be allowed. The Bayfield Co. Clerk sent a copy of the recently approved revisions to the Zoning Ordinance which amended several sections. A draft resolution to establish an Advisory committee beginning in Sept. of 2021 to gather information, research options and develop a long-range plan for Bayfield County Emergency Services was received from the Bayfield Co. Administrator's office. They are requesting a response with our thoughts by May 30th. Another letter from the Administrator's office was received regarding the Stimulus Funding to be distributed thru the American Recovery Act. The Town of Barnes is slated to receive approximately \$77,000 which is limited to a list of "allowable uses" which must be spent by 12/31/2024.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Barnestormers Snowmobile Club was reviewed.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to accept the MOU with the Barnestormers. Eric Neff reported he attended two meetings with the club and felt the Memo was satisfactory to both parties. Elliott Hough, President of the Club stated the club accepted the MOU as well.

Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Representatives of the club were in attendance and the MOU was signed by both parties.

The clerk requests that approximately \$4,600 in unpaid personal property taxes of 14 parcels be written off as uncollectible. Some of the parties are deceased or have left the area. Chairman Renz said he was in favor of writing off the deceased parties and the ones that are an amount less than

\$500 (or any amount set by the board). Small claims court could be used to file against the parties. He was concerned about setting a precedent of writing off unpaid taxes. Supervisor Scully said he would pay the taxes owed on the property at 1540 Lake Rd.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the write off of unpaid personal property taxes of the deceased parties and any amount owed less than \$500.00. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Review of a Lease Agreement and Management Plan documents as revised. The documents were updated after the board reviewed them at the last board meeting.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the Lease Agreement and Management Plan as presented. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

A discussion was held regarding the 4th of July parade and fireworks. Dave Scully said the reason he ran for the board was because the event was cancelled last year; he also said he would like the Fire Department to hold their annual fundraiser. Supervisor Neff pointed out that the board cancelled the event last year based on Bayfield County guidelines and at direction of Bayfield County Health Dept but he is in favor of holding the events this year. He stated that Bayfield County is in the top four counties in the state for percentage of people vaccinated.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to have the parade and fireworks in 2021. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

A discussion of the opening of the Park restrooms, Town Hall and Office was held. Chairman Renz said he is in favor of opening them up but that we should still wear masks indoors and practice social distancing.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) open all the Town Parks restrooms, Town Hall and Town Office and hold open meetings (no longer on Zoom) effective April 28th, 2021 at 7am. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

The RING cameras at the Transfer Site was discussed. The Transfer Site employees had said they don't work for their needs as they don't stay live for more than 2 minutes. They would like a surveillance camera installed instead. Chairman Renz reported that they are now set to be motion activated.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to open the floor to allow BJ Skweres to address the board. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

BJ Skweres asked if the cameras that were there previously were still there. Chairman Renz reported that Gene Ratzel actually owns those cameras and would like them back.

Motion made (Renz/S. Frint) to close the floor. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

A discussion regarding the town's email host was held. Several board members said they would prefer to use Outlook. Chairman Renz suggested that the clerk could research the issue and present some options for the board to consider.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to research other options for email in particular for calendar sharing. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Resolution R21-02 was read by the Chair. The board voted to approve the policies this resolution adopts at the March 2021 meeting.

Resolution # R21-02
Resolution Adopting Telephone Meeting
And Remote Meeting Procedure Using Internet Services Policies

The Town Board of the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, by this resolution, adopted by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, resolves and orders as follows:

“The Town Board of the Town of Barnes adopts the attached Telephone Meeting and Remote Meeting Procedure Using Internet Meeting Services for use at its meetings”

The town clerk shall properly post this resolution as required under s. 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve Resolution R21-02. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

With the recent election, the signature cards at the bank need to be updated. The clerk reported that some records at the bank haven't been updated so several motions are needed.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to remove previous Town Board Chair, Christine Webb, Town Supervisors Donna Porter, Susan Jansen, Tom Emerson and Zachary Desrosiers as signers and add new Town Board Chair, Tom Renz and Town Supervisors Dave Scully and Jim Frint as signers to all Town of Barnes bank accounts at Chippewa Valley Bank. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to remove previous Town Board Chair, Christine Webb as a signer from checking account #16000655 (PayPal account) and add new Town Board Chair Tom Renz as a signer. Eric Neff and Judy Bourassa will remain as signers on this account. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to remove previous Ambulance Director, Tom Renz from the Ambulance Department account at Chippewa Valley Bank, with Brett Frierhood and Donna Porter remaining as signers. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to remove previous Fire Chief, Tom Renz from the Fire Department account at Chippewa Valley Bank and add Brock Frierhood as a signer with Sherrie Carlson remaining as a signer. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Supervisor Seana Frint asked if there were any other banks that we have active accounts and the clerk reported that the only other account is the Vanguard account to accept stock donations.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve March vouchers

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to approve the March vouchers. Roll vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$98,686.66. \$804,848.30 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account; \$2,376.04 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, and the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$610,677.50; the PayPal account has a balance \$1,068.14 for a total of all funds of \$1,517,656.64 with \$275.75 in interest earned so far this year.

Motion made (Neff/S.Frint) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Chairman Renz reported that the clerk has purchased jump drives so that future agenda packets can be loaded on them to eliminate the paper copies.

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Jeff Jordheim said we need two graders and would like the board to consider selling our older grader and purchase a newer, used grader. Since this wasn't on the agenda, the board can't take any action. Chairman Renz asked that Jeff provide more information to the board at a future meeting.

Due to oak wilt concerns, oak trees are not being trimmed. He asked that the board consider amending the Driveway Ordinance to mandate that culverts be required (this will be on next month's agenda).

He reported a beaver problem at Kelly Lake that is damaging the road– he would like to increase the amount paid per beaver from \$50 to \$100. Chairman Renz asked if the dam could be dynamited instead of just taking out the beavers.

Dump trucks are set up to haul now that road bans are off. He asked about having Stan Maki re-hired to haul gravel. Chairman Renz said this was previously approved. The County's Town Road Improvement Program (TRIP) has awarded Barnes funds to add gravel to W. Church Road.

The President of the Potawatomi Property Owner's Association had contacted him regarding a maintenance issue on George Lake Rd; Jeff reported that this is not the Town's responsibility.

He asked if the Town was responsible for the dock installation and maintenance on Island Lake –the board said yes.

He will rent a chipper for E. Robinson Lake Rd tree/brush removal in preparation for the re-paving. He reported that the County Road commissioner asked that we stop burying stumps on Moore Rd so they are bringing them to the brush pit but keeping them separate. There may be a ban on brush burning in Bayfield County so he asked if the board wants to consider charging residents to bring brush/stumps?

Motion made (Scully/Renz) to continue to not charge for brush/stump dumping. The board was concerned that it would be dumped elsewhere if we start charging. Allowing businesses to dump was also discussed, Supervisor Neff suggested establishing a commercial rate vs. property owner rate. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Consider proposal for roof replacements

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to accept the proposal from Josh Peterson Construction for steel roofing in the amount of \$8,000.00 on the concession stand and the Town Park restrooms. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Josh Peterson's proposal did not include the ice rink warming house or the Town Hall entry roof so Josh will prepare a proposal for the board to consider.

Review invoices from Morgan & Parmley for work previously done on the Bony Lake Rd project and 2021 Road Project estimates.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to pay the invoices from Morgan & Parmley in the amounts of \$800.50 and \$1,583.00. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Consider proposal from Display Sales for 12 banners with 2 designs. We need 24 total to replace the flags on County Hwy N from Doorn's to Hwy 27. Supervisor Frint suggested ordering 12 now and 12 next year.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to open up the floor for public comment regarding the design choice.

Some stated they preferred to continue to use flags but the Highway Dept. said they had to "fix" the flags twice a week last year due to winds and the poor condition of some of the flags. Supervisor Neff suggested purchasing 12 heavy duty flags at a cost that would be about 1/3 of the cost of banners. He sent the clerk via email a link to purchase flags. The four banner options were displayed for viewing.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor for public comment. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to accept the proposal from Display Sales for 12 banners plus one set up fee and purchase 14 flags. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

The board will consider adding the purchase of 12 more banners to next year's budget.

Consider purchase of a zero turn mower. He provided the board with five quotes, two from Lulich Implement, both Kubota models, one at a cost of \$14,400 and one for \$17,500. He also had three John Deere models (two diesel and one gas) from Tractor Central ranging in price from \$12,473 to \$19,911. Chairman Renz wanted to know if this was in the budget and if not, how would it be paid for. The clerk reported there are funds in the Highway Equipment Outlay account and also in the Highway Sinking Fund. Supervisor Jim Frint suggested that the cost should be shared with the Parks & Rec and Cemetery Departments since it would be used there as well.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to table the purchase of a zero turn mower. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Ambulance and Fire Department Reports – Tom Renz

Monthly report
April 27, 2021

Ambulance

1 – Deceased on scene

4 – Transported to Hayward 3 had Paramedic intercepts

1 – St. Luke's with Mayo intercept

1 – Essentia Health with Mayo Intercept

1 – Assist in Ashland county with radio communications with search for lost person

Effective May 1 Brett Friermood will take over duties of EMS director.

Fire

1 – Mutual aid assist to Ashland County Sheriff's office for search for lost person

ATV has arrived, tank has been placed on it by Highway crew and is ready for operation.

Would like to place excess equipment up for auction ATVs, Snowmobiles & extra cot. All grant information has been completed and taken care of waiting \$10,000.00 reimbursement at this point.

Effective May 1 Brock Friermood will take over duties of Fire Chief.

Tom

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to put the excess equipment up for auction. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Tom Renz administered the oath of office to Brett Friermood as the new Ambulance Director and Brock Friermood as the new Fire Chief. They will take over effective May 1st.

Motion made (Renz/S. Frint) to open the floor so Brock Friermood could address the board. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Chairman Renz was presented with a plaque for his years of service to the Town as Fire Chief and Ambulance Director. He was given a standing ovation by those in attendance.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to close the floor. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports-Chairman Renz reviewed the assignments of the board members to the various committees

Eric Neff will be the board liaison to the A.I.S. Committee and Jim Frint will take his place on the Roads & Right of Way Committee. Jim will also be the liaison to the Cemetery Committee.

Dave Scully will be the board liaison to the Transfer Site (currently in recess) and the Ambulance and Fire Departments

Tom Renz will be the board liaison for the Tourism Committee (also in recess) and the Parks & Rec Committee

Seana Frint will remain the chair and board liaison to the Land Use Planning Commission

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

The rezone application from Milo Properties from a R-2 to a R-1 was approved by the Commission.

Motion made (S. Frint/Neff) to approve the re-zone application of Milo Properties. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

The after-the-fact Class A special use permit for Douglas and Kathleen White was approved by the Commission.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the after-the-fact Class A permit of the Whites. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

The Class A special use permit for a short-term rental from Jeffrey & Susan Dietrich was also approved.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the short term rental application of Jeffery & Susan Dietrich. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb said she will be staying on for a short time until another member takes over. Ingemar Ekstrom will coordinate the citizen network and Chris will be helping with the CBCW program. Gus Gustafson has worked for several years on the BAISS operations but would like to step back. One of our divers from last year Alex Kabasa would like to dive but only if it works with her work schedule. Cris Neff will be diving but Terry Bauer has not responded. A meeting is scheduled for May 3rd to meet with Chuck Druckery who will share his knowledge of building a herbicide barricade that could be used in Tomahawk Lake and invited Jeff Jordheim to attend.

Chairman Renz thanked Chris for her efforts working on this committee and she said they are trying to get more people involved so the work load can be shared. She requested that the board appoint Doug Stearly to the A.I.S. Committee.

Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to approve the appointment of Doug Stearly as a member of the A.I.S. Committee. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Parks & Rec Committee - Pat Johnston

Appointment of Kay Erdahl as an alternate to the committee. Discussion was held regarding making her a full member.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the appointment of Kay Erdahl as a member of the Parks & Rec Committee as a full member. Roll call vote taken, motion carried with all voting yes.

Update on Town Parks – May 15th at 9am they are going to work on the Blue Trail to expand it for snowshoeing. It's too narrow for both classic skiing and snowshoeing. Marc Lybeck has offered to mow twice a week, mowing this frequently enabled the trails to be the first to open in our area last winter. Hunting signs have been posted to make people aware that it is allowed. The sledding hill was also discussed and it is recommended if we are going to keep it where it is, that it be made safer with maintenance and by widening/enlarging the parking area. They are no longer looking to move the garage at the Town Complex but they will need future storage at Tomahawk Lake Park. The naming of the building was also discussed so they have asked the committee members to make suggestions and then they will bring it to the board. Chairman Renz said he works for the Birkebeiner Committee and he got a lot of positive feedback from them about our park. Pat also reported that the fundraiser drive has been very successful and would like to order the groomer equipment using the funds raised and the money that the Town had budgeted. She provided the clerk with a purchase order.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Action Items List and the Timeline.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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