

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday April 28, 2020
6:30 PM via Zoom video conferencing

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Chris Webb called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order at 6:30PM via Zoom video conferencing. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Donna Porter, Seana Frint and Susan Jansen and Eric Neff in attendance. Tom Renz, Fire Chief/Ambulance Director, Eric Polkoski, Roads & Property Foreman and EMT Irene Bott were also in attendance. 7 members of the public also attended. Judy Bourassa verified public notice.

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

The Clerk requested that the agenda be amended to include appointments of Land Use Planning Commissioners.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve the agenda as amended to add the appointment of the Land Use Planning commissioners and the minutes of the 3/17/2020 Monthly Board Meeting and the 3/15, 3/17 and 3/23 Special Town Board Meeting minutes and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session –Irene Bott stated that the 4th of July Barnes Emergency Services fundraiser is their only fundraiser so if the 4th of July fireworks are cancelled, she would like the BES to be able to sell raffle tickets and suggested a golf ball drop or selling pins for a secret location might be another way to raise funds. She also suggested local businesses might consider donating gift certificates that could be raffled/auctioned off.

Chairperson Webb said they are looking for ideas and alternative activities should they decide to cancel the 4th of July festivities and fireworks. No decision was made and it will be discussed again at the May Town board meeting.

Update on COVID-19 Pandemic-Tom Renz said they are fully prepared with PPE supplies and discussed the process to decontaminate masks. This would allow them to be re-used 5 times before needing replacement.

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported the election results with Seana Frint being re-elected with 201 votes and Eric Neff elected with 190 votes. The audit has not been received but expected in the next week or two. A thank you note from Mark Holm was received by Chief Renz in regard to the Community Assistance Program. Chairperson Webb congratulated and welcomed Eric Neff to the board.

Update regarding request from citizens about property on Barnes Road managed by the Northwest Community Services. Chairperson Webb contacted the Bayfield County Health Department and NW Community Services via email. She said the board will work with these agencies to get the properties cleaned up and suggested possibly allowing free drop off at the Transfer Site. Supervisor Jansen stated she was a little disappointed with the response from the agencies. Supervisor Neff suggested that we address this issue each spring so that property owners realize we are serious and that we will follow up.

Webb requested that a letter be sent to the parties involved along with a copy of the ordinance.

Update regarding FireWise Grant-Chris requested that Eric Neff be the board liaison with Vern Wilcox. Tom Renz will also be involved as a representative of the Fire Department. A mailing will be sent in May to tax payers to educate them about the program. The board requests reviewing the proposed mailing prior to it being sent out. The suggested site for collection is across the road from the Transfer Site. Eric Polkoski said a spot on town property on Ellison Lake Rd would be an option or up in the brush pit.

Discussion regarding 4th of July festivities/fireworks. Chairperson Webb reported that other towns have cancelled their fireworks but the board needs to do some fact-finding and no decision will be made tonight. Supervisor Neff said due to additional expenses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he would like to see any funds saved by not having a fireworks display put toward these extra expenses. He also feels that more people will be requesting fireworks permits if the town sponsored festivities are cancelled. The board members all felt that any decision should be delayed at this time, however, Donna Porter thought waiting until June was too late and we should consider it at the next board meeting in May. The fireworks provider was contacted and we can cancel up to a few days prior to the event. An option could be to postpone the fireworks (possibly to next year). Supervisor Porter stated that they have already been receiving donations for the BES fundraiser and donors would need to be contacted to find out if they would like to be refunded. Supervisor Jansen requested a list of suggested fundraising options and the costs associated with those options. Webb said the 4th of July festivities/fireworks will be on the May Monthly Town Board Meeting agenda.

Motion to remove Tom Emerson from Chippewa Valley Bank and the Vanguard account and add newly elected board member, Eric Neff, to those accounts

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to remove previous Town Board Supervisor, Tom Emerson and add new Town Supervisor Eric Neff to all Town of Barnes bank accounts at Chippewa Valley Bank and the Vanguard account where he was a signer. All other signers and titles will remain the same. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve March vouchers

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to approve the March vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The Treasurer's Report for March prepared by Clerk Bourassa was displayed for public view. The ending balance in the General Checking is \$485,693.63, \$579,526.05 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account, \$2,378.04 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$909.17 and a 6 month CD at Associated Bank with a value of \$104,001.55 for a total in all funds of \$1,172,508.44 with \$570.68 in interest earned.

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

Highway Department -Monthly Roads Report presented by Eric Polkoski –

Completion of projects for month of April

- Cleaning and disinfecting of equipment and shop for Covid-19.
- Regular maintenance on equipment. Greasing and washing.
- Getting equipment switched over from winter to summer.
- Cleaning up the right ways. Removing all the hazard trees and debris.
- Working up at Tomahawk Park cleaning up park.
- Finish clearing the right away of Honeymoon Trl.
- Starting brush mowing on the roads.
- Putting up road signs back up after winter that were damaged.
- Started patching hole in blacktop roads.
- Blew sand off blacktop roads and intersections.
- Started raking the town park.
- Graded the Haul route.
- Started grading the gravel roads.
- Took down braces in channels and put in docks.
- Installed new fuel pump and card reader.
- Cleaned out pipes on Mulligan Creek Rd from the beavers.
- The guys have been working down at the Transfer site two days a week for the month of April.
- Road restrictions will be removed on May 4th the same time as Bayfield county.
- Looking for a date to do reviews on Tanner and Robert. Tanners will be a 6-month review, and Robert will be 3 months review he also received his CDL.

Update on Denver Rd project –Zech Gotham contacted the clerk regarding the pre-construction conference scheduled for May 18th. This will be held via Zoom. The project start date may be pushed back to after the 4th of July but would be completed by Labor Day weekend.

The dock on the Upper was installed but then removed as it was damaged and needed to be welded. It will be re-installed before the weekend. The dock on the Middle has been installed as well. The only one not installed yet is the one on Pickerel. The boat landings are all open. The pontoon trailers will be available for rent beginning tomorrow. Webb reported that she has requested that a plexiglass barrier be installed in the Town Office and Eric has done that. She also requested that the playground equipment be sanitized and Eric and Town Crew will do that. Neff requested that signs be posted indicating the protocols followed. Tom Renz and the clerk will investigate and report back to the board. Chairperson Webb reported that the DNR has agreed to contribute \$2,375 towards the cost of the fuel pump/card reader system.

Fire & Ambulance Departments-Monthly BES Reports presented by Tom Renz –

Monthly report

April 28, 2020

Ambulance

There have been eight ambulance calls

2 – transports to Hayward

1 – No transport Barnes

5 – no transports all in Highland

1 – was bracelet set off and caller did not respond on arrival person just want light bulb changed on deck.

EMT's have been busy making and handing out masks so far, I would estimate somewhere around 400 to 500 masks given out. Lots of material has been donated and Irene has been doing a lot of sewing. Leah has done some and Betty has come in and was doing some cutting of the material. I would say that the mask event has been overwhelmingly a very positive event and Irene and Leah have done a great job in the coordination.

I was also contacted by Enbridge as was Irene, one of the grants that Irene and Leah had worked on through Enbridge was awarded to the Barnes Emergency Services for the entire purchase amount of a generator for the new Emergency Services.

We have had a large response of volunteers to go to stores for others and we have had several people that we have organized shopping for, again if anyone needs anything we will make arrangements to pick stuff up for you, in most cases it can be handled over the phone and set up for curbside pickup.

We are prepared for the Virus should it get worse now or in the fall as they are calling for. All the tools are in place from our own UV light disinfecting, spray disinfecting. We also have available to us a regional UV light disinfecting unit in Hayward that has been established by the state through the Emergency Management. We will be able to get our N95 masks decontaminated there. The State recommendation at this time is to always use a new N95 mask when available, mark it with your name and date in service. When mask is used to place in paper bag with the wearer's name on it and date and place in decontamination room for 5 days which should then eliminate the virus and be reusable. A person would then be able to cycle them as needed as long as 5 days have elapsed since the last use. If we also need to, we can then take them to Hayward to regional trailer for decontamination, but should not have to as we have our own UV light here.

Fire

No calls for the Fire Department.

We are ready for the wild land fire season and so far so good as it has been (and I say this knocking on wood) quiet so far.

The Fire Department and ambulance are meeting through Zoom and they are still conducting training through the internet. Last month the Fire did wild land training and sky warn spotter training. This month they were sent paperwork and questions that they will have to answer and turn in. The training was on hazmat and how to use the Emergency response book and the WISE phone app to determine many things, evacuation size, type of PPE to be worn, medical treatment and hazard if mixed with other environmental factors.

As far as the open house June sixth I say let's also hold off until May 19th or so and see where we are at before we make that decision. This is the next Town Board meeting and we can make this date a drop dead (no pun intended) decision date.

I talked to the fireworks company and he indicate he would only need a couple days' notice should we want to postpone to a later date but right now because of our situation in the north here he is preparing to go ahead with it. We still have two months till the event so I am taking the let's wait and

see what happens, we may still have to maintain social distancing at that time but I think people will be able to manage.

I also would like for the Town board to consider at the next Town Board meeting to combine the Fire and Ambulance in to one. It would be considered a fire Department and Ambulance Department still just that it is all under one umbrella called Barnes Emergency Services. You still have your separate entities or Divisions or department as you may want to refer them but for grant reasons, financial and other reasons it is one unit then.

Update on Emergency Services Building Open House scheduled for June 6th
Chief Renz would like a decision to be withheld until the May Board Meeting

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

- a) Parks & Rec Committee- Pat Johnston reported that the committee has not met yet but will be setting up a video conference in May. They will work on developing a 2 to 3 year plan. This could encompass maintenance and activities. Pat said there is ongoing maintenance needed at the Park and volunteers are needed. She also suggested that a donation tube be set up at the park. The P&R Committee will work with the Friends of Tomahawk Lake Park to submit a purchase order to the Clerk. Pat questioned when the Board planned to open the building. Pam Toshner volunteered to disinfect the building at least weekly. Pat requested that some disinfectant be placed at the building so it can be used by park users. Chief Renz reminded the board of the shortage of wipes and sanitizer and doesn't want to deplete his supplies. After discussion, it was decided to not open the building until the Safer at Home order expires on May 26th.
- b) Update regarding request to budget \$5,000 for contribution to Friends of Tomahawk Lake Park to purchase equipment for trail maintenance. It has been suggested that if Town owned property on Tomahawk Lake was sold some of the proceeds could be used towards the equipment purchase. No decision was made. Purchase orders will be submitted for summer trail maintenance equipment.
- c) Discussion of attorney's recommendations in regard to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. The changes recommended by the attorney were reviewed as well as the changes proposed by the FTLP.

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to approve the MOU as amended. Roll call was taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Discussion regarding Tomahawk Lake Park mailing-it may be changed to a postcard and not combined with the FireWise mailing but discussion is continuing.

Update regarding Bayfield County Health Infrastructure Grant-this grant has been cancelled for 2020 so the funding will not be able to be used towards the purchase of equipment.

b) Transfer Site Committee- Sue Jansen

1. Update on recall of employees and days of operation –All temporarily laid off employees will be recalled. Supervisor Jansen spoke with Bob Simonsen and the only question he had was how many days will the Transfer Site be open. The board decided to return to normal operations, being open 3 days per week (Wed, Sat and Sun), starting May 6th.

c) Land Use Planning Commission

1. Laura & Melissa Houghtaling of 48980 S. River Rd-Class A Special Use application for a Tourist Room House (short term rental). The LUPC recommends approving the application.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to accept the recommendation of the Commission and approve the Special Use application of Laura & Melissa Houghtaling. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

2. Rusty Cray LLC (Jim Beauto) of 1650 Lake Rd-Class A application to build a 112x50 pole barn with workshop and bathroom on zone F1. The LUPC recommends approving the application.

Motion made (Neff/Frint) to approve the application for the pole barn with the condition that any additional dwelling be a separate application. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

AMENDED AGENDA ITEM: Appointment of LUPC members

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to re-appoint the two LUPC members whose terms are ending in 2020, Diane Rupnow and Loren Bohl, to another 2 year term to the Land Use Planning Commission. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Chairperson Webb reviewed the Action Item List and the Timeline.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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