

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday May 19, 2020
7:00 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Chris Webb called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00PM. 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, was also in attendance. Judy Bourassa verified public notice.

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

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 4/28/2020 Monthly Board Meeting and the 4/2, 4/9 and 4/28/2020 Special Town Board Meeting minutes and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to open the floor to public comments. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session –Ted Eastlund spoke in regard to the 4th of July parade and fireworks and whether or not to cancel the festivities.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to close the floor to public comments. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported receiving an email from the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area encouraging the town board to refresh the “Welcome to Barnes” signs on 27 or remove them. A letter was received from Dan Doman of the Ashland Bayfield County Tavern League requesting that the board consider lowering or waiving the renewal fees for operator and liquor licenses. The clerk also updated the board on the invoices received from Bayfield County for the South Shore Bridge project – they represent the 20% local responsibility for the engineering fees.

The board discussed the purchase of Health Safety signs to be installed in the Town Parks, Office and Hall, at the Town Garage, Transfer Site and boat landings. These signs promote safe hygiene practices and CDC recommendations such as frequent handwashing, maintaining 6 ft distance from others and staying home when symptomatic.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to authorize the ordering of 20 Health Safety signs. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The clerk will order the signs and the Highway Dept. will install them.

Supervisor Jansen suggested that some signage at boat landings be combined so there are not so many signs.

A proposal from Norvado to install internet service and Wi-Fi at the Town Hall was reviewed.

Motion made (Neff/Frint) to accept the proposal from Norvado at a cost of \$611.80. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Supervisor Jansen asked what the town currently spends and how much this will increase the cost. The clerk reported that our bills for all facilities average around \$700-800 month and this will increase that by about \$100.00.

Chairperson Webb updated the board regarding the request to change the name of Buck N Bass Rd. The property owners are in favor of changing the name, Lakeview Rd was suggested, so Chairperson Webb will look into this further and it will be added to next month's agenda.

The renewal of the Town's membership with the Wisconsin Towns Association was discussed.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to renew the Town's membership with the Wisconsin Towns Association at a cost of \$675.35 for 2021. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Supervisor Neff said it's a valuable resource for the board members and recommends renewing.

A discussion was then held regarding the 4th of July festivities, including the parade and fireworks.

Supervisor Neff said Ted Eastlund makes a good point and would like to see the decision postponed until the June meeting.

Supervisor Frint stated there was concern prior to the Fishing Opener and many out of state people were here for the fishing opener, others have been at their cabins for weeks, and now two weeks after opening of fishing season the county still hasn't had an outbreak.

Chairperson Webb stated that we have plenty of time to cancel yet and agreed that we should postpone the decision until the June meeting. Parades have been cancelled in the past just hours before start time due to storms and weather related issues.

Supervisor Porter asked how to keep Social Distancing along the parade route.

Supervisor Jansen said several other towns have cancelled their fireworks and is concerned that people will be looking for festivities to attend, drawing an even bigger crowd to our town.

Motion made (Jansen/Neff) to cancel the 4th of July parade (not the fireworks, at this time). Roll call vote was taken, Supervisor Jansen voted yes, Supervisor Neff voted yes, Supervisor Frint no, Supervisor Porter yes, Chairperson Webb no. The motion carried.

The fireworks will be on the June agenda

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve April vouchers

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The Treasurer's Report for April prepared by Clerk Bourassa was displayed for public view. The ending balance in the General Checking is \$518,424.90, \$572,357.06 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account, \$2,553.04 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$859.17 and a 6 month CD at Associated Bank with a value of \$100,395.55 for a total in all funds of \$1,194,589.72 with \$676.67 in interest

earned. The balance of the CD was revised due to the correction of interest earned in 2019 which was previously overstated and corrected by the recent audit.

Motion made (Neff/Frint) to approve the April Treasurer's Report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Highway Department -Monthly Roads Report by Eric Polkoski was read by Clerk Bourassa

Completion of projects for month of May

- Cleaning and disinfecting of park 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 and town park.
- Starting brush mowing on the roads.
- Patched hole in blacktop roads.
- Blew leaves out of ditches to make easier for grading.
- Town park and cemetery are raked.
- Grading of the gravel roads.
- Denver Rd project to start June 1st and be completed by July 2nd.
- Meet with Brad from Farhner about the flex patching on Barnes Rd waiting on him to give me the finally number for cost to do the 2.73 miles.

Update on Denver Rd re-construction project – a pre-construction meeting was held on May 18th. The project is scheduled to begin June 1st with a completion date prior by the 4th of July.

RING camera security at the Transfer Site was discussed as well as scheduling staff meetings. Chairperson Webb would like Eric Polkoski to schedule staff meetings bi-weekly. 4 to 6 RING cameras will be installed at the Transfer Site to replace the current cameras at a cost of approximately \$700 plus installation cost. Supervisor Jansen asked if this was in the budget and Chairperson Webb confirmed there are funds available. Supervisor Jansen said the attendants have requested the purchase of a scale so the Chair requested that a purchase order be submitted.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to authorize the purchase of RING security system (4 to 6 cameras) for the Transfer Site. Roll call vote taken with all voting yes, except Supervisor Jansen opposed. Motion carried.

Cemetery, Parks, Boat Landings: Supervisor Jansen reported that some welds will need to re-done on the Upper Eau Claire since the dock is not level. Power loading is contributing to the stress on the dock. Although the Conservation Club donated docks, Supervisor Jansen stated ongoing maintenance is the town's responsibility. Supervisor Neff also mentioned the dock at Tomahawk needs to be ADA compliant so that will be a budget item for next year.

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

Monthly report

May 19, 2020

Ambulance

There have been five ambulance calls

1 – Transport to Hayward

1 – Mutual aid to iron river transported to Essentia Health Superior

2 – Zero transports, all in Highland

1 – Respond and stand by for Fire Department

I do believe we have finally caught up on mask issuance I believe we handed out about 500 masks in total.

We did have to make some connections for a couple of people with the volunteers to get items from the stores and back again.

Irene had everything approved by the State and training will now be conducted in accordance with the state refresher hours so we will no longer have to have a refresher every license year. The state is now going to a three-year license renewal instead of two.

Per Dr. Shultz request we will be switching super glotic air way from what we presently use (king) airway to the I-gel airway. Most of the reason is related to COVID 19 and aerosol air in to the air from the patient and also the quickness in the ease of use.

Fire

1 – Chimney fire, fire was out on arrival

BES building

Colin was down and did some dragging in the parking lot with his atv and drag and leveled it out. Need to get the ground leveled out around building and top soil put back in place and seeded. I need to get some cement slab put down for generator and air conditioning/ heating unit. I have a friend who has cement mixer and looking at probably just doing it ourselves. Possible sidewalk on north side also.

I would like permission to dig up sign in the front of the Town highway building to place down by the Building.

Also Josh Peterson will be installing the new signs on side of building as soon as he completes his work at the Barnes historical building.

Roof on concession stand roof should be completed soon.

Tom

Update on emergency preparedness-COVID-19 – he encourages people to not delay/put off seeing their doctors as there is an uptick in the seriousness of conditions.

Update on ESB Open House scheduled for June 6, Chief Renz would prefer to postpone to a later date

First responders & point system – Chief Renz would like first responders to be part of the point system and the on call program (only one First responder on calls) , we currently have one first responder but he hopes to have more in the future.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) that first responders be eligible for the on call and point system. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairperson Webb advised the board that she received a call from a concerned citizen regarding the board's recent discussion about on-call hours. The individual wondered why on-call hours were questioned for the Ambulance Director as he is on-call to cover hours when full-time EMTs are

unavailable. The individual questioned the hours of full-time EMTS and if certain members of the board want to reduce on-call hours, maybe more full-time EMTS are needed. The individual wants the board to review his recent call, who was on duty and length of response time. The Chair will have Clerk contact individual to get signed release for board to review the call.

Appointment of board members to committee/commissions

Chairperson Webb suggested the following appointments of board liaisons:

Seana Frint to the Land Use Planning Commission

Eric Neff to the Roads & Right of Way Committee

The Tourism and Transfer Site Committees will be recessed and the BES Building Committee will be disbanded. It was suggested by Supervisor Jansen that members of the Lakes Committee could be folded into the A.I.S. Committee which would then allow two long serving members of the A.I.S. Committee to retire

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

a) Road & Right of Way Committee-

The South Shore Bridge Project was discussed, the committee will be meeting in June and a public information meeting will be held in August.

b) Land Use Planning Commission

1. Benjamin & Shawndel Spader of 5485 Kelly Lake Rd: Class B Special Use application for storage rentals within existing buildings (48x36 & 35x30)

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to approve the application of Special Use for Benjamin and Shawndel Spader. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

2. Thomas Shemon of 43680 State Hwy 27: Class A Special Use application to build residence in a Forestry 1 zoning district

3.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to approve the Special Use application of Thomas Shemon. Voice vote taken, motion carried

4. John & Kristin Peterson (no address - Tax ID 2044): Request to construct a gravel driveway 500 ft long by 16' wide to allow access to north end of property

Motion made (Porter/Neff) to recommend approval of the application of the Petersons. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

c) Parks & Rec Committee – Pat Johnston

1. Public grounds: rain gardens and flower plantings- the rain garden has been damaged and needs repair. The Committee will plant flowers at the Town Office & Hall.

2. Park maintenance needs- a storage facility is needed for hoses

3. Recreational activities – possibly closing the sledding hill and finding a new location. This will be discussed as part of a new Two-Year plan for the Parks which the Committee hopes to have to the board by August.

d) A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb

1. Clean Boats Clean Waters monitoring scheduled to begin in early June-we have the needed monitors

A purchase order for a GPS will be submitted so it can be used to mark where invasive species have been found.

Matt Berg will do the plant studies on Upper and Middle between June 15-20th.

2. BAISS 2020 projects; advertisements for certified divers have been placed on Indeed and in the Ashland Daily Press. Supervisor Neff suggested contacting Northland College, Stevens Point and Winona State. 3 applications have been received and the clerk will set up interviews via Zoom with Ingemar & Gus. Committee members are needed.

3. Eau Claire Lakes grants-extensions have been denied, they expire 6/30/2020

4. Tomahawk/Sandbar grant expires 12/31/2020

e) Transfer Site Committee – Sue Jansen

1. The Committee will be recessed

2. Purchase Order for scale will be submitted

3. Attendants are wearing gloves and masks

f) Tourism Committee – Seana Frint

1. Consider renewal of Iron River Chamber of Commerce membership

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to renew the IRCC membership at a cost of \$95.00. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

2. The committee will be recessed

Chairperson Webb reviewed the Action Item List and the Timeline. Supervisor Jansen requested that the values of a new fire truck and grader be added to the timeline. The clerk will check with the Department Heads.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@barnes-wi.com Fax: 715-795-2784