

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2020 BUDGET HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
and MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday – November 19, 2019 at 6:00PM
At Barnes Town Hall
(UNAPPROVED)**

At 6:03PM, Chairperson Chris Webb called the Annual Public Budget Hearing to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Donna Porter, Seana Frint, Susan Jansen and Tom Emerson present, establishing a quorum. Also present was Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer. Judy Bourassa verified public notice. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was said by all.

Discussion of the 2020 Proposed Town Budget –Chairperson Webb reviewed the budget summary, explaining the various categories in revenues and expenses. The proposed budget for 2020 includes a resolution by the Town Board to use the previous year’s unused tax levy of \$2,240.00 which was adopted at the October 23rd meeting. The levy for 2019 (payable in 2020) would be \$816,921.00. This would provide funding for the hiring of 2 full-time EMTs, additional funds for road improvements/maintenance and the South Shore Bridge replacement. Money originally budgeted by the board for the tennis court replacement and salt shed funding was removed at the request of the electors to increase EMT funding. The Public Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:03PM.

Motion made (Vern Wilcox/Tom Renz) to adjourn. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

At 7:05PM, the Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to order. There were 22 Electors present.

Chris Webb presented the choices for the method of voting on the 2019 resolutions i.e. standing, hand count, or secret ballots. Attendees agreed on hand count for recording votes. Vote counters were asked for and Pat Johnston and Vern Wilcox were appointed to count votes.

Clek Bourassa read the language of Resolution R19-09 to use the previous year’s unused tax levy of \$2,240.00 to help fund the 2020 operating budget.

Motion made (Pat Johnston/Marcia Wellnitz) to adopt Resolution 19-09. Vote by show of hands taken with 20 voting yes, and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

Webb read the language of Resolution R19-07 as follows: “BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the qualified electors of the Town of Barnes here assembled in a Special Town Meeting this 19th day of November, 2019, to adopt the 2019 town tax levy to be paid in 2020 in the sum of \$816,921.00 which will be levied for the purpose of Operating Expenses for the year 2020.”

Motion made (Marcia Wellnitz/Tom Renz) to adopt Resolution 19-07. Vote by show of hands taken with 20 voting yes and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made (Tom Renz/Cris Neff) to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM.

At 7:21PM Chairman Webb called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order.

Motion made (Frint/Porter/) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 10/15/2019 Monthly Board meeting and the 10/1, 10/10, 10/16, 10/17, 10/22 and 10/23 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

Town of Barnes 2020 Budget – questions regarding the budget were asked by several electors and it was noted that there was no funding for a potential agreement with Sawyer County to provide Emergency Services (paramedic). It was suggested that another EMT should be hired and the budget should reflect that. The board responded that we could cut some expenses from the budget (such as overhead doors at the Transfer Site, money set aside to build a new Salt/Sand shed, new office equipment) and add funding for another EMT. The board will meet to revise the budget, however, the tax levy would not change, nor the total budget amount of \$1,654,810.

Motion made (Jansen/Frint) to adopt the “revised” Town of Barnes budget of \$1,654,810 for fiscal year 2020. Voice vote taken with Emerson, Frint, Porter, Jansen and Webb all voting yes to adopt the 2020 budget. Motion carried.

Public Comment Session –

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to open the floor to public comments for 5 minute limit for those not on the agenda. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Jim Lancour of 1805 Pine Chip Drive asked Chairperson Webb to express his concern about Pine Chip Drive and would like it to be considered for future road improvement.

Vern Wilcox introduced Ben Garrett who spoke regarding the FireWise Protection Plan. Andy Wilcox of the DNR was also present. The National Firewise Communities Program is a national interagency program that encourages partnerships among communities, homeowners, private industry, tribes and public agencies and officials to develop and implement local solutions for wildfire preparedness – before a fire starts. Grants are available so Vern Wilcox offered to act as the coordinator and apply for a \$10,000 grant. A newsletter will be mailed out informing the public about the FireWise program. Volunteers are needed to be on a committee so contact Vern for more information. Supervisor Porter said it’s a great program and she participated in the program in the past.

Motion (Porter/Frint) to close the floor to public comments. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Planning Commission-Tom Emerson

- 1) Dennis Miller of 52250 Pease Rd. Class A special use application to build a residence with attached garage
- 2) James & Sara Benning of 51040 State Hwy 27 – application for short term rental

Motion made (Emerson/Porter) to recommend approval of the Class A application for Dennis Miller of 52250 Pease Rd. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Motion made (Emerson/Frint) to recommend approval of the short term rental application for James & Sara Benning of 51040 State Hwy 27. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence-The clerk reported a timber cut notice was received as was Resolution 2019-71 from Bayfield County regarding snowplow awareness and operator appreciation; a letter was received from Bayfield County Administrator Mark Abeles-Allison regarding Bayfield County’s tax levy increase for 2020 in the amount of \$48 for a property with an assessed value of \$100,000 to be used solely for highway reconstruction; two letters were received regarding the Kelly Lake Association ordinances request

Kelly Lake Ordinance request update- The Town Board reviewed materials received regarding the town’s jurisdiction over water ordinances and the Public Trust Doctrine. The board declined to pursue

adoption of these ordinances at this time as current law provides for Wisconsin DNR to oversee water rights. A letter will be sent to Kelly Lake Association suggesting that they pursue legislative avenues.

Appointment of FireWise Coordinator

Motion made (Jansen/Porter) to appoint Vern Wilcox as FireWise Coordinator for the Town of Barnes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Cable Chamber of Commerce membership-Chairperson Webb met with the Chamber to find out what benefits the membership offers. Discussion followed.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve payment of \$300 for the 2020 membership dues to the Cable Chamber of Commerce. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Voucher's Approval –

Motion made (Emerson/Frint) to approve the October vouchers. Voice vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

The October Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Judy Bourassa. The 10/31 ending balance in the General Checking account was \$362,446.22 - this balance was mostly due to transfers from the Money Market Emergency Services Building Sinking Fund to cover the payments to D. Cecil Builders and the Highway Sinking Fund to cover the payment to Monroe Truck Equipment for the new plow truck. The transfers reduced the balance in the Money Market account to \$675,597.75 as of 10/31. There was no activity in either the Vatten Paddlar or Tax Collection accounts, with ending balances of \$1,931.09 and \$515.11, respectively. A CD valued at \$100,000 is on account at Associated Bank. Including year-to-date interest earnings of \$8,925.24, the balance in all accounts totals \$1,140,490.17

Motion made (Frint/Emerson) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voice vote taken with no opposition. Motion carried.

TOB Department Head Reports:

Highway Department Monthly Report-Eric Polkoski

Completion of projects for month of October/November

Put up posts for interpreted signs on the ski trail.

Installed rain gardens at Tomahawk Park.

We have been brushing the right of way in Potawatomi.

Patching of holes on most of the blacktop roads.

Finished graveling the parking lot around new Emergency Building.

Pulled docks out at Tomahawk Lake Park, Island Lake, Upper, Robinson, and Pickerel lake.

Put in channel braces on Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes.

Switched equipment over for winter - put on plows, wings, inserts, sanders, underbodies and switched lawn mower over to snowblower.

Burned the brush at the brush pit.

Sold the 2005 International Tandem plow truck.

Winterized the town park and bathrooms.

Tanner is learning all the equipment and roads in Barnes. He has been a good fit and picks up quickly.

Supervisor Tom Emerson thanked Eric for his work insulating the walls in the Transfer Site building.

The roads selected for the MLS (90/10) Program are Lake Road, Pease Road and E. Robinson Lake

Road. This is a program funded by WISDOT. Applications are due by December 6th.

Fire & Ambulance Departments Monthly Reports-Tom Renz

Monthly report

November 19th, 2019

4 in Town of Highland

1 patient transferred to Mayo

1 traffic crash on A

1 – No transport

1 – Fire alarm – false alarm

1 – crash on Barnes Road- no injuries

2 – trauma related calls - North memorial helicopter contacted

Gordon EMS assisted with one

Gordon Fire and Sawyer paramedic assisted with one

1 - no transport

1 – transported to Duluth hospital

Fire

1 – False alarm Highland

2 landing zone

2 motor vehicle crashes

Both engines have failed pump testing on the vacuum side of the pumps, it is going to cost about \$2,000.00 total for the repairs which is getting scheduled.

New Emergency Services building is coming along, cabinets are in, door sweeps and closers are on. Epoxy of floors is scheduled to start on Dec 2nd. After that we will have a final meeting with Cecil Builders and Tom will finalize the list. The State can do the final inspection to issue the occupancy permit and then we can move in.

Tom

Discussion regarding billing for 'no transport' calls. Tom Renz explained that we get several calls for lift assist which requires the ambulance to be dispatched with two responders. He reported that the average fee charged by area services is \$100.00. The board agreed to consider a policy charging for these types of calls. Tom Renz will develop the policy which the board will review.

Review of ALS (Advanced Life Support) Intercept Agreement from Mayo Clinic. This is an agreement that has been in place but has not had an increase in fees for over 20 years. The new agreement would increase the fee from \$80 to \$300 (in 2020, with increases in subsequent years). Mayo Clinic will charge the Town \$300 in 2020 if they transport the patient, or the Town will bill Mayo Clinic the same fee if we (the Town) transports. A loaded mileage rate will also apply. The fee will increase \$10 each year for the next 4 years as well as the loaded mileage rate which will increase \$0.25 each of those years as well.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to authorize Ambulance Director Tom Renz to sign the ALS Agreement with Mayo. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Review D. Cecil Builders Pay Request #4 (agenda incorrectly listed it as #3) for \$132,451.20

Motion made (Emerson/Jansen) to approve Pay Request #4 in the amount of 132,451.20 to Dave Cecil Builders. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

a) EMS Committee – Guy Johnston

1) update on hiring of fulltime EMT-Irene Bott has accepted the offer with a start date of 12/2/19.

As discussed at the earlier budget hearing, budget funds will be re-allocated to allow for the hiring of a second EMT.

b) A.I.S. Committee- Chris Webb

- 1) adoption of Resolution R19-10 to apply for an Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant. This cost share grant would help with the cost of conducting boat and trailer inspections and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to adopt Resolution R19-10. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Resignation of Jim Krook from the A.I.S. committee was announced. The Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Association normally submits a recommendation of a new committee member to the town board. Interested parties should complete an application which can be found on the town's website.

c) Parks & Rec Committee

- 1) Consider request regarding changes to the Ruckus in the Woods 2020 schedule. The date proposed is August 15, 2020 beginning at 3pm (gates open at 2pm) and ending after the closing fireworks which would begin at 11pm (15 minute display) resulting in the event lasting 30 minutes longer than in 2019. It would no longer be an "over 21" event, all ages would be allowed to attend.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to approve the changes discussed for the Ruckus in the Wood 2020 event. Discussion followed with Supervisor Jansen requesting that the motion be postponed so that members of the public can weigh in.

Voice vote taken, with all voting yes, except Supervisor Jansen, motion carried.

Motion made (Porter/Jansen) to open the floor to comment. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Cris Neff asked what fee is charged for use of the park, Chairperson Webb replied that the fee is \$100.00. (Please note, the correct amount is \$75.00). Cris Neff suggested that the fee being charged should possibly be adjusted in future years.

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

- 2) Consider appointment of new chair, Pat Johnston and secretary, Susan Pagnucci

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to appoint Pat Johnston as the chairperson and Susan Pagnucci as the secretary of the Parks & Rec Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

3) Review update to Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan-updates to the Plan have been submitted which include construction of the warming hut, expansion of the trails, maps and additional signage, additional parking, an accessible fishing pier, road improvements and rain gardens (and other improvements) at Tomahawk Lake Park. A walking trail and fitness equipment were added at the Town Park, as well as additional benches and picnic tables.

4) Tomahawk Lake Park update-the interpretive signs were received this week and will be installed soon. The board wants to recognize Guy Johnston's donation of a table for the warming hut. The project is almost complete and the reimbursement request will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Action Items/Timeline-the issues were reviewed

Motion to adjourn (Jansen/Frint) was made. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Monthly Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM.

Submitted by Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer