

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2020

6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conferencing

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Chris Webb 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 Susan Jansen, Seana Frint and Eric Neff in attendance in the Town Hall and Donna Porter via Zoom. Judy Bourassa attended via Zoom and verified public notice. Tom Renz and BJ Skweres were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

Motion made (Neff/Porter) to approve the amended agenda and the minutes of the 12/15/2020 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 12/3, 12/15 and 12/30/2020 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Note: The agenda was amended to include a Purchase Order for Monroe Truck Equipment.

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes

Denise Scharleman spoke via Zoom in support of the proposal by the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes “Adapting High Water Trends to Protect our Lakes”.

Ted Eastlund read from his email send yesterday via Zoom in support of the proposal as well.

Cris Neff also spoke in support of the FOECLA proposal, reading her email sent earlier today.

Clerk Correspondence – the clerk reported receiving an email from Jack Gribble expressing his support for the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area proposal “Adapting High Water Trends to Protect Our Lakes”; an email was also received from Ted Eastlund in support; an email from Ann Gilligan regarding her concern about a large boat with a large motor on Kelly Lake; a copy of a letter from the State of Wisconsin DNR sent to Stanley Sadenwasser regarding waterway and wetland concerns; a letter from Dawn Linder regarding the letter she received from the Town about snow disposal; a letter was received from Bayfield County Emergency Mgmt announcing Jan Victorson’s retirement eff. 3/15/21; an email was received from Susan Diedrich regarding the high water on Kelly Lake requesting some guidelines be instilled to avoid exacerbating erosion of shoreline; the clerk reported that there will be a primary election on Tues. Feb. 16th. 6 emails were received regarding the snow plowing of snowmobile routes in town. They were from John Orner, Rod & Linda Buss, Wayne & Terry Kolberg, Pat Foat, Dan Schliemann and Elliott Hough. They expressed concern regarding the plowing of roads designated at snowmobile routes and would like to work with the town to allow shared use.

Jeff Delmore of Delmore Consulting did a presentation regarding Wisconsin Annual Road Certification and PASER rating services that his company offers. They also offer to do culvert inventory as well as road sign inventory. He said the software is very user-friendly and it is the town’s property (in the cloud and on a memory stick). The cost would be approximately \$3,000 per year. Chairperson Webb said the board will discuss this further in a future meeting.

A discussion of the FOECL proposal requesting the Town’s support of their plan to determine high water marks and develop measures to declare emergency slow, no-wake speed periods. Supervisor

Jansen said we need to create a history and mitigate the high water impacts. She said it would cost the town nothing to take measurements and monitor water clarity. She asked if the A.I.S. Committee could get involved. Supervisor Frint asked if it's legal for us to mark bridges and wanted to know where the marks would be made. She said the DNR might have to be involved. Jim Bakken assured the board that whatever they do would be in concert with the DNR. Supervisor Jansen said the High Water notices that were posted last year helped with education. Supervisor Neff stated we're at historically high levels now. Chairperson Webb stated that we need to get more people involved in the A.I.S. Committee since a few of the members would like to retire. Chairperson Webb said the town is willing to work with the FOECLA group and the A.I.S. Committee to look into the matter further. More discussion to follow.

Discussion of the installation of a Kid's Little Library on Town Property. A citizen has come forward and would like to provide another box for kid's only. Supervisor Neff wanted to know who would maintain it and ensure that only appropriate materials were included. Supervisor Frint thought the citizen seemed to be willing to do that. Supervisor Neff said the Boy Scouts wouldn't be able to help with the construction but Supervisor Frint said Rocky Clements built a box for her and that might be an option. Cost to construct a box will have to be determined.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to allow the installation of a Little Library for Kids on Town Property. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve December vouchers

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to approve the December vouchers. Roll call vote taken, motion carried

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$126,386.13. \$918,142.25 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account, \$1,551.73 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, and the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$659,710.89; a new account with Chippewa Valley Bank has been set up to accept donations from a PayPal account has a balance of \$200.00 for a total of all funds of \$1,705,991.00 with \$1,540.71 in interest earned this year.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Highway Department

Morgan & Parmley has provided proposals for engineering/design services on Bony Lake Rd and Rabbit Hutch Rd to be performed in 2021. There was discussion regarding the necessity of committing funds over and above the design services for Rabbit Hutch Rd. The DNR would have to sign off on the project before it could proceed.

Motion made (Neff/Webb) to approve the design services on Bony Lake Road at a cost of \$2,500 to \$3,300 and on Rabbit Hutch Road at a cost of \$3,500 to \$4,300 for design services only. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Consider invoice from Roecker Electric LLC in the amount of \$13,580 for Focus on Energy LED lighting incentive program. Supervisor Porter asked why we have to hire Roecker Electric to do the work, why couldn't our town employee, Gary Scharlau, do it. Chairperson Webb said the grant requires that a master electrician do the work and Gary is not a master.

Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to approve the payment of \$13,580 to Roecker Electric LLC. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Follow up discussion of purchasing uniforms for the Highway crew. Supervisor Frint reported that her t-shirt salesman has shirts for \$5.95/each. There might be a one-time set up fee to have "Town of Barnes" printed on them and there might be a minimum number to purchase. The proposal previously discussed from Aramark was rejected. Supervisor Frint will get more information and present to the board at a later date.

Rescission of the motion made at the 12/30/20 Special Town Board Meeting to suspend temporarily the plowing of W. Idlewild Road. Wisconsin State Statute 82.03 requires towns to keep its roads passable at all times and 893.83 requires that accumulated snow and ice must be removed within 3 weeks of a snowfall or face liability for any resulting damage or injury. Chairperson Webb had notified the Barnestormers Snowmobile Club that the motion would have to be rescinded. Representatives of the club would like to meet with members of the board, highway department and business owners to discuss further and come to an understanding/agreement on the plowing of snowmobile routes. Supervisor Frint said the Snowmobile and ATV Clubs really supported the local businesses over the past year and encouraged working to a satisfactory resolution. Chairperson Webb asked the board to support/participate in a meeting in early February.

Motion made (Jansen/Neff) to rescind their motion to suspend temporarily the plowing of W. Idlewild Road. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

A purchase order for Monroe Truck Equipment to purchase an air foil and belting for the 2010 plow truck was reviewed. BJ Skweres of the Highway Dept. said the air foil (which deflects the snow) wouldn't be available until 4-6 weeks. The belt would be a spare but the one on the truck now is worn and could break anytime.

Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$3,675.29. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

BJ Skweres of the Highway Dept. reported that No Parking signs have been installed on the west side of Lake Road by the bridge over the channel and a sign has been ordered for Lakeside Drive (formerly Buck N Bass Rd). The Highway crew will be brushing and tree removal on Moen Rd, Bony Lake Rd, Rabbit Hutch Rd and E. Robinson Lake Rd in preparation for roadwork to be done in 2021. The crew is looking into getting additional training via online webinars.

Chief Renz presented a plaque to Colin Nowaczyk for 30 years of service on the Fire Department and said he also has one for Marcia Wellnitz who served the Town for 43 years (she was unable to attend).

Monthly Report – Tom Renz

Monthly report

January 19, 2021

Ambulance

- 1 – St Luke's
- 3 – no transport 1 was Town of Highland
- 2 – stand by for Fire
- 1 – Transported to Mayo intercept
- 3 – transported to Hayward 2 were intercepts with Sawyer County

All EMT's and First responders were offered the COVID vaccination. Five have received it with the second doses finishing up this week.

Our ambulance is back and the loaner has left the area in hopes it never returns. There was battery issue with the loaner and needed to be jump started in ambulance bay at hospital by Wrecker Company. Pomasal has agreed to pay that bill as it was their ambulance.

Hailey Skweres and Richard Renz have completed and passed their Psychomotor skills on the 9th. Now they will be taking their written tests shortly.

We have received several donations in memory of George Stone. As soon as we have received all of them I will inform the Town Board the dollar amount and what we have agreed to purchase with it and a plaque will be ordered and installed on the equipment in his memory.

Fire

- 1 – Carbon monoxide alarm
- 1 – report of smoke turned out to be rubbish fire by neighbor.

Next time the Town Board meets I request that Brock Frierhood be appointed to Assistant Fire Chief.

Brock Frierhood, Richard Renz and BJ Skweres are taking the Fire officer training. Any person wishing to be a Fire Officer needs to have officer training. Brock is grandfathered in but chose to take it.

I have received a grant for smoke alarms to be given out to members of the community free of charge. I have received thirty of them. They will be arriving shortly. If anyone is interested, or if you know of someone in need on a smoke alarm, please feel free to contact me.

COVID-19 Vaccinations have also been offered to fire Department personnel and should be getting their first round this week.

A purchase order for Polaris Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$18,051.51 for the purchase of a Ranger Crew XP1000 was reviewed. This is a Wildland Forest Fire Protection 50/50 Grant that was awarded so we will be reimbursed for half of the cost.

Motion made (Neff/Frint) to approve the purchase order in the amount of \$18,051.51 to Polaris Sales, Inc. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Ambulance Director Renz requests the board authorization to publish an ad for two full-time EMTs. Chairperson Webb said the board discussed this at the last meeting and the job description will be revised prior to hiring. Supervisor Jansen suggested that the training program implemented be continued and assessment tools developed.

Motion made (Neff/Frint) to authorize the clerk to place an ad for two full-time EMTs. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

An application to the Fire Department from Kristie Larson was reviewed.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to approve Kristie Larson's application to the Barnes Fire Department. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Transfer Site:

Update on the installation of RING cameras –Tom Renz is tasked with getting the RING account set up. Chairperson Webb would like the Highway Dept. to monitor the Transfer Site (receive the notifications from the RING system).

Review two proposals received for the overhead doors at the Transfer Site, one from Brule River Garage Door and one from Fuller Garage Door Co. This is in the 2021 Budget. BJ Skweres said the proposal from Fuller Garage Door Co is subject to change due to the price of lumber increasing. He also asked if the Town wants to leave the current doors in place so they could be used if there was an issue with the new overhead doors. It was decided to keep them in place.

Motion made (Neff/Porter) to accept the proposal from Brule River Garage Door at a cost of \$7,443 for overhead doors with windows. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Review the fees charged at the Transfer Site- Supervisor Jansen suggested sorting the list by category. Supervisor Neff asked if the board should consider increasing the fees charged since there was a significant difference in fees generated vs. costs expended this past year (increased charges due to increased usage attributed to the pandemic). The board decided to take no action at this time.

Parks & Rec:

Discussion regarding the opening of the Tomahawk Lake Park warming hut- Supervisor Jansen asked why the whole board wasn't involved in the decision. Chairperson Webb said she and Eric made the decision to open the warming hut since the skiing season started and there wasn't a meeting scheduled for a few weeks. Hand sanitizer is provided and our Parks/Maintenance employee is checking the building regularly. Pat Johnston (attending via Zoom) of the Parks & Rec Committee suggested that the warming house at the skating rink should also be opened officially.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to open the warming hut at Tomahawk Lake Park. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to open the warming hut by the skating rink at the Town Park. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

EMS Committee: Resignation of Chairperson Guy Johnston

Chairperson Webb accepted his resignation with regret and thanked him for all his work. Guy (attending via Zoom) thanked the committee members, the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Tom Renz and the Town Board for their support.

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to accept the resignation of Guy Johnston as chairperson of the EMS Committee. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Chairperson Webb reviewed the Action Items List and the Timeline.

Motion made (Jansen/Frint) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@barnes-wi.com Fax: 715-795-2784