

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 18th, 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 Eric Neff, Seana Frint, Dave Scully, Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Chairman Renz verified public notice, interim Clerk/Treasurer Judy Bourassa attended via Zoom. Brett Friermood, Brock Friermood and Jeff Jordheim were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

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

*Motion made (Neff/Scully) to approve the minutes of the 06/20/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 6/6 and 6/28 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Public Comment Session – there were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence –We received a letter from April Powell on June 30<sup>th</sup> resigning from her position as clerk/treasurer effective July 14<sup>th</sup>; the job is posted and applications will be reviewed; Bayfield Co. Planning & Zoning Department sent a letter advising that an Ordinance Amendment pertaining to amending Title 13 will be considered at their 7/20 meeting; the Bayfield County Clerk sent a copy of an Amendatory Ordinance 2023-08 amending Section 3-1-9(b) regarding insufficient funds checks.

Melissa Scully addressed the board regarding the recent Taste of Barnes event. 2023 TOB was a big success – we doubled our booths and added a pickleball tournament and a 5K run. She asked if the Town would consider purchasing a Bouncy House (which could also be used on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July) and more tables, garbage cans and event tents are needed. There were issues with electrical power and the music on Friday was not as well attended as hoped so they will have to decide if they want to continue having music. The board thanked Melissa for all the hard work on the Taste of Barnes and also the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Supervisor Scully reported he talked to a source about having a carnival. Melissa thanked Jeff Jordheim for his efforts with the event.

Zach Zepczyk addressed the board regarding fire department issues. Chairman Renz cautioned Zach that this isn't the forum to criticize employees of the department. Zach said there are issues with the leadership and firefighters aren't allowed to perform tasks they were capable of and certain firefighters were excluded from responding to some calls. Chairman Renz stopped Zach from speaking any further since it is a violation of Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(f) and needs to be addressed in a closed session as no complaint has been filed. Zach asked if he could discuss harassment by one of the board members and that was allowed to be discussed. Supervisor Scully stated that the maintenance issues have been serviced. Chairman Renz again said a town board meeting is not the forum for addressing these issues and he can seek legal counsel.

Discussion was held regarding Lake County ATV Club's request to lease a lot in the Barnes Industrial Park. A draft lease agreement was reviewed. The Chairman needs to have a representative of the Club attend a meeting with the Town Clerk so the agreement can be signed.

Discussion was held regarding Rusk County Co-op's request to lease a lot in the Barnes Industrial Park. A draft lease agreement was reviewed. The Chairman said he spoke again with Rusk County and Supervisor Neff said he thinks we should be consistent by having a lease agreement rather than selling a lot. The road will need to be upgraded to handle the heavier weight of fuel trucks and there would be no road restrictions due to weight.

The board reviewed the 2-year operator license applications for Brenda Bakke and Mark Mulder.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the 2-year operator licenses for Brenda Bakke and Mark Mulder. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

June vouchers were reviewed.

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa -reported by Supervisor Eric Neff

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$444,239.50, \$1,072,145.62 is the ending balance in the Money Market account with \$792.49 interest earned; \$4,611.81 is the ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account with a \$250 deposit; The PayPal account has a balance \$9,311.30; Taste of Barnes account has balance of \$4,457.15 and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$3,939.37 for a total of all funds of \$1,534,247.60.

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

Highway Dept Report-Jeff Jordheim

### **Roads/Property Report**

At 5:30am tomorrow (7/19) they will be pouring the deck on the South Shore Bridge.

**Roads:** Mowing is on going as well as grading. South Shore bridge is coming along very well. Sometime in August should be complete.

**Pease Road:** Bids are out to wedge the bad spots with asphalt then chip sealing to follow, hopefully this year.

**Property:** Tree cutting will resume as the Oak Wilt Ban is now expired. Beavers continue to be a issue on Mulligan Creek Road and near Tomahawk Lake. The trapper is gaining, but a slow process. Salt/sand shed is to be on the agenda at the county meeting this coming Thursday for a zoning change.

**Equipment:** John Deere 2755 mower: Still waiting to hear on parts.

**Transfer site:** The covering for the mattress roll off is complete. Looking into asphalt or concrete pad for the roll off to be placed on.

Foreman Jordheim said the Town has applied for a Special Use-B permit to allow construction of a salt/sand shed (the current building has been condemned) and he will be attending the meeting. The current building will be torn down and asphalt installed to increase the parking area.

Foreman Jeff Jordheim discussed the repairs needed for the 2755 John Deere. The parts to repair it are obsolete and there may be other issues that will need to be repaired so it might be best to sell it as is or sell it to a salvage yard that would part it out. Chairman Renz said they would take it under advisement.

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

Dave Schiess asked if anyone checked to see when we purchased it – he thought it might have been 2005. Doug Westerberg said he thinks if you have the original packaging you can return it less a 20% re-stocking fee. Another option would be to sell it to a salvage yard for the parts already installed. The Foreman will check with the clerk to see what we paid for it.

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

*Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to put it back together and sell it. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Foreman Jordheim would like to have a concrete slab poured under the new covered recycling dumpster. Since it isn't on the agenda, it will be added to next month's agenda and a cost will be determined.

Supervisor Scully reported that he and Jeff Jordheim will be attending a meeting when the grant for the campground will be announced.

Ricky Renz thanked Jeff Jordheim for his help at the fundraiser.

### **Monthly Report Fire**

Calls: 3 calls

-1 gas leak

-1 power line on fire

-1 grass fire

New engine is scheduled to be completed in November.

Fourth of July fundraiser and raffle went well. Still waiting for final numbers.

Submitted this year's FFP grant to the DNR.

Emergency Apparatus and Maintenance should be here in the next couple weeks to complete pump testing.

### **Monthly Report Ambulance**

Brett was unable to attend so Chairman Renz read his report.

We have had a busy month since the last meeting with 10 calls. 3 were fire responses with the fire department, 6 were over the extended 4th of July weekend including an unrelated incident during the parade. Combined we are at 60 calls since January which is still trending to around 120-130 calls for the year.

AJ accepted the full-time job offer and is starting Monday, July 17th. He will be working 10-hour days, on the same Mon-Thurs schedule as Courtney at least to begin with. Jennifer accepted the part-time job offer and completed the physical and drug test but has run into an issue with her licensing. She is currently submitting the required paperwork with a tentative start date of July 31st. Sarah also accepted the full-time job offer for night shift and will be starting Tuesday, July 18th. She will be working 12-hour overnight shifts with a floating 4 hours throughout the week to cover

additional calls she goes on or to fill holes in the schedule. She will be completing the physical and drug test on July 27th.

An electrical issue developed on the ambulance that started out as an intermittent issue but became a problem over the 4th of July week. Troubleshooting had narrowed it down to the battery charger or the batteries themselves. Jeff found one of the batteries were bad and they were replaced which appears to have fixed it. Conversing with a manufacturer technician confirmed the bad battery was likely causing the charger to fail off to protect itself and other components. The ambulance will be out of service on Tuesday, July 18th, for repairs and maintenance including new tires. Our neighboring services will be providing coverage of our area during this time and after shuttling the ambulance to the shop, Courtney and AJ will be in town and available to respond to the scene.

The ambulance is in for repairs and will not be available on Tuesday (July 18) and Wednesday (July 19). Area services are covering any calls, if needed.

#### TOB Committee/Commission Reports

The Town has submitted a Special Use-B application with the County to request a permit to build a salt/sand shed on town property zoned residential/recreational. If the Town Board approves, it will be considered at the Bayfield County Board Meeting.

*Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the Special Use application of the Town of Barnes to build a salt/sand shed. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Seana Frint said Donna Porter should get an honorary "second" on the motion.

Chris Webb updated the board on the A.I.S. activities. She thanked Diane Menard for her efforts on the beetle project and they have now been distributed (some in the Lower Eau Claire Lake area, others by Lake Namakagon. The BAISS boat has concluded work on the Upper and has moved to the Lower. Getting volunteers is getting tougher and tougher and are always needed. It was suggested that we could possibly hire someone to work on the boat for \$12/hr. Chris complimented Julie Lyons and Barb Clements for their work recruiting volunteers. Supervisor Neff pleaded for volunteers to man the boat because every day we don't is wasting grant dollars. Leah Culliton has been a great asset posting messages on Facebook to get the word out. If you live on a lake that has Aquatic Invasive Species issues, please consider volunteering.

Chairman Renz said another agenda item for August is to find a new assessor.

The timeline was reviewed. Bill Webb has agreed to continue as a Commissioner on the Land Use Planning Commission as his term expired 6/15/2023. It will be a 2-year term.

Supervisor Jim Frint asked if there has ever been a town owned dock on Sand Bar Lake. Dave Schiess said there was one at one time.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 PM.