

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2024 Special Town Board Meeting-Closed Session,
Public Hearing, and
MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023
5:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

APPROVED

The **Special Town Board Meeting** in the Town Office was called to Order by Chairman Renz at 5:30pm and a Roll Call was done to establish a Quorum with Eric Neff, Seana Frint and Jim Frint in attendance. Dave Scully was absent. Clerk Meyer verified notice.

A motion was made (Eric/Seana) to approve the Agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Closed Session: As the governing body for the Town of Barnes, the Town Board will go into a closed

Session, pursuant to the following: employee review/employee issues

- a) Wis. Stat § 19.85(c) “considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.”
- b) Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f) authorizes a closed session for: Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.

A motion to go into closed session was made by (Eric/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made (Tom/Eric) to return to open session at 5:45pm. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made (Eric/Seana) to approve Lisa Meyer’s hourly rate increase to \$25/hour. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion to go back into closed session was made by (Tom/Eric). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made (Tom/Seana) to return to open session at 5:49pm. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made (Tom/Eric) to approve Greg Strasser wage increase to \$21.63/hour. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made (Tom/Eric) to adjourn. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm

At 6:00PM, Chairman Tom Renz called the **Public Hearing** to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Seana Frint, Jim Frint and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Dave Scully was absent. Also present was Lisa Meyer, Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Meyer verified public notice.

A discussion of 2024 Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan took place with electors wondering what changes were made. Seana replied that very few changes were made and that our plan mirrored the Bayfield County's plan. Some verbiage had been updated and duplicated wording was removed. *Motion made (Tom/Eric) to adjourn the Public Hearing. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.*

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:10PM.

At 6:29PM, the Monthly Board Meeting was called to order. Tom Renz, Supervisors Seana Frint, Jim Frint and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Dave Scully was absent. Roll call to establish a quorum and verification of public notice.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag

Motion made (Seana/Jim) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 11/21/2023 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes

Public Comment Session – No public comment

Clerk Correspondence- Share the Senators letter regarding shared revenue increases-Share the communication from Ruth Hulstrom at the county regarding Special Class A application process and possible changes to that process.

Adoption of 2024 comprehensive plan by ordinance (Chapter 14)

A motion to adopt the 2024 comprehensive plan by ordinance (Chapter 14) was made by (Eric/Tom). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Appointment of Chief Inspector, Election Inspectors and new alternate Inspector

Clerk Meyer would like the board to appoint Carol Westerberg as Chief Inspector and Laurie Balousek, Susanne Kalla and Vicki Telloas Election Inspectors with Florence Prickett as an alternate Election Inspector for the January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 term.

A motion was made by (Eric/Seana) to appoint Carol Westerberg as Chief Inspector and Laurie Balousek, Susanne Kalla and Vicki Telloas Election Inspectors with Florence Prickett as an alternate Election Inspector for the January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 term. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried

Review employee of the year nominations and name the winner. Chairman Renz announced the decision to name both an Employee of the year and a Volunteer of the year.

A motion to name: Judy Bourassa as employee of the year and Doug Westerburg as Volunteer of the year was made by (Tom/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Discussion/Adoption of Chapter 21-Manufac/Mobil Home Municipal Permit Ordinance. The draft ordinance was sent to the attorney and they responded with recommendations. The board will review the corrected document after changes and move to adopt at a future meeting.

A motion to change the Manuf/Mobil Home Permit ordinance (Chapter 21) with recommendations from the attorney by was made by (Eric/Tom). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Chairman Renz read a letter from the Assessor regarding buildings on leased land owned by the town and the new rules for collecting what used to be personal property tax on those buildings. The process is still evolving and due to the fact that the snowmobile club is a non-profit, whereas the gas company is not. Further research will be done to decide the best path forward. Leases will be reviewed by the attorney.

A motion to move forward with contacting the attorney with our leases was made by (Eric/Tom). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Yearly Audit cost increase

A motion to approve Bauman Assc. as our auditor for the next 3 years (2023,24,25) was made by (Eric/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Adopt Resolution #23-09 Budget Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget

A motion to adopt Resolution #23-09 Budget Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget was made by (Tom/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Consider approval of operator's license for Matthew Crowley

A motion to approve Matthew Crowley's operator license was made by (Tom/Eric). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Approval – November vouchers

A motion to approve the November vouchers was made by (Eric/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report-Treasurer reported that there is a balance of 371,174.57 in the General checking account. \$830,143.14 in the Savings account, \$3,819.37 Tax account, \$3,471.75 in the Van Paddler account, \$6,271.46 in the PayPal account and \$4,132.15 in the Taste of Barnes account.

A motion to approve the Treasurers Report was made by (Tom/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

TOB Department Head Reports:

a) **Highway Department** – Monthly Roads Report-Jeff Jordheim

December Report/Highway Crew

Equipment: All plow equipment ready

John Deere grader is due to warehouse early January.

Cat 140 H: Rear axle seal has been repaired at a considerable lesser amount than what Fabick had quoted. 1/3 of the money, thanks to Doug Westerberg.

Older equipment is ready to be put on Wisconsin municipal auction site.

Buildings: Old salt/sand building has been retired. Thanks to JEC of Drummond.

Highway garage: A new door has been installed. With others to be replaced 2024. Should cut down on heating costs.

Roads: Mowing is ongoing with the shortage of snow. Cleaning up intersection to state standards or known as a vision triangle. I will have copies if anyone would like to have a copy.

Salt/sand: Residents can fill their pails on the east end of the highway garage, next to the public water faucet.

Point of pines update: Issue have been resolved

A motion to open the floor was made by (Tom/Eric). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A discussion took place regarding clearing trees at intersections per Wisconsin state rules.

Recommendations to have meetings with affected residents in the spring. Also discussed free sand for residents located by the water.

A motion to close the floor was made by (Tom/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

b) Monthly Transfer Site Report-Jeff Hong

The price increase for 2024 I will be proposing will be as follows:

Trailer loads of garbage or demolition will be \$1/sq. foot. Example 5'/8' trailer should be \$40.

Mattresses and box springs will be \$45 no matter the size, king, queen, full, twin.

All other things that we accept should increase by \$5.

A motion to open the floor was made by (Tom/Eric). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A discussion regarding construction materials and is it worth it to continue to accept this type of waste as it's not been profitable. The board recommended continuing for 2024 and discuss again prior to 2025. Also discussed increase in pricing for transfer site passes.

A motion to increase transfer site charges to \$80/trailer-load for 2024 was made by (Eric/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion to close the floor was made by (Tom/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

c) Fire Department – Monthly BES Report – Brock Frierhood

Calls: 2 calls

-1 Lift assist with EMS

-1 Structure Fire

New Engine is still being built. Sent some SCBA brackets to them so they can't mount them. Haven't received any update on timeline.

Received a turndown letter for this past year's AFG grant. Getting ready to apply for the next grant cycle.

d) Ambulance Department – Monthly BES Report – Brett Frierhood

Six calls since the last meeting. One was into Highland, one was a structure fire.

Courtney continues to work her normal 10-hour schedule. Sarah will be helping out on days until we can hire another EMT. Jennifer continues to help out when she is available.

Second expense reports have been submitted for the FAP and Flex Grant funding. The FAP funding application for State FY2024 has been submitted. Bayfield County has approved funding for an EMS study by a 3rd party organization to explore options for the future of EMS in the County. In response they have also approved reinstatement of the EMS Ad-Hoc Committee to ensure the study design, intent, and deliverables are supported across the County and to potentially work on

implementation of solutions or recommendations outlined by the study. The members of the original committee have been asked if they would be willing to participate

The EMS Council has updated the Mutual Aid agreement and has approved it for use by the Services. The agreement had not been updated for approximately 20 years and was generally simplified with changes regarding insurance and liability, incident command, and removing some contradictory items.

1. Approval/Authorization to sign attached EMS Mutual Aid Agreement

A motion to authorize Brett Frierhood to sign EMS Mutual Aid Agreement was made by (Tom/Eric). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A motion to open the floor was made by (Tom/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding paramedics, EMR licensed individuals for the Ambulance Dept. Processes for attaining EMR status. Shortages of EMT's/Paramedics.

A motion to close the floor was made by (Eric/Tom). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Review Timeline – Updated dates and removed out dated items

A motion to approve the timeline was made by (Tom/Jim). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn monthly board meeting was made by (Eric/Seana). Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Submitted by: Lisa Meyer, Clerk-Treasurer
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