

**MINUTES OF
THE TOWN OF BARNES
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS
Tuesday, April 15th, 2014
At Barnes Town Hall**

(UNAPPROVED)

Chairperson Tom Krob called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

AGENDA

- **Spring Election Results**
- **Discussion of Audit & Treasurer's Report**
- **State of the Town Reports**

Annual Report from the Chair

Annual Highway Department Report

Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report

Annual Constable Report

- **Townpeople Resolutions, if any**

Spring Election Results: Brenda Bakke, Clerk-Treasurer read the following results for the April 1st, 2014 election.

- **Total Voters/Ballots: 253 (41% of registered voters)**
- **Town Board Supervisors: (Vote for 2)**
Tom Emerson: 144 Jack Meinke: 97 Mitch McGee: 113 Julie Bohl: 133
Write-Ins: 3 Non-Votes: 16
- **Bayfield County Supervisor:**
James Crandall: 182 Write-Ins: 4 Non-Votes: 67
- **Drummond School Board Member:**
Rachel Coughtry: 166 Write-Ins: 1 Non-Votes: 86
- **Drummond School Board Member:**
Heather Ludzack: 174 Write-Ins: 1 Non-Votes: 78

New Town Board members, Tom Emerson and Julie Bohl were introduced.

Treasurers Report: Clerk-Treasurer Bakke presented the 2013 Annual Financial Report.

State of the Town Reports:

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
APRIL 15, 2014

Well a whole year has gone by in a blink of an eye since I was elected chairperson. I can't believe how much has happened in the Town of Barnes (TOB), in that short period of time. I again thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve my community and the TOB.

At the April 1st election, the voters elected two new supervisors. They are Julie Bohl and Tom Emerson. This will be the first time in many years that there are three new board members in a one year period of time. I welcome the

new board members with their new ideas and energy that they bring to the TOB board and I look forward to working with them.

On behalf of the town, I would like to thank Jack Mienke and Mitch McGee for the countless hours of work they have put in over the years as Town Supervisors. I enjoyed working with them both and thank them for their years of service to the TOB. It is much appreciated!!

I would especially like to thank those who keep our town running on a daily basis and those who keep us all safe:

Bob Lang-Highway Foreman and Property Manager

Town crew Dave Schiess, Jerry Witt, Plow drivers Loren Bohl, Roy Robertson. Heck of a winter to plow and they did an excellent job!

Tom Renz – Fire Chief and Ambulance Director

Brenda Bakke-Clerk Treasurer who keeps town functioning and running.

The EMTs and Firefighters who have been, and will continue to be, readily available to help us all in our time of need.

I would like to briefly go over a few of the more important projects and events that occurred over the last year.

The Germann Rd Fire- This was the big first event after I took office. We were very grateful that no one was killed or seriously injured. It was amazing how the community came together to help one another. There arose many new heroes in our neighbors amongst us. Thanks again for all of those who helped bring the fire to an end.

Water Ski/Jet Ski ordinance – Came up at last year’s annual meeting. A very controversial topic for many. The board voted to extend the time by 1 hr. The DNR would not approve it since the Town of Gordon shares boundaries of the Lower Eau Claire Lake. The hours will remain from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Upper Eau Claire Lake boat launch/landing was completed last fall. We have a beautiful and functional boat ramp for the coming years. We are still working on DNR permits for a permanent winter access which would be located just over from the cement landing.

Outlet Bay Bridge – Was saved from removal last fall. This was directly due to the efforts of the community coming together to support saving the bridge. We will have a presentation at next week’s board meeting by Ayers Associates regarding their examination of the structure and area, and hopefully we can come up with a plan to keep the bridge in the community for many years to come.

Lake Rd Improvements – A request was made to the State of WI in the Town Road Discretionary Improvement Program (TRID) last fall to request reimbursement for 50% of the costs of reconstructing 2.1 miles of Lake Rd from Hwy N to the Lake Rd Bridge. Thanks to Bob Lang for putting the application package together which took a lot of time and effort. The town board had previously met to prioritize which road projects would be completed first. I was one of five committee members that sat on the Town Road Improvement Committee that reviewed all applications. We recently learned that we were awarded the funds for a 50/50 split which is \$320,500 of the total estimated \$641,000 project. This was a big win for the TOB. No State TRID funding was given to any town in Bayfield County last year and only the TOB was given any State TRID funding this year in our county. We will also look for grants and funding to add a walkway/bike trail to this section of Lake Road.

Lyndale Bay Road improvements – A request for state funding for the reconstruction and blacktopping of Lyndale Bay Road was also submitted by Bob Lang last fall at about the same time as the Lake Road request. The TOB was also fortunate enough to receive \$25,395.00 toward the estimated cost of \$99,800.00. In total, the TOB will receive approximately \$345,895.00 in state funding for road projects. This is an amazing amount for our town! These Lyndale Bay Road improvements will take place in the July – August time frame.

The Building Committee – Has recommended that the current office building be replaced with a new building to be located behind the current building. There are many issues/problems with the current space and to renovate would be cost prohibitive. There will be a Special Town Meeting on the April 24th to seek elector approval to move forward with this project.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee - continues to work hard to mitigate the problems of invasive species in our beautiful lakes. I thank them for all of their time and effort over the past year. They have been very successful with a very difficult problem.

The Point-O-Pines – road construction project has started. Due to significant drainage issues much work is needed to install proper drainage ditches, culverts, holding areas, and a new road. Although the loss of trees is regrettable,

we believe the finished product will solve a long time issue with water runoff and road damage in the area. These improvements will also make the road safer for travel for both private and emergency vehicles during inclement weather. The curving in the road at the top of the hill will be removed and replaced with a 90 degree turn.

Tourism Committee (TC) – TOB recently started TC. Mission statement: *To promote, develop and coordinate year-round tourism/visitation to the Barnes area, and create an awareness and understanding of tourism's effect on, and enhancement of, the local economy and residents' quality of life.* The TC will not only look at ways to promote our area but look at ways to improve on things we already have for those that live and own property here. The TC will work closely with the Recreation Committee on ways to improve our parks, trails, and town facilities. In looking to the future, we hope to have a system of trails surrounding the community for walking, biking, jogging, etc.

WIDOT – Has mandated that the TOB plow all town roads, all winter long. They have specifically targeted our snowmobile routes which have not been plowed for years. This has had a devastating effect on snowmobiling in and through the town of Barnes. This new DOT policy has had a crippling effect on the local economy during the last few months. The town board and I will do everything we can to try to mitigate this situation. I am working with the snowmobile club, Bayfield County, WTA, other local officials, and State officials, to try to find a solution to this problem. This new DOT enforced policy not only costs the town an excessive amount of money, but also a significant amount of manpower. This time and manpower could be better spent maintaining our residential type roads. This is also a safety issue by pulling our crews off of heavily traveled roads to roads that are infrequently or never used. If we do not plow all roads then the DOT has threatened to take away our General Transportation Aid which totals \$313,506 or \$2,117.00 per mile for 2014 and \$2,202.00 in 2015.

And lastly, we are facing closure of key ATV trails in the town. A new company, Heartwood Forestland Fund has purchased many acres in the TOB. Although they do allow snowmobiles to operate on their property, they will not allow ATVs and/or UTVs. The TOB did send a letter to Heartwood Forestland last fall asking for reconsideration, but it was not honored. Again, the town board will work with the ATV club to come up with solutions to these closures.

To summarize, the Town Board has made a lot of progress in the last year, and I know that this will continue during the next year. I would like to thank all the board members, clerk, and staff, for all their hard work and contributions to our community. I would also like to thank the residents and property owners of the Town of Barnes for their continued support and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Krob, Town Chairperson

Annual Report for 2013 – Road and Property Foreman

The Barnes Highway Department has had a busy year. Between snow plowing, maintenance of the roads, maintenance of the grounds and buildings, and road construction, we haven't had a break.

To put things into perspective, we plowed snow during 7 of the last 12 months. This is the first time in 30 years we have had to say that. This landmark was made more manageable by the addition of two equipment upgrades. Our new Wheel Loader with the plow and wing attachment allowed us put a fourth machine on our roads, reducing our plow times considerably. It also gave us to be more aggressive and flexible on our plow routes during our heavy snow falls. As you all know, there have been plenty of those this year.

Our second upgrade was our new plow truck. The larger size, capacity, and horsepower moved these heavy snows much easier. More importantly, its configuration and setup made it much more efficient and maneuverable. This translated into quicker plowing and fewer passes.

Our big construction project this past year was the reconstruction of a one mile segment of Barnes Road. We had the old surface pulverized, and then put over six inches of gravel on it before the new asphalt was laid. This was the last segment of Barnes road that was in bad shape. We also blacktopped the sinkholes in Potawatomi that we reconstructed the previous year. Hopefully we have resolved the problems in those areas.

We upgraded a number of roads in Potawatomi this past summer. We took the time to properly widen, shape, and ditch some lower traffic roads such as Golden Eagle, North Golden Eagle, and Blue Spruce. We then put down gravel in a narrow configuration to allow for travel with reduced expense and minimal maintenance. It is our hope that this will become the model for our lesser traveled roads. We also did this to portions of Beaver Trail and Badger Trail. We did a complete widening and reconstruction of East Red Oak. This is a higher traffic gravel road

that feeds some of the lesser traveled roads. Again, with the proper ditching, we hope this road will require much less maintenance after heavy rains.

We completed a small project on Halfway Road funded by the Bayfield County Road Aids Program. We also addressed a major safety issue on East Idle Wilde Road, and resolved a significant erosion problem on South Shore Road that was washing debris onto the bridge and into the river.

We were required to remove the remainder of the gravel the Town had stockpiled in Del Jerome's pit last year. This was substandard gravel, so we hauled it down to our muddy roads at the south end of town. We were able to improve all of Camp Eatmore Road and the north mile of Rabbit Hutch. Although these are low traffic roads, we are required to keep them passable. This should save us some maintenance work in the future.

After much effort, we were able to open our own sand pit last fall. This will save us about \$10,000 per year, and reduce our efforts to make our salt sand from a couple of weeks to a couple of days.

We have some major projects lined up for this construction season. We received a \$25,000 grant from the Town Road Improvement Program to assist us with the reconstruction and resurfacing of Lyndale Bay Road. We received a \$12,000 grant from the Firewise Program to reconstruct 5 miles of Moore road which will result in a 100 foot wide fire break. We received a \$4,900 grant from the Bayfield County Road Aids Program to upgrade a segment of Webster Road. We will be completing our Point O Pines reconstruction after Labor Day. We also have to start preparing for the 2 mile plus Lake Road Project which we received the Town Road Improvement Discretionary grant for \$320,000. These, along with some small safety projects and regular maintenance, will keep us very busy this summer.

Respectfully Submitted – Bob Lang, Road and Property Foreman

Barnes Ambulance and Fire Annual Report for 2013

There is total of calls attached to my report. It was busy year and then we had the Germann Road Wild Land Fire that we worked hard on.

I want to take this time to thank the Town Board and citizens who took part in submitting my name to the National Fire Association for Volunteer/paid per call Fire Chief of the year program. I made it all the way to the finalist list. Again thank you.

I will be meeting with Great Divide several times over the next several months to put together couple of options for the Town Board for planning for the next budget time.

I am also beginning to train and advance those under me to take over the leadership roles for both Departments as we all know that I and the Officers underneath me will not be here forever.

It has been a great year and I am looking forwards to serving you this next year. Thanks for all your support and advice over the last year and I am looking forward to this next year.

Thanks,

Thomas Renz

Annual Constable Report for 2013

I received 125 calls for service during 2013. 30 were from the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department for assistance (alarms, deer hits, etc.). The remainder were town ordinance related (lake violations, ATV/snowmobile complaints, trespass, etc.). For 22 of those calls I was unable to respond because I was out of town or calls were made to my home and not recorded. I logged over 4,000 miles on my vehicle, and 320 gallons of fuel.

This coming year will probably be my final year as constable. In recent years I have suggested that the time has come for the town board and voters to change the office of Constable from an elected position to an appointed one. Having the constable as an employee gives the town board the power to pick a qualified candidate to fill the position. Keeping it the way it is now means that anyone can run for this job trained or untrained. The town will have to invest more funding into the office, upgrade equipment, and have town ordinances that are enforceable. But it is unreasonable to expect any qualified applicants under the current pay scale of \$13.00 per day to apply for the

job. It is my hope that the dialog is opened, and a decision is made in the next year or so. Barnes is a great Wisconsin town, and so are the people who live here. They made the town what it is today!

Respectfully submitted by Mike O'Keefe, Constable

Townspople Business, if any:

Tom Krob explained what an elector is and who is eligible to vote on motions and resolutions brought forth by the people, followed by options for voting methods.

Motion made (Irene Bott/Larry Peterson) to vote by show of hands method. Vote of the people was unanimous to vote by show of hands. Motion carried.

Counters were called for by Tom Krob. Tom Stolie and Mike Bott volunteered to count votes.

Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting held April 16, 2013 was called for by Tom Krob.

Motion made by (Linda Frank/Greg Martin) to approve the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Vote was taken with a majority vote of 52 to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Motion carried.

The People Speak:

- Lee Weisner discussed the Constable position and duties, and suggests the Barnes Constable position be made an appointed position.

Motion made (Lee Weisner/Jon Harkness) to make the position of Town Constable an appointed position. Vote of the people was unanimous to change the Town Constable position from an elected position to an appointed position. Motion carried.

This is an advisory resolution. The Board will review and check into the matter further.

- Barb Romstad, member of the Tourism Committee (TC), discussed the committee's current activity of trying to identify features and assets of the Barnes area that will attract visitors. She discussed the committee's goals to:
 - 1) Improve Tomahawk Park and make it a family outing spot.
 - 2) Revive the Barnes Canoe Race in 2015. Canoe/kayak races are popular in surrounding towns and an event that is missed in Barnes.
 - 3) Organize an Ice Fishing Contest.
 - 4) Connect Barnes to the Delta/Drummond CAMBA bike cluster. They are exploring the possibility of a grant to connect Barnes with that trail in addition to mapping other biking routes and trails around town.

Barb also explained that the Barnes Business Association is giving the TC \$60 so it can join the Iron River Chamber of Commerce. The Tourism Committee is a newly formed committee and have no money of their own.

Motion made (Barb Romstad/Chris Neff) to include funding for the Tourism Committee in the amount of \$1,000 in the 2015 annual budget. Vote of the people: 52 for, 0 against. Motion carried.

Tom Stolie talked about the idea of getting Barnes into Superior Magazine. He stated that a lot of the towns in the area are in that magazine.

Judy Scholz asks if there is any money in the Town budget that can be used to help the Tourism Committee now rather than wait until 2015?

Tom Krob explained the Town could under village powers.

- Jon Harkness brought up the Barnes Area Historical Association (BAHA) building they purchased and are in the process of renovating to make a museum. BAHA is looking for donations to complete the museum project. Fund raising cards should be received in the mail in May. Their goal is \$205,000. A Gordon Macquarrie Center is planned in the museum including Macquarrie's "Tales of the Old Duck Hunters." Gordon McCoy is from Barnes and this is expected to be a very popular exhibit that many people will want to come see. Other exhibits will include a mural of logging history and the Elk from Silver Beach.
- Gordie Lund reported he had emailed Tom Krob regarding the "monster piers" that are being constructed on our lakes. He said his neighbor (on Upper Eau Claire Lake) has an 80' long pier in 8' of water with lead pipes drilled into the bottom of the lake. Gordie has been in contact with Allyssa Core of the DNR and was told that Mr. Ruecker had said he had a necessity for this size pier due to the large boats he owns. Gordie stated Ruecker has not demonstrated necessity because only a jet ski was parked at this pier.

Motion was made (Gordie Lund/Jon Harkness) for the Town Board to follow up with Miss Allysa Core, DNR regarding the status of her conversation with her supervisors about over-sized docks, and to determine what if any authority the Board has to limit the size and depth of docks and report to the electors. Vote of the people: 36 for, 5 against. Motion carried.

This is an advisory resolution. The Board will review and check into the matter further.

Lee Weisner explained the recent regulations passed on piers.

- Lu Peet asked when the audit will be completed. Bakke explained that the auditor has all of our information and is in the process of doing our audit now, but did not give a date for completion. We expect it should be done soon.
- Lee Weisner gave an update on the AIS Curly Pond Leaf. This aquatic invasive species needs to be pulled. The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AISC) may request a couple buoys so the weed does not get torn up by boats and spread. There are patches of this weed at one place on Middle and one place on Upper at this time. Chris Neff suggests we put (Matt Berg's) maps on the website because they show where these weed patches are.

Motion to adjourn the annual town meeting made (Tom Renz/Gene Ratzel). Motion unanimously agreed to. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Bakke
Barnes Town Clerk-Treasurer