

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 15, 2021

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 and Seana Frint in attendance in the Town Hall and Donna Porter and Eric Neff 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 (Jansen/Frint) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 1/19/2021 Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 1/5, 1/13, 1/19 and 1/20/2021 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to open the floor to public comment. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Dave Scully spoke about his concern that the board will pass an ordinance restricting boating activities and urged them not to do that.

Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to close the floor to public comment. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence – Timber cutting notices was the only correspondence received. They were for Paul & Margot Grangaard, Brule River LLC, Brenda Bauer, Shawn & Lissa McFadden, Robert Rucker and Carol J Westerberg.

Judge John Anderson provided a court update and addressed his upcoming contested election on April 6th. He asked for everyone's vote and said he would like to serve for another 6 years. Chairperson Webb said he has brought pride to the County and said he's done a good job.

Jim Bakken of the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area addressed the board regarding high water gauges. He reported that he has done more research that he will present. He addressed Dave Scully's concern and said that he is not asking the board to pass an ordinance restricting boating activities. He referred to a graph of Lower Eau Claire Lake he created showing significant rain events in 2016 and 2018 and how that affected the lake levels and erosion. He also mentioned Pigeon Lake and the high water level there for the past few years. He has spoken with a DNR Dam Safety representative and Bayfield County Land Conservation. He also got some benchmarks from USGS for reference. He said he is working on an education plan and then the next thing to do is collect data. Chairperson Webb said she is working on a Memorandum of Understanding and would like to work with them to develop some educational opportunities.

P.J. Foat requested that the board approve a music event on Friday, August 13th at the Town Park in advance of the “Ruckus in the Woods” event on Saturday, August 14th. P.J. was not able to attend but asked Supervisor Frint to report to the board. There would be no food sales by P.J., but maybe a couple of food trucks as well as a bar. It would be about 3-4 hours in length (ending before dark) on the Friday night before the Ruckus in the Woods event on Saturday afternoon. Chairperson Webb said he would need to complete the form reserving the date. Supervisor Neff requested that P.J. keep the board apprised as plans develop. Supervisor Jansen suggested that there should be a different fee structure for “for profit” events, especially since the Town Park has to be closed. Supervisor Frint said until he makes a profit, the fee should be the same. Chairperson Webb said you need to be careful about charging different fees for different events for different users.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to approve the request for the use of the Town Park on Friday, August 13th upon completion of Town Park Use Agreement. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

The non-metallic mine pit renewal was discussed and as well as its potential closure. Bob Lang installed the pit several years ago and a storm water permit is needed to be in compliance. We just received an inquiry from Bayfield County asking if we still have the sand pit and if we have access, could they purchase sand from us this spring. Supervisor Neff spoke in favor of closing the pit as it hasn’t been used in the past few years.

Motion made (Porter/Neff) to close the non-metallic mine pit and start the reclamation plan. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Fees will need to be paid and all permits in place until we are certified that Reclamation has been completed.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve January vouchers

Motion made (Porter/Frint) to approve the January vouchers. Roll call vote taken, motion carried

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$244,390.79. \$804,261.62 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account, \$1,631.73 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, and the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$1,322,650.43; the PayPal account has a balance \$790.96 for a total of all funds of \$2,373,725.53 with \$115.06 in interest earned this year.

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

Highway Department –BJ Skweres addressed the board saying they’ve marked trees in the right-of-way on Moen, Bony and E. Robinson Lake Rd (roads slated for roadwork in 2021) that will potentially be cut. Kent Mackey was able to repair some damage, wear and tear on one of the plow trucks and will be invoicing the town. Supervisor Frint requested that intersections be sanded on Fridays as needed due to increased traffic in town on weekends, if possible.

Update on E. Robinson Lake Road project-expected start date is mid to late May, depending on when weight restrictions are lifted. Supervisor Neff said he’s received about 20 calls from property owners and no one has had any issues with trees to be removed.

Chairperson Webb reviewed the Log of Projects discussed by the Roads and Right of Way Committee. Moen, Bony, and E. Robinson are scheduled for 2021, with Outlet Bay, Rabbit Hutch and South Shore bridge slated for 2022.

Resolution to re-name a portion of Fahrner Road as Fahrner Court (Ct). There was conflicting information in town records since a portion of the Fahrner Road was abandoned. Renaming the remaining portion serving two driveways will eliminate confusion. Chairperson Webb read the ordinance to re-name that portion as Fahrner Ct.

Motion made (Frint/Neff) to approve the ordinance to change the name of a section of Fahrner Road to Fahrner Ct. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Monthly Report – Tom Renz

Monthly report

Ambulance

1 to St. Luke's

1 – Barnes Road, Patient deceased

We have received donations in memory of George stone. Those donations will go towards purchasing the slide in unit to the new ATV when it arrives. The slide in unit will be used for wildland fire support and suppression as well as wildland, woodland patient movement.

Last February there was the rescue sled ski and hitch were place in the shed at the dump and they are now missing and no one knows where they have gone to. Do you want me to file theft charges? I do not know what it would cost to replace them but know one seems to know where they have gone. They are used in conditions where there is snow and is the proper height to hook up to Snowmobile.

Fire

No Fire calls this month.

We are already planning and training for the upcoming wildland fire season approaching us fast.

The plow drivers hit the Septic tank at the fire hall and tore the cover off the tank. The cover was placed back on as everything appeared to be frozen inside the tank. We put the cover back on and then covered it with a couple buckets of snow from front end loader to hopefully thaw out what was frozen and keep it running. So far so good everything is working. The rest of it will have to be looked at this spring for any long-term effects.

Appointment of Assistant Fire Chief

Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to approve the appointment of Brock Frierhood as the Assistant Fire Chief. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Chief Renz suggested that a camera system be installed at the gas pumps by the Town Garage.

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. He is hoping to get there this week, when the weather warms up.

Parks & Rec: Pat Johnston

Update on virtual Birkie at Tomahawk Lake Park –it’s scheduled for Feb. 20th to Feb. 28th. On the 27th, they are thinking about a “semi supported” event, having music and a water station and are looking for volunteers. She requested that the road be widened to allow for more parking and that garbage cans be provided at the warming hut and on the deck and that the restrooms be checked that week. Gary will be tasked with that. She also requested that the snowbanks be taken down where the trail crosses the road. She requested that maps be provided that include distances. She’ll mark one up and copies can be made at the Town Office. She reported that the door of the warming hut is not fully closing and should be checked for adjustment or possibly a door closer installed. She will check with Gary first and will contact Josh if needed.

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

Conditional Use application from Alan & Susan Bain for multiple residences on a parcel. The LUPC recommends approval.

Motion made (Frint/Porter) to recommend approval of the application for Conditional Use as it is compatible with the comprehensive use plan. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.

Chairperson Webb reviewed the Action Items List and the Timeline. Chairperson Webb said she has asked Gary to remove one of the Town of Barnes signs and bring it to the garage so she and Pat Johnston can examine it to determine if it can be re-painted/repared.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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