

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 21, 2021
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Tom Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting in the Town Hall to order at 6:35pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Supervisor Seana Frint was absent (arrived at 8:45pm). Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim and Brett Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall. Brock Frierhood was absent.

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

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 11/16 Budget Hearing/Elector Meeting and Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – there were no public comments

The Ambulance Director requested that the board consider the purchase of a Stryker Power Load including the upgrade kit and preventive maintenance for a total cost of \$28,095.78 (2022 budget). Brett stated the vendor are offering a 3 year payment plan. We could pay an estimated \$9,526.37 in 2022, and have funds remaining for installation of \$1,515. A representative from Stryker, Elizabeth Reem, was in attendance.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the purchase of the Stryker Power Load as presented. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to authorize Brett Frierhood to sign the contract. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported that there will be a Public Information Meeting regarding the proposed municipal campground prior to the January 18th Monthly Board meeting beginning at 5:30pm. The town has been credited \$3,405.95 for unemployment wages (COVID Relief funds) paid in 2020 by Unemployment Insurance. An email was received from Scott Katterhagen regarding his interest in purchasing a few acres of Town-owned property off W. Idlewild Lake Rd. Chairman Renz suggested that the board investigate all the town-owned property to determine if the town should consider selling some of the properties.

Baumann & Associates, the Town's audit firm, submitted an engagement letter for signature.

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve the engagement letter. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A settlement agreement and release of claims for Dale Schaffer was reviewed.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to accept the settlement agreement. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The 2 year operator's license application of Danielle Johnson was presented for consideration.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the 2 year operator's license of Danielle Johnson. Roll Call vote taken with Jim Frint abstaining, motion carried.

The probationary operator licenses for Sarah Neveaux and Lester Gates have expired. New background checks were run and there are no changes for either. The clerk requests approval to issue 2 year operator's licenses for both which will expire in June of 2023.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve the issuing of 2 year operator license for Sarah Neveaux. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz said he reviewed the background check of Lester Gates and there are violations that were not reported on the application. He suggested that the applicant complete the application listing all violations and present his case before the board.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to deny the operator license application for Lester Gates at this time and he can re-apply with a new application and meet with the board. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk Bourassa asked the board to appoint Florence Prickett as Chief Inspector and Diane Menard, Laurie Balousek, Susanne Kalla, Laurene Peterson as Election Inspectors with Bev Lowery and Carol Westerberg as alternate Election Inspectors for the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 term.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the appointments of Chief Inspector, Election Inspectors and the alternate Election Inspectors as requested. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Appointment of alternate Board of Review member – this was tabled for a future meeting.

Appointment of Emergency Management Officer

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to appoint Brett Frierhood as the Emergency Management Officer for a 2 year term beginning 1/1/22. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz announced that effective December 31st, 2021, he is retiring from the Fire Department. He will remain on the Ambulance Department.

The Town Advocacy Council membership is up for renewal at a cost of \$193.50.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to renew membership with the Town Advocacy Council for \$193.50. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve November vouchers

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve the November vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$315,286.24. \$766,654.13 is the ending balance in the Money Market Account which includes interest of \$67.18. \$3,414.92 is ending balance in the

Vatten Paddlar Account. The PayPal account has a balance \$4,556.67 and the Tax Collection Account has a balance of \$822.91 for a total of all funds of \$1,090,734.87 with \$854.96 in interest earned so far this year.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

December Road Report

New Hire

John Mueller turned in his resignation on Dec. 10th, 2021

East Shore Road

Inspection for the shoulder breaking off on East Shore by some residents has been noted and will be repaired when weather allows.

Also answered a complaint of a tree being cut on private property on East Shore Road. This is a land owner issue.

Beaver Trail

Driveway has been approved for Brian Larson. Location will be north of Raven.

Equipment

Plow trucks are ready and put into service. Grader has been changed to snow plowing. Carbide tipped cutting edge arrived.

Transfer Site

Concrete is poured and the power is run. Ready for new compactor.

The Town-owned property off Lynx Rd and its lack of access was discussed. It would be desirable to acquire access/easement so we could sell the property. Chairman Renz said he could attend a Potawatomi Property Owners Assoc. meeting to request access.

Property on Point O Pines Rd was discussed. It was suggested that it be surveyed before any action is taken.

The foreman is requesting approval to purchase carbide cutting edges from Fabick at a cost of \$1,550.28.

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve the purchase of carbide cutting edges. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The 2009 Chevy Silverado truck needs the transfer case replaced for approximately \$2,700.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to authorize the repair of the truck. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Foreman asked about installing a well at the Transfer Site. There is concern about having water available for unwashed recyclables and battery removal. The chairman said there is an eye washing station at the Transfer Site but it needs to be moved indoors. The Foreman will check into it.

The Foreman said tree removal needs to be done. Supervisor Neff will work with the Foreman.

(Discussion regarding the purchase of a new grader was deferred to Eric Neff to be addressed following the Foreman's report).

Discussion regarding the purchase of portable dash cameras for town equipment.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A policy would need to be developed for the use of cameras including a chain of custody and a storage place (computer hard drive) would be needed. BJ Skweres said he was looking at some that were \$119 each (one for each employee would need to be purchased). Chairman Renz asked the clerk to check with the WTA to see if there is a sample policy that could be used.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding waterway on Middle Eau Claire – Paul K. Supervisors Scully and Neff were assigned to look into this. Supervisor Scully said he talked to the Army Corps but didn't make much headway. He is continuing to work on it. Supervisor Neff said a plan needs to be put together and the involved parties engaged in the process.

Supervisor Neff said they are investigating selling both graders and using those funds toward the purchase of a new grader. They received quotes from both Cat and John Deere and would like a 5 year payment plan (\$50k-62k) per year with the trade-ins (valued at approximately \$75k) covering the cost for 2022. The payment plan includes a service agreement. The newer grader needs some repairs to the solenoids and spools at a cost of approximately \$3,000 and it needs tires at a cost of approximately \$7,000. Supervisor Scully asked about the cost of leasing and Supervisor Neff said it was much more expensive. Chairman Renz expressed concern about replacing other vehicles (such as fire trucks, plow trucks etc) and said a replacement schedule/protocol needs to be developed to include all of the town's equipment. This will be a future meeting agenda item.

Fire Department Report – Brock Frierhood

Monthly report Fire

Calls: none

Have submitted the AFG grant, requesting PPE, SCBA's and AED's. We have taken inventory on all our PPE, we requested through the grant for all of the PPE not meeting the current standard under the NFPA.

Recently had Ice rescue training to prepare for any possible rescue situations. Have one member currently taking a rapid intervention team (RIT) class. There is an entry-level class coming up in Drummond, if anyone wants to join the fire department, please contact me. There are more jobs available than just going into burning buildings, contact me to see what might be of interest to you.

The Fire Chief would like to purchase tracks for the ATV at a cost of \$5,755.00 (2022 budget item). A new trailer will be needed if the tracks are purchased since the current one isn't wide enough.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to authorize the purchase of tracks for the ATV. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Monthly report Ambulance – Dec. 2021

There have been 7 calls since the last meeting. Three COVID-19 patients were transported over Thanksgiving week/weekend. A number of deaths related to COVID-19 in the area, and specifically in Barnes. Jake Coleson began as full-time at the beginning of December. In conjunction with the Fire Department we have applied to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for 5 new AEDs which will help to equip additional vehicles with them as well as putting more in the hands of first responding personnel. We also conducted ice rescue training with the Fire Department at the beginning of the month.

The highway department has requested 3 portable radios for their use. I have found 3 old but working radios which I will be supplying to them. With some remaining money left in the budget I have been upgrading equipment such as replacing worn cot straps, adding a second wheel brake, purchasing a mount and carry case for the monitor, and replacing flashlight batteries.

The job posting has been published for the 3rd full-time EMT position with applications due January 14th. Emergency Services Building open house is scheduled for May 28th with more details to follow.

We are continually looking for volunteer EMRs/EMTs. If anyone is interested or knows someone would may be interested please contact me.

The Ambulance Department would like to board's approval to purchase a replacement AED at a cost of \$1,415.65. One is required for the new fire engine that we've committed to purchase. Supervisor Scully said he would contribute \$250 towards the purchase. (at the later meeting, Foreman Jeff Jordheim also pledged \$250 towards the cost of the AED).

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the purchase of a replacement AED at a cost of \$1,415.65. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The EMT job description was again reviewed by the board due to the firefighter class requirement. It was determined that this had been removed from the job description so no action was needed.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission: Seana Frint

1. Bennie Helgeson of 52059 Robinson Lake Rd-Class A permit to build a house and garage in an F1 zoning district.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the permit of Bennie Helgeson. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The timeline was reviewed-the clerk will make the changes requested

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.