

**MINUTES OF
THE TOWN OF BARNES
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS
Tuesday, April 16th, 2013
At Barnes Town Hall**

Chairperson Lu Peet called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Roll Call was taken with all the Town Board members present (Jack Meinke, Chris Webb, Donna Porter and Mitch McGee). Also present were Brenda Bakke, Clerk-Treasurer, and Bob Lang, Property & Roads Foreman.

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

- **Townsperson Resolutions, if any**

Spring Election Results: Peet read the following results for the April 2nd, 2013.

- **Total Voters/Ballots:** 314
- **Town Board Supervisors: (Vote for 2)**
Chris Webb: 201 Donna Porter: 255 Write-Ins: 9
- **Town Board Chairperson:**
Lu Peet: 149 Tom Krob: 161 Write-Ins: 1
- **Town Constable:**
Mike O'Keefe 256 Write-Ins: 12
- **Drummond Scholl District Referendum:**
Yes: 181 No: 105
- **Drummond School Board Member:**
Richard Guderian: 237 Write-Ins: 2

Discussion of Audit & Treasurers Report: Clerk-Treasurer Bakke stated that the 2012 Final Audit Report is not ready due to balancing issues focused in the Money Market Savings or "sinking funds." It was agreed to review the audit report upon completion at a monthly meeting. Current 2013 figures for asset account in books were presented.

State of the Town Reports:

Annual Report from the Chair

April 16, 2013

Another year has gone by here in Barnes. This past year has been filled with many new projects being completed and now new ones are being proposed. Our town is a busy and forward looking community. We should

be very proud of what we have done and what we are. Barnes is looked up to around the State of Wisconsin and especially in this northwestern region, as a progressive and active town-one that strives to keep our "northwoods atmosphere" yet addressing the important issues of the future.

Our two board members, Chris Webb and Donna Porter, were re-elected at the Spring Election on April 2nd. We will have a new chairman and he is Tom Krob. I hope that Tom and the board will work well together. All on the board are honored to be able to serve the Barnes community and the board looks forward to working for all of the people of Barnes.

Bob Lang, our Highway Foreman and Property Manager, continues to do a fine job. Bob has submitted his report on what was accomplished this past year for those departments. Several road projects were completed last year and new ones are waiting on the new construction season to begin. Brushing of the right-of-ways and proper road grading and maintenance of our sand and gravel roads has been a priority. The town has purchased a new truck that will be arriving soon. This will give the town crew the ability to do more of the work itself and this will save the town money. Bob has been involved in the decisions and work on our buildings. It looks like he will have a busy year again this year.

Tom Renz, as Fire Chief and Ambulance Director, dedicates many hours to making ours a great emergency services unit. Tom will also present his annual report.

The town has been successful in securing grants to upgrade the Upper Eau Claire Boat Landing and the project appears to be on target for completion this year. By us waiting for the grants to come in, we saved the town much money. Fortunately, when the project is completed, the town will have few out-of-pocket expenses. The town looks forward to the new landing.

Since one of our main goals is getting our citizens involved with the day to day problems and concerns of the town, the Town Hall and Building Committee was resurrected this past year. Prevailing problem with the kitchen facility and also on –going issues with the existing Town Office area, have caused concerns that had to be addressed. The Building Committee has recommended that we fix the kitchen floor water damage and other problems in the kitchen. The work is being done at this time. As far as the Town Office area is concerned, the committee is recommending that we build a new structure to the back of our existing complex. There are many issues with the old building and the cost to renovate it would be prohibitive. The committee has met with C & S Design Engineering in Ashland to get tentative plans developed. The board will have to make the decisions on what the Town will do next. The Transfer Site and Recycling Committee, made up of 5 town citizens, 3 members of the town's workforce and 1 board member, continues to resolve any issues at the transfer site. The town still encourages any citizen with a complaint to fill out the "Citizens Request for Action" form. This form has been revised to make it more efficient.

The Recreation Committee purchased some new park equipment last fall, with the board's approval. The town crew will install the new equipment this spring. Our playground and park here on N drew a lot of new people in this past year. With each improvement, we know that more and more will find this a nice place to come with their children or grandchildren or just to enjoy a quiet afternoon. The tennis courts were busy, as was the new "pickle ball" court. The Tomahawk Park area has also been under renovation. Since the Eurasian Water Milfoil problems have been mostly eradicated, the town crew has been out fixing up the park, getting it ready for the summer. We hope more people will take advantage of this park for swimming, picnicking and just plain relaxing.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee continues to have a vigilant eye on our waters and has been busy getting grants for the town in mitigating these AIS problems. With the help of the people of Barnes and the surrounding communities, the AIS committee hopes to avoid further contamination and is working to control or destroy the existing milfoil and other invasive species.

In August of 2011, we hired Steve Baldwin, a Barnes resident, as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. He held this position until starting as full-time Clerk/Treasurer in January 2012. Unfortunately, with much deliberation and consideration on the part of the board, the decision was made to terminate Mr. Baldwin this month. Our newly appointed Clerk / Treasurer will be Brenda Bakke. She has been the Deputy Clerk / Treasurer since October of 2012. She will hold the new position on a probationary basis until the board feels that she has accomplished the skills and abilities necessary for the Clerk / Treasurer Position. Brenda was one of the four finalists in our search for this appointed position in 2011 and has many great qualifications. She has recently made Barnes her permanent home. The Board and Town welcome Brenda to our staff as she takes on her new responsibilities.

April is clean-up month in Barnes and we encourage everyone to participate in the road clean up. It is with optimism, that I feel spring will finally come and melt the snow so that this project can be completed. Bring in your roadside trash for free. Check on the web site www.barnes-wi.com for more information.

As a final note, I just want to thank all of the Town Board for their dedication and cooperation during my four years as Town Chairperson. I thank the people of Barnes for allowing me the privilege and honor of being able to serve in this capacity. We have accomplished much, but there is much more to be done. Things we accomplished may not have always been popular, but were done with the best interests of the whole community at heart. I wish

all the best to Tom Krob. I know he will do what is best for Barnes, as I have done. I will never regret this remarkable and awesome journey I have made.

Sincerely,
Lu Peet
Town of Barnes Chairperson

Annual Report 2013 – Road and Property Manager

The Barnes Highway Department has been very productive during the last 12 months taking on many projects. The largest accomplishment was in Potawatomi on Pine Chip Road, Tall Timber Trail, and Birch Tree Trail. These roads were completely redesigned and reconstructed for safety, water runoff, and serviceability. We hope the functionality of these roads will demonstrate the positive side of these types of road construction goals.

We put considerable effort into the two miles of Rabbit Hutch last summer also. Multiple culverts, ditching, road lifts, and a lot of grading repaired some of this roads major defects. As time and weather conditions allow, we hope to continue this project with more grading and graveling.

Some of our other large projects include the reconstruction of North Lyndale Bay Road, portions of Clearwater Road, Eightmile Lake Road, Broken Arrow Trail, and Badger Trail. We also made major improvements to the intersection of Porcupine Trail and Lynx Road. All of these projects were necessary because of erosion problems during heavy rains, but they resulted in much better and safer roads.

Speaking of erosion problems, we addressed the never ending washouts across from Windsor's on Outlet Bay Road. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the fractured rock that we now use in many situations where we are unable to stabilize the soils with other methods.

The other major excavation we accomplished this past summer was to dig out the old stump pit sink holes that were under the blacktop roads in Potawatomi. We removed as much debris as possible and filled them back in with clean sand and gravel. I suspect there will be more in the future.

Last spring we made significant improvements to the Transfer Site. These changes created a safer traffic flow and made it easier to monitor the entire site. We still have the ability to utilize the building during adverse weather.

We will continue our busy schedule this coming year. We have plans to reconstruct and blacktop a one mile segment of Barnes Road. We also will be blacktopping the sink holes in Potawatomi. We have been required to remove our remaining gravel stockpiles in Del's pit by July 1st, so we hope it is dry enough to haul a good portion of that down to Rabbit Hutch. We will be graveling some of our higher traffic roads in Potawatomi, along with some other smaller maintenance issues around town.

We applied for and received two grants this spring. We received \$12,000 from the Firewise program to remove trees and create open right-of-way along a four mile segment of Moore Road. We also received \$3,164.40 to improve a section of Halfway Road from the County Forestry Road Aids Program.

Finally, our quest to find sand locally for our winter salt/sand has led us to the process of re-zoning the 30 acres the Town owns at this location. We will be changing the current Residential Recreational Business zoning to Municipal zoning which will allow us to put a small sand pit in the northwest corner of this property and save us the time and expense of hauling the sand down from Iron River. This zoning change will also allow for the future development of this property to grow with Town's changing needs.

Respectfully Submitted – Bob Lang, Road and Property Foreman

Annual Constable's Report

April 16, 2013

Friends and Neighbors:

I'd like to thank all of you for your continuing support over the past 13 years.

Since our last annual meeting in 2012 I've received 86 requests for assistance. Twenty-three of those were from the sheriff's department (alarms, etc.). The remaining were for town ordinance related matters. With the summer season just around the corner, lake related issues will (as they do every year) become the most common type of complaint I receive. ATV & fireworks violations are also very common. With our current lake ordinance we take a one size fits all approach to dealing with after hour water sports (tubing, wave runners, water skiers, etc.). The impact of these activities on our two big lakes (Upper and Middle) is very different than the effect they have on our smaller bodies of water. In 2012 activities on Pickerel Lake were a very big issue. A small lake trying to deal with large boats, skiers, swimmers, etc....unfortunately, at the end of the season was far from resolved. There is no simple solution to this topic, but I feel the ordinance needs to be reviewed and modified if necessary on a lake by lake basis.

The paging system we implemented last year has helped to reduce missed calls, but I still receive calls at my home resulting in missed or misdirected messages.

Over this past winter I've been happy to check the properties of residents who were out of town for the winter months.

Hopefully 2013 will be an enjoyable and safe year for all Barnes residents and guests. I'm looking forward to the next two years as your Constable. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at any time. Thanks again and have a great summer!

Respectfully,

Mike O'Keefe
Constable

Buildings Maintenance Committee Annual Report

April 16, 2013

The Building Maintenance Committee was reconvened in December 2012 to address a number of concerns about the Town Hall, Town Offices and the Kitchen. After meeting several times the committee decided to agree on the following position statements.

1. The main town hall meeting area was adequately maintained for the foreseeable future.
2. The kitchen area required repair but we should keep repairs to a minimum due to the instability of the kitchen addition structure.
3. The existing town hall offices required significant structural and cosmetic renovations for minimal gain.

Given this assessment the committee embarked on a 2-pronged approach.

1. Assess the kitchen condition and make any necessary repairs as necessary.
2. Recommend to the Town Board that we engage an Engineering firm to help the committee with the conceptual design of a new town office structure.

The Town Board approved the recommendation for the town office design and the Town contracted with C&S Engineering to assist the committee through the first phase of this effort (i.e. Conceptual Design)

The committee is currently working with C&S Engineering to develop the preferred design alternative. It is anticipated that the committee would complete the conceptual design phase in May. At that time the recommendation will be presented to the Board and the Board will schedule the necessary steps to assess and then reject or approve the design. Following this, if approval is given on the design, the Board would need to take the necessary steps to obtain approval. The committee will not move forward on to any future actions concerning the new structure until approval is received.

Building Maintenance Committee
Mike Tremblay Chairman

Townspople Business, if any:

- Dan & Teresa Duvell request that Jack Pine Rd. be made a Town Road.
- Melissa Driscoll requests hours for water skiing and jet skiing be opened to after 6:00 pm so people who work can use the lakes in the evening. Seconded by Jon Harkness.
- Jon Harkness suggested we go with the same hours as state law, from sunrise to sunset.
- Brett Harper states that we need water patrol due to drinking alcohol in boats and beer cans being thrown in the water.
- Carol Pease tells that they had a family member almost hit by a jet ski, and says we want to use the bay in our lake too, but people are irresponsible with boats and jet skis.

Vote of the People taken: For – 30 Against – 12

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

Motion to adjourn Annual Town Meeting was made by Gene Ratzel. Motion seconded by Greg Martin. All agreed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Bakke
Barnes Town Clerk-Treasurer