

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

**Tuesday, April 19th, 2016  
7:00pm at Barnes Town Hall**

**(UNAPPROVED)**

The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Electors of the Town of Barnes was called to order at 7:06pm by Chairman Tom Krob. Roll call was taken with Supervisors Christine Webb, Donna Porter, Tom Emerson, and Seana Frint present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Brenda Bakke, Roads & Property Foreman, Bob Lang, and new Clerk-Treasurer Judy Bourassa.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Krob reviewed the agenda items and the qualifications for being an elector at the Annual Town Meeting. Krob discussed the choices for the method of voting and asked for volunteers to count votes. Susan Pagnucci and Mike Tremblay volunteered to be vote counters. Dave Pease suggested silent ballot method of voting.

*7:12pm Motion made (Suzette Tremblay/Greg Martin) to vote by show of hands. Voting count was taken with 42 votes for and 2 votes 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**

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

Approval of 2015 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting -

*7:14pm Motion made (Linda Frank/Carla Schiess) to approve the 2015 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. There were 40 votes for and 0 opposed. Motion carried.*

The Treasurer's Report and Audit Report were presented by Brenda Bakke and Tom Krob-

**TOWN OF BARNES  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
Annual Meeting April 19, 2016**

General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2015	\$274,403.23
Deposits and Credits	\$1,719,041.97
Checks and Payments	(\$3,067,443.95)
Transfers from Money Market & Tax Collection Accounts	\$1,196,726.35
Interest Earned	\$131.26
<b>GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$122,858.86</b>

Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2015	\$177,974.27
Checks and Payments	(\$12,005.54)
Transfers to General Fund Checking	(\$8,494.05)
Deposits and Credits	\$14,233.57
Transfers from other accts	\$365,100.58
Interest Earned	\$240.80
<b>MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$537,049.63</b>

FUND BREAKDOWNS

Money Market General Savings	\$75,247.07
Highway Dept. Sinking Fund	\$350,297.34
Ambulance Service Sinking Fund	\$25,000.00
Emergency Services Sinking Fund	\$3,903.22
Parks & Rec. Sinking Fund	\$36,439.38
Ski Trail	\$1,259.15
Well Water Donations Fund	\$1,730.67
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	\$10,000.00
Ambulance Billing Escrow Acct	\$1,000.00
Tourism Committee	\$2,213.46
<b>Total all Money Market Funds</b>	<b>\$537,049.63</b>

Tax Colletion Account Balance January 1, 2015	\$512,425.25
Deposits and Credits	\$1,629,134.06
Checks and Payments	TRANSFERS TO General Fund Checking (\$2,103,988.37)
Interest Earned	\$0.00
<b>TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$37,570.94</b>

Hayward Community Credit Union balance January 1, 2015	\$538,043.60
Interest Earned	\$2,881.35
Matured CD's Rolled Over to other accounts	(\$208,734.66)
<b>HCCU BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$332,190.29</b>

Savings	\$171,692.36
18 Month CD - 08/28/2015	\$105,480.57
18 Month CD - 08/28/2015	\$55,017.36
<b>Total all HCCU Accounts</b>	<b>\$332,190.29</b>

Johnson Bank balance January 1, 2015	\$0.00
Interest Accrued	\$649.40
12 Month CD - 09/17/2017	\$107,307.42
13 Month CD - 09/17/2017	\$101,427.24
<b>JOHNSON BANK BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$209,384.06</b>

**TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2015      \$1,239,053.78**

**INDEBTNESS      \$0.00**

Franco Pagnucci asked if the Town shops around for better rates of return on our money in CD Funds. Krob explained that we do check rates with various financial institutions when our funds in the CD accounts are near expiration and we have moved funds to where we found the best rates.

*7:26pm Motion made (Greg Martin/Larry Bergman) to approve the Treasurers Report and Annual Audit as presented. There were 46 for 0 opposed. Motion carried.*

Chairman Krob then presented his Annual Town and Roads Report:

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR  
APRIL 19, 2016**

Another year has passed and much has been accomplished in the Town of Barnes (TOB). I thank the residents for allowing me the opportunity to serve my community. I am half way through my 2nd term, and there is a lot of work to do in the next year.

At the April 5th election, the voters reelected Tom Emerson and elected Seana Frint, a first time member to the board. I congratulate Tom on his reelection, and welcome Seana Frint to the town board. I look forward to working with both of them in the coming year. I thank Julie Bohl for her service to the Town of Barnes and will miss working with her as a board member. She helped accomplish a lot in the two years that she served. Brenda Bakke has resigned from her position at Town Clerk/Treasurer. I want to thank her for her service to the Town of Barnes over the last three years and wish her the best of luck in the future. I would like to welcome Judy Bourossa who was hired to be the new Clerk/Treasurer. Judy has been a part-time town employee for more than a year. She will be a great addition to the town staff.

I would especially like to thank those who keep our town running on a daily basis and those who keep us all safe: Bob Lang-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 are always challenges in plowing and sanding our roads and ensuring our citizens safety. They did a great job all year long, and received many compliments.  
Tom Renz – Fire Chief and Ambulance Director who puts in countless hours.  
Paul Mueller & Zack Derosiers who handle the transfer site.  
Tammy Davis - Who assists in the clerk's office.  
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 beautiful.  
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!

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 Improvements** – As mentioned last year, 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. Bids will be accepted in approximately January 2017. The width of the shoulder, either 2 or 4 feet will be determined based on the cost of the project which we will not be known until the bids come in. Survey crews are out at this time working on the road. It's projected that the construction will start in the spring of 2017.

**Vatten Paddlar Canoe/Kayak Race** - This will be the 2nd year of the event and held on Saturday July 9th. The first year was a huge success with 73 participants and 88 volunteers. In stealing Barb Romstad's words "It took a town to make it a success". This year Secretary of Tourism, Stephanie Klett, will be the official starter for both races. The awards ceremony will be at a local business this year, yet to be determined and rotated each year. We also plan on introducing an electric motor drag race this year. It should be a fun time for all. Thanks to Barb Romstad for all of her work again this year on the race!

**The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee** - Continues to work hard to mitigate the problems of invasive species in our beautiful lakes. The committee members are diligently working on a "Dash (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) Boat. This is "cutting edge" AIS prevention technology that will be used on our lakes. I thank them for all of their time and effort over the past year. They have been very successful with a very difficult problem.

**Tourism Committee (TC)** – Will be hosting the Vatten Paddlar this summer as mentioned previously. The committee has also stepped up its efforts to promote tourism in the Town of Barnes and Eau Claire chain of lakes. Secretary Stephanie Klett was invited and attended two meetings in Barnes and generated a Town of Barnes Action Items/plan to promote tourism in our area. Secretary Klett did a radio show highlighting the Barnes area and the lock and dams. Her office also set up a six minute radio show in Milwaukee in which I highlighted great reasons to visit Barnes. Two members of the tourism public relations team of Secretary Klett's office, will visit Barnes next month to tour and photograph for the purpose of showcasing our town on social media.

**Snowmobile Trails** - Fortunately, like last year, we did not have the mandated plowing by the DOT this winter on all town roads. We tried to balance plowing efforts to benefit both hunters and snowmobilers. If we cannot work this out locally, Wisconsin DOT will step in like they did three years ago. We worked with Mike Tremblay, Barnestormers snowmobile club, to add a new trail up north to replace the use of Halfway Rd over to Delta Rd. This year we hope to add more trails on Moore Rd. south of Island Lake Rd., in conjunction with a fire break. We will be working with the snowmobile club on a regular basis to help make our trails some of the best in the state.

**ATV Trails** - The town board continues to work with Loren Bohl, President, Lake Country ATV Club, Bayfield County, and the DNR and other state officials, to reopen ATV/UTV trails that were closed by Heartwood Forestland Fund. This has been very challenging since Heartwood Forestland Fund adamantly opposes ATV's on their properties. Recently, Heartwood sold the

property to Meteor Timber LLC., around Roy Dick Rd. As soon as the sale is final we will approach Meteor Timber LLC to see if they will reopen our trails. In regards to the trails in and around the Trading Post, we are attempting to negotiate a swap of lands to reopen these trails as well. The Town Board will work diligently to get the remainder of our ATV trails reopened.

**Tomahawk Park Grant** - A DNR grant is being worked on and will be submitted on May 1st. Some of the upgrades include, wider cross country ski trails to add skate skiing, additional trails for both skiing and hiking/biking, a year round building near the pavilion to serve as warming hut in winter and changing area year round, etc., nature trails, snowshoeing trails, dedicated fishing pier, a water supply, as well as other upgrades. A special thanks to Barb Romstad and Pamela Toshner working on this grant in their spare time.

**Land Acquisition** - The Park and Recreation Committee along with the Town Board are pursuing the purchase of an additional 35 acres of land directly north of the current town park. By acquiring this land we could preserve the current snowmobile trail, and reopen a partial ATV trail from Barnes Rd to Ellison Lake Rd. If the land is purchased by a private individual, these trails could be closed. In addition, the land could be used for walking trails starting at the current town park, trails that could connect to Tomahawk Park in the future, Frisbee golf, a community garden, and countless other uses as determined by the Park and Recreation Committee. It is hoped that a DNR grant can pay for 50% of the purchase price if approved.

**Assessor** - Associated Appraisal will be doing a total exterior only reevaluation this year. One assessor will start in about two weeks and then five or six more will start the end of May or the first week in June. This reevaluation is necessary to keep the town in compliance.

**Emergency Medical Services Committee** - Was formed following last year's annual meeting in which an advisory motion was made to form a citizens committee to study alternatives for providing ambulance service for Barnes. The committee members have worked hard and will present their findings at the town board meeting on May 17th. Thanks to all who serve on that committee.

### **Road Projects for 2015**

- Point O Pines - finalized
- Jones Road – completely reconstructed
- Schiess Road - completely reconstructed
- Borman Road – completely reconstructed
- Hans Road – relocated intersection for visibility safety
- Lyndale Bay Road – blacktopped
- Lake Road (west of 27) – fiber patched and chip sealed
- South Shore (west of bridge) – fiber patched and chip sealed
- Kelly Lake Road – fiber patched/crack sealed
- Pease Road – replace 36 inch culvert with 96 inch culvert – DNR grant (approximately \$18,000)
- Tars Pond – added overflow culvert
- Lake Road – replaced culvert by Bony Lake
- 43 Road – repaired and graveled portions of last mile
- Halfway Road - \$10,000 grant from Bayfield County Forestry for gravel (we did the hauling) – Almost \$11,000 for this year

- Extensive shouldering of many roads

### **Town Hall and Office areas**

- New parking lot and blacktop
- Garden Club – extensive landscaping and flower beds -Thanks so much!
- Town hall east side – new entrance door, siding, deck, steps, and sidewalk
- Town hall kitchen entrance – new steps

Upgraded old playground area – removed wood chips and timber boarder and replaced with 185 tons of washed sand

Tennis Court will be resurfaced and restriped this spring for both Tennis and Pickleball.

Repaired waterway on Middle Eau Claire

Installed camera system at Transfer Site – Thanks to Gene Ratzel!

Constructing new road to brush pit this spring

Used approximately 750 tons of salt/sand this season

Road reconstruction projects for 2016

- Smart Road
- Wallman Road
- Sweet Lake Road

In summary, the Town Board has made a lot of progress in the last year, and I know that this will continue during the next year. Again, I would like to thank all the board members, clerk, and staff for all their hard work and contributions to our community. I would also like to thank the residents and property owners of the Town of Barnes for their continued support and assistance. I know I probably missed thanking someone, and I am sorry if I did, but I will thank you in person.

Respectively Submitted by Tom Krob, Town Chairperson

Suzette Tremblay lead a thank you to Tom Krob for all his service to the community.

Chairman Krob presented the Barnes Emergency Services Annual Report:

### **ANNUAL BARNES EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

In 2015 we have had a busy year for both the fire department and ambulance department. We have had 98 calls during the year. We have gained 6 new firefighters.

The State Legislature has passed a new first responder law which allows 1 first responder and 1 EMT to complete the crew requirement on an ambulance run. Plan is to submit a new operational plan to allow our service this type of operation. With that I have scheduled a First responder class to be held here in September through WITC. If anyone wants more information or wants to become a first responder please contact me. Helping neighbors and friend is very rewarding to me and those that serve you, not to mention the team and family feeling that goes on inside the organization.

Because of the heavy Opiate use through the region to include Heroin the Ambulance has also submitted and is now carrying NARCAN aboard the ambulance for those types of cases.

The Town Board has established an Ambulance or EMS committee to look at the needs of the Town and the Ambulance service itself. The members of this Committee have worked hard to accomplish what they have set out to do and I have enjoyed working with those members. They (we) are working on the final report which will be presented at the May Town Board meeting please if nothing more than to educate yourself about the medical service in your Town and what is available to you I encourage all to attend.

I have provided an over view of number of calls and types of calls attached. I am sorry I am not able to attend tonight's meeting but because of work and a tragic incident I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Thanks for your Continued support

Thomas Renz

Barnes Emergency Services Director

Donna Porter requested to make a resolution to purchase the 35 acres next to the Town Park. The Town already missed out on a chance to purchase another 40-acre parcel because it sold so quickly. A motion to purchase was called for.

*7:29pm Motion made (Donna Porter/Susan Pagnucci) to buy the property just north of the Barnes Town Park that Lyme Timber has for sale to expand the park.*

Favorable discussion was held regarding the land purchase.

*Vote taken with 46 for and 0 opposed. Motion carried.*

*7:35pm Motion made (Pamela Toschner/Peggy Hauter) that the Town Board create some criteria for service on town committees and recommends the Bayfield County model.* Discussion followed regarding safe guards currently in place with the government structure, fairness to residents who may not be property owners, how committees have worked with surrounding community groups and the difficulty staffing committees. Also suggested was a bylaw for committee discussions.

*7:55pm Vote taken with 17 for the motion and 24 against. Motion fails.*

Lee Weisner discussed the use of the AISC DASH boat. Lee stated the AIS Committee would like to rent the boat out to other communities having similar Milfoil issues to help pay the fee for the divers in Barnes.

*8:10pm Motion made (Lee Weisner/Mitch McGee) that the Town Board give consideration to renting the DASH boat out to municipalities or community groups i.e. the Pike Lake Chain.*

Greg Martin stated we already rent equipment from other communities and further suggests we do the same with all equipment.

Jon Harkness recommend the board consider the liability because diving can be dangerous.

*8:20pm Vote taken with 40 for the motion, and 0 opposed. Motion carried.*

*8:22pm Motion made (Donna Porter/Linda Frank) to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting.*  
The Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Brenda Bakke, Clerk-Treasurer