

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

## UNAPPROVED

Senior Board Supervisor Seana Frint called the Monthly Town Board Meeting in the Town Hall to order at 6:30PM. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Chairman Tom Renz was absent. Clerk April Powell verified public notice. Brett Friermood, Brock Friermood and Jeff Jordheim were also in attendance. Deputy Clerk Judy Bourassa was also present.

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

Supervisor Frint asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 12/20/2022 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 12/20/2022 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

*Motion made (Scully/J.Frint) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 12/20/22 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 12/20 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Public Comment Session –There were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence- A Petition for Amendment of the Bayfield County Zoning Ordinance was received from the Bayfield County Planning and Zoning Committee that they would be holding a public hearing on Thursday, January 19,2023 at 4:00 PM at the Bayfield County Courthouse, in the Board Room; A letter was received from Kevin Jones giving the Town positive feedback regarding the Short Term Rental Licensing process; A letter was received from Northwood Technical College regarding Northwood Tech Board Appointment, they will have vacancies that will occur this July of 2023 for two Additional member seats and 1 Elected Official member seat; An email was received from Dana Hodowanic inquiring about the \$300.00 fee for the Short Term Rental License; A letter was received from the Bayfield County Forestry & Parks Department regarding the 10% Timber Sale Revenue Payment of \$108,713.93 for the Town of Barnes.

Applications that were received from short term rental owners Kevin Jones, Thomas & Diane Menard, Jacob Schiess, Dennis Ullom & Kelby Sundquist were reviewed and considered for approval.

*Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the applications of Kevin Jones, Thomas & Diane Menard, Jacob Schiess, Dennis Ullom & Kelby Sundquist. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The delinquent Short Term Rental fees were discussed. Supervisor Seana Frint asked if there was a deadline and was told there was a deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. She also asked if Chairman Tom Renz had reached out to any of the residents that were delinquent. Supervisor Seana Frint suggested that a 2<sup>nd</sup> letter be sent out to the people who were delinquent and it could be reviewed again at the next Board meeting if needed. She also suggested that we reach out to Bayfield County to see what measures should be taken on non-compliant residents.

Positive Pay was also discussed. Deputy Clerk Judy and Clerk/Treasurer April wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the Positive Pay set up at Associated Bank along with the remote depositing had not been working properly and was costing the Clerks a lot of extra time trying to process multiple times before finally going through and also there is a fee of approximately \$150.00 a month to have these services. They had tried on more than one occasion to reach out to customer support and received no help. Supervisor Neff suggested that the Clerks reach out to Dan Hinman with Associated Bank to see if he could resolve the issue.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve December vouchers

*Motion made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the December vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Clerk/Treasurer Report: April Powell

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$342,785.89 which includes the payment for the fire truck chassis. \$734,128.06 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account after funds were transferred from the General account for the fees received in 2022 for Short Term Rentals and Transfer Site fees; \$3,136.81 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account (no activity). The Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$694,236.38 for taxes collected in December and a service fee of \$20; the PayPal account has a balance \$5,214.56 (\$148.06 in donations received) and the Taste of Barnes account has a balance of \$5,286.00 for a total of all funds of \$1,779,501.70 with \$3,285.44 in interest.

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the Treasurer's report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

### **Roads/Property Report**

Roads: Plowing as needed. North roads have been opened to allow logging to start. Logging is also ongoing on Rabbit Hutch.

Trees: Will be starting as time allows between snow storms

Equipment: Truck 33. V-Plow has arrived and has been put on as well as the v-Box sander.

Signage: Signage has not shown yet.

Salt/Sand: Hauling last week and this week.

Discussion was held regarding the damage to the John Deere Grader as whether to file a claim with the insurance company or repair out of pocket. Supervisor Neff suggested a claim be filed with Rural Mutual Insurance. The clerk will contact our insurance agent.

Foreman Jeff Jordheim was concerned with the danger of the towing rope/chain on the grader and will be adding additional safety training for his work crew on the proper operation of towing.

Jeff Hong suggested that any small scrap pieces received under \$5.00 at the Transfer Station would not have a cost to the residents.

*Motion made (Neff/J. Frint) to have no charge on \$5.00 or less scrap pieces at the Transfer Station. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

## Monthly report Fire

4 calls

- Mutual aid to Cable, Structure Fire
- Mutual aid to Gordon, Structure Fire
- snowmobile accident
- vehicle accident

Didn't receive last year's AFG grant, new grant cycle is open and currently working receiving quotes and filling out the application

Ordered and received the gear dryer that was put into this year's budget. It has been assembled and used already.

Received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022 Fire inspection reports. 2 places have outstanding items they need to fix. Will be following up with them soon.

## Monthly report Ambulance

13 calls since the last meeting with a variety of call types. Received an email from the Town of Highland clerk pertaining to the agreement for coverage of their southern township. The 2023 payment has been made, but she mentioned there have been complaints at the town board meetings of Barnes not responding. I am currently analyzing our calls for 2022 and would like to get more details of the complaints.

Jake has chosen to move from full-time to part-time at the end of this week. A job posting has been created and should be published soon to attempt to fill the position. The job opening for the night-time, 3rd full-time position remains posted. Jordan has attended the EMT class orientation with the class starting soon. Zach Zepzyck would like to join the ambulance and attend the upcoming EMR class in Mason.

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) for Zach Zepzyck to join the Ambulance Dept. Voice vote taken, Motion carried.*

Our new patient care protocols have been completed through the EMS Council with a planned transition of March 1st. The EMS Council has also been working on updating the EMS Mutual Aid agreement. The current draft is attached for review and any input would be appreciated.

Supervisor Seana Frint reviewed the Timeline –no updates needed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.