

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Aug. 15th, 2023  
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

## UNAPPROVED

Chairman Renz 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 Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully, Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Interim Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Brett Frierhood, Brock Frierhood and Jeff Jordheim were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

Chairman Renz asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 07/18/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 7/13 and 7/18 Special Board Meeting minutes. Since the 7/13 minutes were just sent to the clerk, Chairman Renz read the minutes for that meeting.

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the minutes of the 7/13 Special Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairman Renz said that the agenda needs to be amended to add item #17 to include a Resolution to apply for A.I.S. grants in 2024.

Supervisor Neff requested that the agenda be amended to include consideration of a donation to the Chequamegon Children's Theatre.

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the amended agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

*Motion (Scully/J.Frint) to approve the minutes from the 7/18 Monthly Board and Special Board meeting minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Public Comment Session – Dave Schiess addressed the board regarding the cemetery lots. Cremation subdivision is almost full, it had 48 graves. I had the new cremation lots surveyed ahead of time, I'm good to go. Planning ahead was good.

Clerk Correspondence – Timber cut notice were received for land owner Vincent & Noelle Petersen; a letter was received from Bayfield Co. Planning & Zoning regarding the Town's application to construct a storage building at Tomahawk Lake Park. This will be considered at tonight's meeting; another letter was received from the County regarding an Ordinance Amendment on Uniform Dwelling Code regulations that will be considered at their 8/17 meeting.

Cindy Boles of the Conservation Club addressed the board regarding the beach at Tomahawk Lake Park. She was requesting that a dock be installed but due to insurance liability the Parks & Rec Committee is not in favor of a dock. She would like the board to consider installing a dock. It will be added to the budget timeline.

A discussion was held regarding hiring a replacement for our assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, LLC, since they have terminated our contract. Clerk Bourassa contacted 4 assessors and only one has provided a proposal. North Wisconsin Assessment Service Inc. provided a

proposal for a fee of \$25,000, annual software cost of \$350 and expenses not to exceed \$1,000 payable at the Board of Review. Mr. Rigelmon of Rigelmon Appraisal Service was in attendance and presented his proposal to the board. His proposal was for \$19,500 to be billed monthly with a cost of living increase annually, software cost would be paid by the Town at a cost of \$.66 per improvement (estimated cost of \$1,000).

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) to accept the proposal from Rigelmon Appraisal Service. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

The motion made at the 6/20 monthly board meeting regarding a proposed lease agreement with Rusk County Co-op needs to be rescinded because the motion was for \$120 per month but the correct amount should be \$125 per month.

*Motion made (Scully/S. Frint) to rescind the motion to lease a lot to the ATV Club for \$1.00 a year for the next 50 years and to lease a lot to the fuel company (Rusk County Co-op) for \$120 per month. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to lease a lot to the ATV Club for \$1.00 a year for the next 50 years and to lease a lot to Rusk County Co-op for \$125 per month, increasing by \$25 per year for the next 5 years. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The lots at Tomahawk Lake Park where the storage building is to be built need to be combined and possibly surveyed. This is at the request of the county since the proposed structure would be on multiple lots. The Town Chairman will work with Flyin Goose Land Surveying regarding this.

A discussion regarding the recent acceptance of a bid from Scott Construction to re-hab Pease Rd. at a cost of \$218,368 was held. Only 3 board members were in attendance at the meeting where the bid was accepted and Supervisor Jim Frint would like to re-visit the decision. Foreman Jordheim was in agreement with Supervisor Frint that the wedging proposed would not allow proper drainage. Scott Sturgeon of Scott Construction was present and said they've done the wedging in other towns and have had success with it. He proposed that another option would be to just chip seal the road.

*Motion made (Neff/Renz) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairman Renz asked Dave Schiess, Roads & Right of Way Committee chair, his opinion and he said he was in favor of the proposal. Supervisor Frint thinks it's too late in the season to do this and it's not something that we budgeted for. Supervisor Scully asked Foreman Jordheim for his opinion. He said he has concerns about drainage since the asphalt wouldn't be milled.

*Motion made (Renz/Neff) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

*Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to rescind the motion made at the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Supervisor Scully is concerned about cost and that it isn't in the budget. Supervisor Jim Frint said he would like to have received more than one bid and doesn't feel there is an urgency to get it done. No motion was made so the work on Pease Rd will not be done this year.

Advertising in the Hayward Lakes Vacation Guide was reviewed.

*Motion made (Neff/J. Frint) to approve placing an ad in the Vacation Guide at a cost of \$550 for a ¼ page ad. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairman Renz asked that the ad be amended to include a reference to the availability of short-term rentals in the area.

The July vouchers were reviewed.

*Motion was made (Neff/Scully) to approve the July vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$322,864.41; \$1,073,210.05 is the ending balance in the Money Market account with \$819.89 interest earned; \$9,312.77 is the ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account after registration fees received via the Paypal account were transferred; The PayPal account has a balance \$5,855.19; Taste of Barnes account has balance of \$4,707.15 and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$3,919.37 for a total of all funds of \$1,415,161.79.

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

Chairman Renz asked about the funds in the Land Acquisition Fund and Chris Webb said when the town sold some land it was voted by the town electors that the funds be held in this fund for future purchases. The clerk will add it to the Timeline to consider re-allocation of those funds at the next Annual Meeting.

Highway Dept Report-Jeff Jordheim

### **Roads/Property Report**

Roads: South shore is nearly complete. Waiting on the beam guard or guard rail for the west side. Then will open.

George Lake Road: Tress have been removed & placed per PPOA. Stumps ground out. Finish grade and seeding to take place next week.

Equipment: Rental mower has been returned to Lulich, does not fit our need. UTA plow for wheel loader is going in to Galesville to be inspected. Second week of September

Went to Minong to watch their mowing operation, very nice cut-golf course look with same tractor as the town but with a Lands Pride flail mower mounted on the rear.

Other town roads: Mowing operations will continue till Mother Nature says other wise

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Greg Strasser commented regarding flail mower that he and Jeff watched in use that cuts a 6'10' width. It's a purchase Jeff would like the board to consider in a future year.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The highway crew is going to carry the Citizen Request for Service forms on their equipment so if there are any complaints/requests, this form can be used so we have a hard copy of the requests and they can be tracked.

Jeff Hong of the Highway Dept. would like the board to consider having a concrete slab poured for the new covered recycling dumpster. It would be approximately 60' long and 6" deep.

*Motion made (Renz/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Greg Strasser suggested that the dumpster be stored inside the building but it was pointed out that the building is used/needed for storage or during inclement weather. Chairman Renz suggested that we put wheels on the cover and use the building as needed until we can budget for the concrete. No motion made.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

### ***Monthly Fire Dept. Report***

Calls: 2 calls  
-1 tree on fire  
-1 EMS assist

New engine is scheduled to be completed in November. Received some pictures and working with them on decals.

Emergency Apparatus and Maintenance canceled the pump testing that was supposed to take place, unsure when they will be back to complete it.

Searching for grants to apply for.

Working on upcoming budget items for next year.

### ***Monthly Ambulance Dept. Report***

We have had 8 runs since the last meeting. Current combined total is 69, which is still trending above normal for the year. There have been no ambulance calls to Highland for several months. AJ and Sarah have settled in to their shifts. AJ is working the same Mon-Thurs shifts as Courtney to get him comfortable. The plan is to eventually stagger them so there is at least one working daytime Monday-Friday. Sarah is working 3 overnight 12 hour shifts Monday-Wednesday. She makes herself available Thursday night to help cover any calls and completes her remaining hours on Friday. Northwood Tech is offering an online self-study grant writing class that we have been looking at for the full-time and has generated interest from others.

The ambulance was in for maintenance a couple times last month for new tires, alignment, oil change. The check engine light turned on again with several codes related to the engine. We are currently using a loaner ambulance from Pomasl while they work on ours. I do not have a current update on repairs or estimated return.

I have received a records request from the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department as part of the investigation related to a vehicle crash last September and will be working through providing documents to them.

Chairman Renz said since there are now 3 full time employees there shouldn't be a need for any part time EMTs.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

Land Use Planning Commission:

Bill Webb has agreed to be re-appointed for a two-year term as a Land Use Planning Commissioner.

*Motion made (Renz/Neff) to appoint Bill Webb to a two-year term as a Land Use Planning Commissioner. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The Board reviewed the Class B Special use permit for the Town of Barnes to construct a garage/storage building at Tomahawk Lake Park. This would be used to house grooming equipment. Funds from the TLP sinking fund would finance part of the expense.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to provisionally approve the Class B Special Use Permit for the Town of Barnes to construct a garage/storage building at Tomahawk Lake Park once the lots are combined. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Jill Tonn of 52003 Witch's Bay Rd has submitted a Class A Special Use application to park an RV on the property. The Land Use Planning Commission tabled the request pending further information but Supervisor Seana Frint spoke with a representative who said it's unusable since there is no septic or water and they would like to park it for up to 2 years until a cabin is built. The board tabled it as well.

*Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) that we return the application with no recommendation pending receipt of further information. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb

Chris Webb updated the board on the activities of the A.I.S. Committee, BAISS boat operations and grants. The recent chemical treatment was very successful in Tomahawk and also in Sand Bar Lakes. She reviewed the grants that will be requested for 2024 which will include the headwater lakes of Sweet, Shunenberg and Smith for an Early Detection Rapid Response as well as the Clean Boats, Clean Waters, Population Control of Eurasian Watermilfoil on Tomahawk and Sand Bar and Population Control of Curly-leaf Pondweed on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes.

A resolution is needed to apply for cost-share grants from the DNR for next year.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to apply for cost-share grants from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purpose of prevention, detection, and control of Aquatic Invasive Species in area lakes. More specifically to include Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) grant for prevention of spread, Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) grant for detection of newly discovered populations in the headwaters of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes-Sweet, Shunenberg, Smith Lakes; Population Control of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) on Tomahawk/Sand Bar lakes, and Population Control of curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) on Upper Eau Claire Lake and Middle Eau Claire Lake. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Chequamegon Children's Theatre is an extra-curricular summer program that local students participate in and is in need of funding so both Supervisors Scully and Neff would like the board to authorize a donation to the program.

*Motion made (Renz/S. Frint) to donate \$500 to the Theatre program. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The timeline was reviewed-Supervisor Scully said there is grant money that we can apply for to help pay for the cost to repair the Bony Lake/Middle Lake channel so he'd like to move that item to Spring of 2024. A town employee picnic will be held next spring, not this fall.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 PM.

**Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, interim Clerk-Treasurer**  
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