

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2024 BUDGET HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
And MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023
6:00 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

1). At 5:59PM, Chairman Tom Renz called the Annual Public Budget Hearing to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Dave Scully, Seana Frint, Jim Frint and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Also present was Judy Bourassa, Interim Clerk-Treasurer, Lisa Meyer, Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman, Brett Frierhood, Ambulance Director and Brock Frierhood, Fire Chief. Lisa Meyer verified public notice.

2). The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

3). Discussion of the 2024 Proposed Town Budget:

The proposed levy for 2023 (payable in 2024) would be \$901,006.00, an increase of approximately \$3,000.00 from 2022. Chairman Renz asked if there are any questions regarding the 2024 budget.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

4). The Public Budget Hearing adjourned at 6:18PM.

5). At 6:18PM, the Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to order. Volunteers were requested to count the voters. Brock Frierhood and Pat Johnston volunteered. There were 20 Electors present.

6). Chairman Renz read the language of Resolution R23-06 to transfer \$109,009.95 in funds from the Land Acquisition Sinking Fund to the TOB Sinking Fund.

Several residents voiced their opinion, a vote was taken:

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to adopt Resolution R23-06. Vote by show of hands taken with 18 voting yes and 2 voting no. Motion carried.

Yes X

No

Chairman Renz read the language of Resolution R23-07 as follows: "BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the town electors of the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County, Wisconsin adopt the town tax levy paid in 2024 in the sum of \$901,006 which will be levied for the purpose of Operating Expenses for the year 2024."

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to adopt Resolution 23-07. Vote by show of hands taken with 20 voting yes and 0 voting no. Motion carried.

Yes X

No

7). *Motion made (D.Scully/J.Frint) to adjourn the Town Electors meeting at 6:32PM. Voice vote taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.*

The Town Meeting of the Electors adjourned at 6:32PM.

8). At 6:32PM Chairman Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order.

9). *Motion made (E.Neff/S.Frint) to approve the agenda, the minutes of the 10/17/2022 Monthly Board meeting and the 10/4 and 10/11 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

10). Mary Motiff –Mayor of Washburn and Bayfield County Director of Tourism spoke about the benefits of assessing a room tax that could be used towards promoting tourism for the town.

Motion made to open the floor (E.Neff/T.Renz). Voice vote taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Residents asked questions about who would be charged the tax and what we could do with the tax dollars.

Motion made to close the floor (T.Renz/D.Scully). Voice vote taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

11). Motion to adopt the Town of Barnes 2024 Budget

Motion made (D.Scully/E.Neff) to adopt the Town of Barnes budget of \$1,985,322.00 for fiscal year 2024. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

12). Public Comment Session:

Cal Wise of 2230 Tomahawk Lake Road representing Christians Men's Group stated that the Men's group is open to all faiths, the club does an annual "trash for cash", pancake breakfast annually to raise money for scholarships for the Drummond HS students and this year put on a Chili Hunt Supper that they would like to do annually as well. They raised enough money to provide 3- \$1,000.00 scholarships and also presented the BES Dept with a \$1,000.00 donation.

Lee Wiesner of the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Association presented the board with a \$10,000.00 donation to help fund the great work of the AIS committee.

13). Clerk Correspondence: The clerk reported the Spring Election will be April 2, 2024 and the Eric Neff and Seanna Frint are the incumbents. Nomination papers can be picked up at the Town office and can begin circulating December 1, 2023 they are due in the clerk's office on January 2, 2024.

14). Discussion regarding amending the short term rental ordinance to including bed & breakfasts. Chapter 19-1:

Amend section 2 part (e) to exclude Bed & Breakfast

Amend section 3 part (a) remove section from original ordinance or state "no exemptions"

Motion made (E.Neff/T.Renz) to table for next months meeting. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

15) Authorize Supervisor Scully to apply for campground grants in 2024. R23-08 resolution.

Motion made (E.Neff/S.Frint) to authorize Supervisor Scully to apply for a campground grant in 2024 and adopt resolution R23-08. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

16) Consider 2-yr operator's license application from Sydnie DeMeyer

Motion made (D.Scully/E.Neff) to approve 2-yr operator's license for Sydnie DeMeyer. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

17) Appointment and swearing in of Lisa Meyer as Town Clerk/Treasurer. Lisa Meyer was sworn in as Clerk/Treasurer for a 2 year term by Chairman Renz.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to appoint Lisa Meyer as Town Clerk/Treasurer. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

18). Approve Lisa Meyer's application for membership WMCA (WI Municipal Clerks Assc.) \$50.00 membership fee.

Motion made (E.Neff/D.Scully) to approve Lisa Meyer's membership to the WMCA. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

19) Motion to add Lisa Meyer to the bank account signature cards at Associated Bank, Paycom and WI Retirement System accounts

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to add Lisa Meyer to the bank account signature cards at Associated Bank, Paycom and WI Retirement System accounts. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

20) Discussion regarding health insurance options. We received a quote from Medica that was similar in price/coverage but the deductible was \$2,600 as opposed to \$3,200 through our current carrier Health Partners.

Motion made (T.Renz/E.Neff) to approve cancelling the Health Partners policy and accepting the quote for the Medica policy effective 1/1/2024. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

21) Approve Employee of the year nomination form, discuss process.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to approve the Employee of the Year nomination form with a due date of Dec. 8th and employee will be chosen by the board at the Dec. 19th monthly board meeting. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried

22) Receive Comprehensive Plan Resolution **R23-05** and set public hearing date for December 19, 2023

Motion made (E.Neff/J.Frint) to approve setting the Hearing date to discuss the proposed plan and adopt the updated comprehensive plan. Date of Hearing will be Dec. 19th prior to the monthly board meeting. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried

23). Voucher's Approval –motion to approve October vouchers

Motion made (E.Neff/D.Scully) to approve October vouchers. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

24). Treasurer's Report: Lisa Meyer

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$368,606.25; \$829,018.56 is the ending balance in the Money Market account with \$1,164.13 interest earned; \$3,471.75 is the ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account; The PayPal account has a balance \$5,927.53; Taste of Barnes account has balance of \$4,132.15 and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$3,869.37 for a total of all funds of \$1,210,868.46 with \$8,462.22 interest earned year to date.

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

25). TOB Department Head Reports:

A) Highway Department – Monthly Roads Report: November Foreman Report

Equipment: Snow ready.

Quotes for new equipment are coming in.

Buildings: Salt/sand shed has been inspected. There is currently a two year supply of salt/sand. A normal year is about 1150 ton.

The old salt/sand shed to be removed the 1st week in Dec.

Roads: Most have been mowed back for the season. Tree cutting in right of ways will continue as weather permits.

Safety: Please give plow equipment plenty of room. Do not try and pass on the right. The equipment operators make frequent stops and back up often. Don't put yourself in a bad spot to be hurt or worse.

Agenda Items-Highway:

1) Discussion fees for mattresses at the transfer site

Tabled due to Jeff Hong not present at meeting

2) Discussion regarding repair grader or sell as is

Jeff J. stated that he was going to repair with assistance from Doug Westerberg

3) Approval to hire Christopher Lane as PT Seasonal Snowplow Driver confirm hourly rate

Motion made (D.Scully/J.Frint) to approve Christopher Lane as PT Seasonal Snowplow Driver at the rate of \$21.63/hour. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

4) Review and motion to approve quote from Roecker Electric for \$11,500.00 for electrical to the salt/sand shed & warming house. Also discussed moving the existing town sign and lighting. While the board agreed, it will be added as an agenda item and approved at a later date.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to approve quote from Roecker Electric for \$11,500.00 to run power to the salt/sand shed and warming house. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

5) Discuss Snow plow Ordinance. Who issue's fines? State Statue 346.94 (5) is \$200.50

Chairman Renz stated that we would not be adding an additional ordinance as it would need to be enforced. Currently the Sheriff enforces the State Statute and that will remain.

6) Discussion on mail box being hit by snow or snow removal equipment.

Jeff J. stated that the town is not liable for mailboxes that are hit by the plow if the mailboxes aren't visible.

7) Snow Emergency declared: Transfer Site closed/Clerks Office?

Chairman Renz stated that if the board issues a snow emergency that the Transfer Site and Clerk's office would close.

8) Approval to move forward with 6000 hour service in the spring for the 672 GP Motor Grader

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to table for Dec. 19th meeting. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

B). Fire & Ambulance Departments – Monthly BES Reports

Monthly Fire Report

Calls: 5 calls

-1 Fire Alarm

-1 Lift assist with EMS

-1 Structure Fire

-1 Carbon Monoxide call

-1 Search and Rescue

New Engine is still being built. It has been sent to paint. Should be back in a week or 2 for assembly

Engine 1 was repaired last week. Had a couple of bad valves.

Going to be switching brush truck and UTV over for winter operation.

Monthly Ambulance Report

There have been five calls since the last meeting. Two were fire related with the remaining being medical. There were no calls into Highland.

AJ has submitted his resignation. He will be moving out of the area and his last day will be November 29th. A new job posting is being worked on to attempt to fill the position again. Sarah also notified me that she was needing to find a new residence but was able to find a place for the winter. She is having to commute for now but is hoping to find a place in Barnes in the spring.

Courtney and Sonja remain in the grant writing class. AJ is working to make sure Courtney is up to speed on any grant activities he has been working on.

Iron River is working on creating full-time EMT positions and I have been helping to provide information on how we operate.

From a discussion at the last Ambulance meeting we are planning to hold a Trunk or Treat event at the BES Building for Halloween next year. More information will be forthcoming as planning happens.

26). TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

a) Planning Commission

1) Consider application of Class A Special Use for Bruce & Nancy Reihl of 48615 Stone Rd for a new driveway.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to approve class A Special Use permit for Bruce & Nancy Reihl of 48615 Stone Rd for a new driveway. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

b) Parks & Recreation

1) Approve Barb King as a new member on the Parks/Rec Committee

Motion made (T.Renz/E.Neff) to approve Barb King as a new member of the Parks/Rec. Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

27).The timeline was reviewed- Need to add Lisa Meyer's clerk/treasurer term of 2 years.

Motion made (T.Renz/D.Scully) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

22).Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM.

**Submitted by: Lisa Meyer, Clerk-Treasurer
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