

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 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 and Tom Renz attended via Zoom. Judy Bourassa verified public notice.

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

*Motion made (Porter/Neff) to approve the amended agenda and the minutes of the 11/17/2020 Budget Hearing/Special Electors and Monthly Board Meeting and the minutes of the 11/23 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

**Note: The agenda was amended to include item #7, Update and Motion on “Focus on Energy” grant application.**

*Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to open the floor to public comments. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Public Comment Session – limited to 3 minutes

Scott Toshner thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He addressed agenda item #8 regarding Tomahawk Lake lot. He was concerned about setting a precedence and suggested that a survey be done to determine if there is any encroachment. He also asked if an appraisal has been done.

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

Clerk Correspondence – the clerk reported receiving four timber cutting notices

A presentation regarding the impact of high water levels on lakes was given by Jim Bakken

He said he is representing the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area. The Eau Claire Lakes are designated an “Outstanding Resource Waters” by the DNR. Less than 1% of Wisconsin lakes have this designation. FOECLA’s mission is “To protect, preserve and improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Eau Claire Lakes Area watershed, including the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands forests and attendant wildlife resources”. The area has experienced powerful storms in recent years resulting in lake levels rising quickly and receding slowly. This makes shorelines more vulnerable to erosion, either from normal wave action or manmade turbulence. FOECLA has applied for a Healthy Lakes grant through the State which could help property owners install shoreline protection measures. They are requesting the Town’s support to propose a plan to minimize watercraft erosion when water is high. This would consist of two parts: 1) education and 2) voluntary slow-no-wake during periods of high water. The plan would include distributing

educational information to the public, establishing staff gauges in specific lakes to generate a history of lake levels, developing a no-wake trigger level via consensus building and posting the condition at public access points, on FOECLA's website and an email blast to subscribers. Compliance would be voluntary and strongly encouraged. They are looking for support from the town of the concept/plan.

The grant "Focus on Energy" was discussed, Larry Roecker is the master electrician who would be performing the work. The lights in the town garage, hall, office and some in the park areas would be updated to LED lights. The town has budgeted \$10,000 that could be used. The town has to pay the cost and then the grantor would reimburse us. Larry has estimated a total cost of \$15,000 which includes materials and labor. The project needs to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, however, an extension may be granted and additional monies may be available for the difference.

*Motion was made (Porter/Frint) to proceed with the Focus on Energy grant application and authorize purchasing of the materials up to \$10,000. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Update on the Tomahawk Lake lot being considered for abandonment. Chairperson Webb stated prior to any sale, the site would be appraised and a survey done. Supervisor Jansen asked how many public accesses there are. Webb stated there is access at boat landings. Supervisor Porter said there is quite a hill and noted that there are buildings very close (the lot is 30 feet wide). She asked if we have any idea what the property might be worth, Chairperson Webb said the assessor thought approx. \$17,000.

*Motion was made (Frint/Neff) to file the amendment to the application to commit to maintaining the existing fishing pier for a period of 50 years and maintain the existing public boat landing in perpetuity, including placing a deed restriction. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairperson Webb advised the board that the application for health insurance through Health Partners included the option to provide coverage for domestic partners. This option was selected and she just wanted the board to be aware of this option. The employee would be responsible for 100% of the premium for the domestic partner.

Supervisor Jansen had requested a discussion regarding the requisition process, she stated it is probably a requisition policy that is needed. We have a purchase order procedure in place. Webb stated that this will be addressed during a policy review expected to take place in January.

The renewal of membership with the Town Advocacy Council was reviewed. Chairperson Webb stated this is an invaluable resource for towns and recommended the renewal.

*A motion was made (Porter/Frint) to renew the membership with the TAC at a cost of \$193.00 for 2021. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve November vouchers

*Motion made (Neff/Frint) to approve the November vouchers. Roll call vote taken, motion carried*

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$189,220.78 after transferring \$80,000 to the Money Market account and payment to Fahrner Asphalt Sealers for the Barnes Rd project. \$916,257.08 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account (an increase of the \$80,000 that was transferred), \$1,551.73 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account, and the Tax Collection Account has a

balance of \$811.39 for a total of all funds of \$1,107,840.98 with \$1,417.11 in interest earned year to date.

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

#### Highway Department

Review Aramark quote for uniforms-BJ brought samples of the uniforms for the board to see. BJ stated the jacket would be nice to have. Aramark would do the laundry and mending. Supervisor Frint stated that for \$160/mo we could purchase a lot of yellow t-shirts/sweatshirts and have Town of Barnes printed on them. Chairperson Webb said she'd prefer to consider purchasing clothing instead of uniforms. Chief Renz said NITZA requirements should be checked. The board decided to do more research before making a decision so it was tabled.

Discussion on proposed written policies-this includes mailbox replacement, snowplowing criteria, right of way issues and other recommendations from the Wisconsin Towns Association. The board will be meeting in January to draft some of these policies.

In the absence of a foreman, Eric Neff will take the lead in directing the highway crew regarding snowplowing. The board would like to create a "pool" of snowplow drivers available to help out in a large snowfall.

Consider request to purchase/build salt/sand bin for public use-Chairperson Webb stated this is a continuation of the discussion of making salt/sand available for the public while limiting access. BJ had two options of wheeled bins available from Uline at a cost of approx. \$1,000-1,300. Alternatively, a wooden bin was built for the Transfer Site at a cost of approx. \$300. A wheeled bin would allow for the bin to be moved (from the sand/salt shed for bucketfuls of the mixture) to the gated area in summer to allow for bucketfuls of gravel to be available to the public.

*Motion made (Porter/Jansen) to purchase a tilt truck with lid from Uline at a cost of \$1,017.00. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Consider purchase order for Universal Equipment for repairs to loader-BJ was able to get a couple of other quotes that would result in significant savings over the purchase order total of \$3,624.50.

*Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to authorize the ordering of equipment for the loader from Universal and Cat at a total cost \$1,485.28. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Discussion regarding down payment to Northwoods Paving for E. Robinson Lake Rd project in the amount of \$100,000. The town contracted with Northwoods this fall but work was unable to be started due to the cold weather in October. The town needs to spend a certain amount on roads each year in order to maintain the amount received in General Transportation Aid.

*Motion made (Neff/Frint) to authorize a down payment up to \$100,000 to Northwoods Paving for the E. Robinson Lake Rd project scheduled for 2021. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Monthly Report – Tom Renz

#### **Monthly report**

**December 15th, 2020**

## Ambulance

4 - no transport

1 – Hayward

1 – Stand-by for fire

I have been working with the county Nurse as soon as the COVID – 19 vaccination is available which will be within the next couple of weeks EMT's who wish to received it will be able to through their office. The Vaccination will be available for about five days. The plan is to have half get it on first day and the other half on the fifth day to stagger them because then in three weeks they will get the second dose and the second dose causes flu like symptoms for 3 to 4 days in some people.

Marcia Wellnitz has chosen to let her EMT license expire and retire. Marcia was on ambulance since 1978 from the records that we have located and may have been longer. Marcia was truly dedicated to the ambulance. Thank you, Marcia, for your years of service.

Irene has submitted her resignation. Thank you for your service. I would like to move ahead and accept applications to fill that position.

## Fire

1 – structure fire

1 – assist ambulance

Colin Nowalczyk has submitted his retirement notice from the Barnes Fire Department effective the last day in January. Thanks, Colin, for you years of service.

I request the Town board appoint Brock Frierhood to fill the position of assistant Chief to be effective 01/01/2021. Brock will also continue in the roll as training officer.

Retirement of Colin Nowaczyk as a firefighter, training officer, fire chief and assistant chief and part time snowplow operator

Appointment of Assistant Fire Chief-this request was withdrawn due to an additional candidate asking to be considered for the position. The clerk will arrange meetings with the two candidates and the board.

Resignation of Irene Bott as EMT/Firefighter/Training Officer

Retirement of Marcia Wellnitz from Barnes Emergency Services

*Motion made (Neff/Jansen) to reluctantly accept the retirements of Colin Nowaczyk and Marcia Wellnitz and the resignation of Irene Bott. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

The Town Board thanked them for their many years of service

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

a) Land Use Planning Commission –Seana Frint

1. Frank & Dianne Poquette of 53727 Barnes Rd: Class A Special Use to replace mobile home with manufactured home.

*Motion made (Frint/Jansen) to approve the Class A Special Use application of Frank & Dianne Poquette. Roll call vote taken, motion carried.*

Chairperson Webb reported that an application for the Parks/Maintenance position was received yesterday; the clerk will send the applicant a letter stating that the position has been filled.

BJ Skweres reported that they met with the Barnestormers Snowmobile Club to discuss plowing as it relates to snowmobile trails. They requested that some roads (Conners Rd, Idlewild Rd and Pickerel Lake Rd) be only plowed one lane width to allow for snowmobile use. The board said they need to determine if there are any full time residents living on the roads and safety is the priority so it will have to be looked into further.

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 8:50pm.

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