

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 18th, 2017  
7:00pm at Barnes Town Hall**

**(UNAPPROVED)**

The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Electors of the Town of Barnes was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairperson Christine Webb. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judy Bourassa and Roads & Property Foreman, Eric Altman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Approval of 2016 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting -  
*7:10pm Motion made (Donna Porter, seconded by Ingemar Ekstrom) to approve the 2016 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. There were 54 votes for and 0 opposed. Motion carried.*

**AGENDA**

**1) STATE OF THE TOWN REPORTS**

- **Spring Election Results**
- **Discussion of Audit & Treasurer's Report**
- **Annual Report from the Chair**
- **Annual Highway Department Report**
- **Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report**
- **Annual Constable Report**
- **Establish hourly wage for elected officer serving as a town employee  
Wis. Stat. S60.37(4)**

**2) TOWNSPEOPLE RESOLUTIONS, if any.**

Chairperson Webb reviewed the agenda items and the qualifications for being an elector at the Annual Town Meeting. Webb discussed the choices for the method of voting and asked for volunteers to be ballot clerks. Susan Pagnucci and Sue Janssen volunteered to be ballot clerks. Marcia Ritter and Pam Toshner volunteered to verify electors for voting.

*7:15pm Motion made (Dave Pease, seconded by Diane Aichele) to vote by paper ballot. Voting count was taken with 38 votes for and 16 votes opposed. Motion carried.*

**ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the Spring Election for Town Board Chairperson were 201 votes for Chris Webb and 123 votes for Doug Stearly. There were 7 write in votes and 12 under votes. The result for the Town Board Supervisor position were as follows:

Donna Porter received 244 votes

Zach Desrosiers received 115 votes

Mike Tremblay received 74 votes

Bill Webb received 62 votes  
 There were 6 write in votes and 185 under votes  
 Mike O'Keefe received 249 votes for Constable with 10 write ins and 84 under votes

The Audit Report and Treasurer's Report were presented by Clerk Judy Bourassa-

## TREASURER'S REPORT Annual Meeting April 18, 2017

General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2016	\$122,858.86
Deposits and Credits	\$865,844.28
Checks and Payments	(\$3,158,730.87)
Transfers from Money Market & Tax Collection Accounts	\$2,246,486.28
Interest Earned	\$121.20

<b>GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$76,579.75</b>
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Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2016	\$537,049.63
Checks and Payments	(\$2,046.46)
Transfers to General Fund Checking	(\$60,000.00)
Deposits and Credits	\$592.72
Transfers from other accts	\$225,465.13
Interest Earned	\$1,079.27

<b>MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$702,140.29</b>
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FUND BREAKDOWNS

Money Market General Savings	\$81,372.44
Highway Dept. Sinking Fund	\$431,361.47
Ambulance Service Sinking Fund	\$36,146.53
Emergency Services Sinking Fund	\$3,903.22
Parks & Rec. Sinking Fund	\$106,439.38
Ski Trail	\$1,307.15
Well Water Donations Fund	\$2,275.39
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Equipment	\$7,555.28
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Training	\$329.28
Bridges Maintenance Fund	\$12,040.79
Waterways Maintenance Fund	\$10,033.99
Assessment Sinking Fund	\$0.00
Ambulance Billing Escrow Acct	\$1,000.00
Tourism Committee	\$167.00
General Gov't Designated Funds	\$7,316.45
Health & Human Services	\$891.92
<b>Total all Money Market Funds</b>	<b>\$702,140.29</b>

Tax Collection Account Balance January 1, 2016	\$37,570.94
Deposits and Credits	\$2,879,477.94
Checks and Payments	TRANSFERS TO General Fund Checking (\$2,081,949.50)
Interest Earned	\$0.00

<b>TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$835,099.38</b>
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Vatten Paddlar Account balance January 1, 2016	\$0.00
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Deposits and Credits		\$10,389.46
Checks and Payments		(\$6,467.79)
<b>VATTEN PADDLAR BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$3,921.67</b>
Hayward Community Credit Union balance January 1, 2016		\$332,190.29
Interest Earned		\$1,306.50
Matured CD's Rolled Over to other accounts		\$0.00
Savings		
18 Month CD - 08/28/2015	\$171,899.07	
18 Month CD - 08/28/2015	\$106,182.96	
11 Month CD - 07/12/2016	\$55,414.76	
<b>Total all HCCU Accounts</b>	<b>\$333,496.79</b>	
<b>HCCU BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$333,496.79</b>
Johnson Bank balance January 1, 2016		\$209,384.05
Interest Accrued		\$1,472.75
12 Month CD#1 - 09/17/2017	\$102,458.42	
12 Month CD#2 - 09/17/2017	\$108,398.38	
<b>Total all Johnson Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$210,856.80</b>	
<b>JOHNSON BANK BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$210,856.80</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$2,162,094.68</b>
<b>INDEBTNESS</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

**AUDIT REPORT**

The CPA firm completed the audit of our books on March 27<sup>th</sup>-there are copies at the back table for your review. The auditor found that the financial statements present fairly the respective cash basis financial position of the Town as of 12/31/16. On page 6 of the audit you'll see that our receipts were higher than budgeted, mostly due to AIS grants received, higher Timber sales and funds received for Managed Forest Lands. We also received higher than budgeted Ambulance Fees and Garbage Fees. Our Capital Outlay accounts were also under budget. The Highway Dept. (Public Works) was over budget but that was due to not transferring funds from the Capital Outlay accounts to cover expenses for road repairs paid to vendors such as Milestone Materials for gravel on Pine Chip, Wallman, Smart and Sweet Lake Rds. We also hired Scott Construction for work on Island Lake Rd and Kelly Lake Rd.

Chairperson Webb read Tom Krob's annual report:

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR  
APRIL 18, 2017**

Yesterday, April 17th, was my last day as Chairperson. I have thoroughly enjoyed my last four years working for the town, but decided not to run for a third term. It's time to catch-up on personal projects! I want to thank everyone for their support over the last four years! Without everyone's input and assistance, I could not

have accomplished the things I wanted to do for the town.

I would like to send a special thanks out to all of the current and previous board members, town employees, Fire and Ambulance Department volunteers, committee members, state and county officials and employees, and the countless members of the community who volunteered much time and effort to make the Town of Barnes a better place to live.

I want to congratulate Chris Webb on being elected the new Chairperson. I wish her the best of luck and know she will do a great job for the TOB. I will make myself available at any time, to assist in the transition.

I also want to congratulate Donna Porter on her reelection, and welcome Zach Desrosiers, a first time board member. I have truly enjoyed working with Donna over the past four years. The best of luck to both of you in the next two years. I also want to recognize the great job that Tom Emerson has done in the last three years, and a wonderful job Seana Frint has done as she starts her second year.

In addition, I would like to recognize the great job that Clerk/Treasurer Judy Bourassa has done since she was hired a year ago. It has been a pleasure working with her and I know the TOB is in good hands.

I would especially like to thank those who keep our town running on a daily basis and those who keep us all safe: Eric Altman - Highway Foreman and Property Manager, Town Crew- Dave Schiess and Jerry Witt, and plow driver, Loren Bohl. Although this winter was not as bad as some, there were many challenges in plowing and sanding our roads and ensuring our citizens safety. Tom Renz – Fire Chief and Ambulance Director who puts in countless hours. Paul Mueller who handle the transfer site, and Zach Desrosiers who in addition to working at the transfer site, works for the highway department, and has done an excellent job in grooming the ski trails. Bob Brennan - Who maintains all of our buildings, ice rink, mowing, parks, ball fields, etc. Aquatic Invasive Species - Boat and lake monitors who keep our lakes looking pristine. The EMT's and Firefighters who have been, and will continue to be, readily available to help us all in our time of need.

And a huge thank you to all of the volunteers on all of our town committees. They contribute countless hours of their free time towards making the Town of Barnes a better place to live!

And lastly, a big thanks to Gene Ratzel, who serves on several committees, chairs the Planning Commission and Barnes Area Development Corporation, installed the camera system at the transfer site, and helps out with computer questions in the office on a weekly basis.

I would like to briefly go over a few of the more important projects and events that occurred over the last year, many of which will continue in the coming year.

**Lake Road Project** – 2.1 miles of Lake Rd from Hwy N to the Lake Rd Bridge will be reconstructed and/or resurfaced. We hope to pave a wider shoulder for walkers, bikers, etc. We anticipate bids will be accepted within the next four to six weeks with the project starting this summer.

**Vatten Paddlar Canoe/Kayak Race** - This will be the 3rd year of the event and will be held on Saturday, July 8th. The second year was also a huge success like the first year, with an increase in participants. Once again the people of the town made it a success! Last year's awards ceremony at RC's was well attended. Thanks to Barb Romstad for all of her work again last year on the race! A special thanks to Amy and Neila, who without them stepping forward to take over the Race Coordinator duties, the event would not have taken place this year.

**The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee** - Continues to work hard to mitigate the problems of invasive species in our beautiful lakes. The committee members did an excellent job in designing and building the Dash (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) Boat which is now operational. This year the AIS will focus on chemical treatments of Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes.

**Tourism Committee (TC)** – Several ideas to promote our area have come up in the last year. One of those is "Music in the Park" to be held on a regular basis. Some citizens in the community are currently working to get this started.

**Snowmobile Trails** - Last year in conjunction with increasing the firebreak to 100 feet on Moore Rd., just north of Island Lake Rd., approximately three additional

miles of snowmobile trails were added. What was not completed by Bob Lang was finished by the Barnestormers Snowmobile club. This has added approximately 9 more miles of trails on Moore Rd. over the last two years. A huge thanks to Mike Tremblay, President, Barnestormers Snowmobile Club, for working with the TOB over the last four years to greatly improve our trail system, including ATV/UTV trails, and helping to make our trails some of the best in the state.

**ATV Trails** - The town board continues to work with Loren Bohl, President of Lake Country ATV Club, and Bayfield County, to reopen and keep open, the ATV/UTV trails that were closed by Heartwood Forestland Fund. Last year, with the assistance of Jason Bodine, Bayfield County Forestry, trails were reopened between Barnes Rd. and Roy Dick Rd., including the trail going north to Moore Rd. In regard to the trails in and around the Trading Post, unfortunately the attempt to negotiate a swap of lands to reopen these trails was not successful. Efforts will continue to rectify this situation.

**Tomahawk Park Grant** - Great news! The \$100,000 grant project for Tomahawk Park that was submitted on May 1, 2016, was approved by the DNR and signed on February 7, 2017. Some of the upgrades will include wider cross country ski trails to add skate skiing, additional trails for both skiing and hiking/biking, a year round building near the parking lot to serve as a warming hut in winter and a changing area year round, nature trails, snowshoeing trails, dedicated fishing pier, and a water supply, as well as other upgrades. A special thanks to Barb Romstad and Pamela Toshner for working on this grant in their spare time for a second year.

**Land Acquisition** - The Town Board, with electoral approval, secured the purchase of 35 acres of land just north of the current town park. Efforts will be under way this year to come up with a long term plan for improvements to this land. The town board is also pursuing the purchase of an additional 40 acres of land directly west of the new 35 acre parcel for additional trails and park projects, and to ensure the snowmobile and ATV/UTV Trails are never closed again, which could happen if purchased by a private party. In addition, the land could be used for walking/biking trails starting at the current town park that could someday connect to Tomahawk Park.

**Briefs of other projects:**

The hockey rink was refurbished with new boards and ends added.

The tennis courts were resurfaced.

A new piece of playground equipment will go up this year at Tomahawk Park

The basketball courts will be resurfaced this summer.

New directional business signs will replace aging old signs around the TOB this summer.

A 100 foot waterslide will be constructed at Tomahawk Park. Just checking to see if anyone is still listening?

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last four years. I have met a lot of great people. Perhaps after a year off, I will start looking for another position where I can serve my community. Have a great summer!

Respectively Submitted by Tom Krob, Town  
Chairperson

Eric Altman then presented the Annual Town and Roads Report:

Annual Report for 2017-2018,

The Highway/Park and Recreation Department would not like to go over last year's events. Those are done. We would like to focus on some goals for the upcoming year.

1. Highway Safety. The Department will be working and planning alongside the Roads and Right of Way Committee. Together we will be identifying and correcting any known hazards.

2. Tomahawk Park Project. This project will be a 2 year phased project. The first year will focus on expanding the existing trails to 16 feet wide for classic and skate skiers. A warming hut built at Tomahawk Park and Trailhead parking improvements.

3. Lake Road Project. Overseeing and construction assistance to this major reconstruction of a Town Road.

4. Town Garage Roof Replacement.

5. Basketball Court Resurface. The Highway Department will remove and dispose of existing blacktop surface and rough grade for a new concrete surface.

6. Bocce Ball Courts. The Highway Department will construct 2 new Bocce Ball Courts in between the Basketball Court and Softball field.

7. Business Signage. The Highway Department will disassemble the existing white arrow signs and posts. Paint Posts and add new signs

8. Walking Trail. The Highway Department will begin construction on a walking Trail that will leave the Town Park and end at Tomahawk Park.

9. Haul Road Construction. Bayfield County has awarded the Town \$11000 in aid to improve our Northern Town Roads where logging and pulp loads are being transported down.

This year the Highway Department will be scheduling an open house for people to come and meet the Department. The residents will be able to ask questions and tour the shop.

This year the Highway Department has begun to post announcements on the Facebook page.

Finally, in addition to some of these projects the Department will be focusing on properly maintaining our existing roads and properties. Our equipment needs are now going to be tailored for the tasks at hand. Some of the equipment we have to be sold and replaced to be more efficient.

Chairperson Webb read the Annual Report of the Ambulance and Fire Departments as Tom Renz was absent.

The Barnes ambulance and Fire department has had a busy year this year. The fire Department wishes to thank Tom and Marcia O'brien for their donation of 18,244.20 for the purchase of 4 new up to date air packs. The fire Department will be looking to update the remaining air packs next year. We have several new members on the fire Department and we are looking forward to two new EMTS this summer.

The Fire Department has started a new truck committee for purchase of new engine for the fire department to be replaced next year in the twenty-year plan also.

The ambulance has established some new guidelines in accordance to the EMS committee recommendations this year. Thanks, Tom

# BARNES AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

## Annual Summary

	2016	2015	Change
<b>Total Runs</b>	53	51	+3.9%
<b>Total Billable Runs</b>	47	46	+2.2%
Commercial	13	8	+62.5%
Medicaid	5	4	+25.0%
Medicare	18	29	-37.9%
Private/Other	11	5	+120.0%
<b>Total Charges</b>	\$56,032	\$57,971	-3.3%
Charges per Billable Run	\$1,192	\$1,260	-5.4%
<b>Collection Rate</b>	100.2%	90.7%	+9.5%
<b>Total Cash Credits</b>	\$31,162	\$28,337	+10.0%
Credits per Billable Run	\$663	\$616	+7.6%

Chairperson Webb read the Annual Report of the Constable, Mike O'Keefe, as he was absent.

For 2016 / 2017: 96 calls for service: 310 gallons of fuel: Total miles:

5,012.....Friends & neighbors.....I'd like to thank all of you for your support over the last 17 years.

This will be my last term as Constable. My concern is what the future of this office will be in 2019 when my term ends. In my opinion the office of Constable **MUST** be removed as an elected position, and replaced with a law enforcement officer who is certified by the Wisconsin department of justice as I have been for the last 17 years, who will be an employee of the town. This officer will not be on call 24/7 as many people unreasonably expected of me, but have set working hours, and must have the equipment to do the job properly. He or She will also have to be paid a living wage. Since the year 2000 the Constable pay translated to \$13.00/ day, and has not changed in 20 years. In my case money then and now was never the motivating factor for my running for office. I've always felt there was a need for law enforcement at the town level, and I still do!

Understandably, this will take a huge financial commitment from you as voters. If you choose to ignore what I'm suggesting your choices are very limited. By law, in Wisconsin as of 2013 a Constable acting under our current law enforcement ordinance must be a certified officer. No qualified person will apply for a job that pays \$13.00 /day. Without a Constable , any town ordinance that does not reflect state law ( water ski / jet ski as an example ) will not , and cannot be enforced by any other law enforcement department ( Sheriff or DNR ). Ladies & Gentlemen the choice is yours tonight ! We have two years to get this figured out , but the time to start is now !.....I'd like to say that it's been an honor to be your Constable for the last 17 years . Tonight it will be up to you to decide .....Respectfully.....Mike O'Keefe ( Constable )

Chairperson Webb welcomed Zach Desrosiers to the Town Board and advised the electors that they need to establish his hourly wage since he is now serving as an elected officer. He will earn \$4,800 as a board supervisor and is only able to earn an additional \$5,000 as a town employee. This is due to the limit set by the Wisconsin State Statutes for town employees also serving as an elected officer.

*7:28pm Motion made by Lee Weisner that Zach Desrosiers' pay not exceed \$5,000 –this motion was rescinded.*

*7:33pm Motion made (Barb Romstad, seconded by Melissa Driscoll) that Zach Desrosiers be paid \$12.00/hr. Paper ballot vote was taken, with 52 voting yes (unanimous) so the motion carried.*

*7:53pm Motion made (Susan Pagnucci, seconded by Melissa Driscoll) to change the voting method to show of hands. 52 voted yes, 4 voted no, motion carried.*

Susan Pagnucci commended Tom Krob for his work he's done for the town and also thanked all of the committee members and volunteers. She also asked that the Town publish the dates that the Transfer Site is closed and any days other than the regular days/hours that it is open. This is due to confusion about Easter Sunday (it was open), but the policy states that if it is closed, it will be open the following day so some people assumed it was to be open on Monday, leading to the confusion and request for clarification. Chairperson Webb said the Town Board would take that under advisement.

Cindy Patza spoke about Barb Romstad's motion and then deferred to Barb.

*7:58pm Motion made (Barb Romstad, seconded by Cris Neff) to establish an organized approach to periodically review the town of Barnes ordinance limiting Water ski and Jet ski operations hours. A time period of 3 years was suggested.*

She further suggested that a short survey of property owners be sent out in December with the annual tax statements.

Chairperson Webb advised that the Town Board cannot set an agenda for a future board. She also referred to a petition signed by 311 townspeople that was received by the town that would be discussed at a later date. She would like to see the legality of the ordinance studied by the board and a public hearing set.

There were several comments by audience members, both in favor and against the ordinance. Enforcement of the ordinance was discussed as well. Chairperson Webb said the board would take it under advisement.

The motion was voted on with 34 voting in favor, and 21 voting against. Motion carried.

Presentation of Resolutions-

*8:40pm Motion made (Susan Pagnucci, seconded by Dave Pease) to accept Resolution #R17-02, Authorizing Purchase of Land, Parcel 04-004-2-45-09-28-30-2 000-10000, **Tax ID #2905.***

*54 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried*

*8:46pm Motion made (Linda Frank, seconded by Lee Weisner) to accept Resolution #R17-03, Authorizing Sale of Town Owned Land, Parcels 04-004-2-44-09-30-1 04-000-*

10000, **Tax ID #2394**, 04-004-2-44-09-30-4 01-000-00000 **Tax ID #2399**, 04-004-2-44-09-30-4 04-000-10000 **Tax ID #2405** and 04-004-2-45-09-24-2 03-000-10000 **Tax ID 2786**.

52 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried

Chairperson Webb advised that any monies received from the sale of said parcels would only be used to purchase real property.

*8:50pm Motion made (Gene Ratzel, seconded by Melissa Driscoll ) to accept Resolution #R17-01, Authorizing Sale of Town Owned Land 1) Various lots located in the Town of Barnes Industrial Park, lying south of Hwy N in Section 34, Township 45 North, Range 9 West.*

54 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried

*9:05pm Motion made (Mitch McGee, seconded by Bill Webb) to abolish the elected position of town constable.*

53 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried

Chairperson Webb advised that the resolution wouldn't take effect until the constable's term expires in April of 2019. Lee Weisner recommended that the constable position be appointed, not elected.

*9:10pm Motion made (Barb Romstad, seconded by Cris Neff) to establish a designated fund for money that has been donated in a calendar year for the purpose of AIS monitoring and control, that is in excess of the Town of Barnes expenses for AIS monitoring and control not reimbursed by the State of Wisconsin grants. This designated fund will carryover annually, and include the previous calendar year's funds. The fund will be established with the 2016 donation in excess of expenses less grant funds received, the amount will be \$2,563.48.*

53 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried

Mike Tremblay spoke in regard to a piece of privately property owned that the county would like to purchase to insure snowmobile trail access. He requested the the town consider contributing town funds to purchase the property, if needed. Suzette Tremblay spoke in favor of the motion from a safety standpoint and the cost to re-route the trail to keep it off the road.

*9:15pm Motion made (Mike Tremblay, seconded by Greg Martin) to authorize the town board to spend up to \$5,000 to help acquire this property and develop the trail.*

48 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried

It was asked if the Quonset hut will be painted. Chairperson Webb advised that a replacement shed is included on a "wish list". She advised that it may be addressed at the budget hearing in November.

*9:20pm Motion made (Linda Frank, seconded by Cris Neff) to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting. 54 voted yes, 0 voted no, motion carried.*

The Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer

