

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
Tuesday, April 19th, 2022  
6:00pm at Barnes Town Hall

**(UNAPPROVED)**

The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Electors of the Town of Barnes was called to order following the Public Information Meeting at 6:46pm by Chairperson Tom Renz. Board Supervisors Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judy Bourassa, Roads & Property Foreman Jeff Jordheim, Ambulance Director Brett Frierhood and Fire Chief Brock Frierhood.

**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**

**2) Any other issues authorized by WI. Statutes 60.10**

*6:48pm Motion made (Eric Neff, seconded by Chris Webb) to approve the agenda. Voice vote was taken, motion carried.*

Approval of 2021 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were distributed upon entry. Chairperson Renz asked if there were any corrections to the minutes-there were none.

Mike Tremblay and Brett Frierhood were asked to count votes and agreed to do so.

*6:50pm Motion made (Dave Scully, seconded by Eric Neff) to approve the 2021 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. A hand vote was taken with 18 voting yes, 0 voting no. Motion carried.*

Chairperson Renz stated the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to provide a statement of financial condition of the Town of Barnes pursuant to WI Stat. 60.41. Copies of revenues and expenses for 2021 were available upon entry to this meeting. A full copy of the audit is available at the Town Clerk's office.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the Spring Election for the Town Board is as follows: For the two Board Supervisor positions, Seana Frint received 59 votes and Eric Neff received 60 votes. There were 4 write in votes and 35 under votes. 79 out of 714 eligible voters voted (includes 1 Election Day registration) for an 11% turnout.

# AUDIT REPORT

The CPA firm completed the audit of our books on February 14th-there are copies at the back table for your review. The auditor found that the financial statements present fairly the respective modified cash basis financial position of the Town as of 12/31/21. On page 5, the receipts in 2021 total \$1,655,522 and the disbursements total \$1,526,991. Our receipts were approximately \$33,888 more than budgeted and our disbursement were approximately \$94,643 less than budgeted.

## TOWN OF BARNES TREASURER'S REPORT Annual Meeting April 19, 2022

<b>General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$126,386.13</b>	
Deposits and Credits	\$2,846,784.38	
Checks and Payments	(\$3,381,280.36)	
Transfers to Money Market & Paypal Accounts	(\$122,855.68)	
Transfers from Money Market & Tax Collection Accounts	\$727,096.90	
Less outstanding checks	(\$1,668.10)	
Interest Earned	\$65.41	
<b>GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$194,528.28</b>	
<b>Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$918,142.25</b>	
Deposits and Credits	\$12,518.20	
Checks and Payments	(\$118,257.96)	
Transfers to General Fund Checking	(\$125,990.25)	
Transfers from General Fund Checking	\$132,355.68	
Interest Earned	\$857.00	
<b>MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$819,624.92</b>	
	Money Market	
	General Savings	\$170,526.81
	Highway Dept.	
	Sinking Fund	\$47,681.55
	Emer. Srvs Sinking	
	Fund	\$180,911.35
	Parks & Rec. Sinking	
	Fund	\$40,080.41
	Tomahawk Lake Park	
	Fund	\$14,340.42
	Well Water Donations	
	Fund	\$5,440.93
	WI EMS-FAP Fund -	
	Equipment	\$4,286.62
	WI EMS-FAP Fund -	
	Training	\$1,741.54
	Bridges Maintenance	
	Fund	\$12,040.79
	Waterways	
	Maintenance Fund	\$10,033.99
	Ambulance Billing	
	Escrow Acct	\$1,000.00
	TOB A.I.S. Sinking	
	Fund	\$22,755.41
	Land	
	Acquisition	\$88,909.95
	Fund	

FUND BREAKDOWNS

Barnes Area Dev.	
Fund	\$19,687.47
S.Shore	\$193,000.00
Bridge Fund	
Election Equip Sinking	
Fund	\$7,187.68
<b>Total all Money</b>	
<b>Market Funds</b>	<b>\$819,624.92</b>

**Tax Collection Account Balance January 1, 2021** **\$659,710.89**

Deposits and Credits	\$2,527,474.63
Checks and Payments	(\$2,422,082.95)
Less outstanding checks	(\$541.75)
Plus outstanding deposits	\$10,899.11

**TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2021** **\$775,459.93**

**Vatten Paddlar Account balance January 1, 2021** **\$1,551.73**

Deposits and Credits	\$6,760.00
Checks and Payments	(\$4,896.81)

**VATTEN PADDLAR BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2021** **\$3,414.92**

**PayPal Account balance January 1, 2021** **\$200.00**

Deposits and Credits	\$4,416.73
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**ASSOCIATED BANK BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2021** **\$4,616.73**

**TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2021** **\$1,797,645.18**

**INDEBTEDNESS \$100,000.00**

*7:07pm Motion made (Neff/J. Frint) to approve the Annual Treasurer's report. Voice vote taken with 5 voting yes, 0 opposed, motion carried.*

**Chairperson Renz then read the Chair's Annual Report:**

## 2022 Town of Barnes Chairperson annual report 04-19-2022

This past year as we have been returning to what our new normal may look like for now and possibly years to come.

We want to first start off by thanking all of the employees of the Town of Barnes for keeping our Community beautiful and safe for our residents, visitor and others to come and enjoy our wonderful area in whatever aspect of life they enjoy.

Judy, the Town Clerk/Treasurer, has been wonderful in keeping the Town board in line and on task with budgets and information. Judy has indicated that this will probably be her last year as she wants to enjoy life and family more with less stress. With that, we have the opportunity to look at all options which we will be doing the next year. One of those options, which some of you have spoken to me about, is to look at the possibility of a Town Administrator, possibly an item for a referendum vote.

Jeff Jordheim, for keeping our roads, highways, and properties in good shape. The work at the Transfer site and working with the garbage company.

Brock Friermood for the Fire Department taking over heading the course. He has obtained several grants already for promoting fire safety and smoke detectors. If you have a hard of

hearing person in your household, please see him as he has the availability for smoke detectors for the hard of hearing.

Brett Frierhood as Ambulance Director and making sure we are moving forward to better serve the community.

We also want to thank the residents and community as a whole. This is not about me or them or any particular group. This is about us, us as community working together to make our area one of the best to live in no matter what your background is, no matter what in life you enjoy it is always about us as community.

We want to also thank all the Committee members that continue to work hard and meet regularly to advise the Town Board on important matters.

We also want to thank Chris Webb, not only for being there when we have had questions but also for her work on the invasive species grants for the area lakes. She has worked long hours in putting them together and getting the approval for them. Our goal is for the Town board members to get out there and work with those on the water and not only to see and observe what is going on but to help.

We need to keep educating people on the lakes. I believe it is working and by working together we can accomplish anything we set out to do. As we have all heard in the past, divided we fail. We will continue to work with the local organizations, clubs and associations to continue to make our community the best. I have always said and my motto has always been, let's be a leader and not a follower.

The past year we have seen Robinson Lake and Bony Lake Road blacktopped. The Highway Department continues to work on Tars Pond Road and Pease Road culvert areas as well as Rabbit Hutch Road. We are also looking forward to the replacement of the South Shore Bridge this summer. Installation of the new recycle compactor and the new rates charged to us by Republic is going to save the Town a lot of money.

A new fire truck has been ordered to replace the 30-year-old engine.

I want to thank the past Town Board members that I have had the opportunity to work with. They have been very instrumental in the way the Town operates today. I want to thank the present board that we have, they have really brought a mixture of experience to the table that we all look to for advice and information.

As we move forward into the next year we will continue to work together as us, not me, I or them.

I thank all of those that have listened to and provided feedback to the town. What every person has to say is very important to me. We may not always agree but what you have to say may make us look at another point of view.

Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman then spoke:

### **Annual Highway Department Report**

March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021- First day of working for the town. Mistakes made along the way, yes grandad always told me if you are not making mistakes, YOU MUST NOT BE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL THEN.

The highway crew has been busy with helping many different organizations in the area. I believe that is what makes a great town. Along with the mowing of the ditches, cutting back trees for sight lines is moving along well. The stumps have been removed along West Idlewild Lake Road, to move the snowmobilers off the gravel road. There will some more tree removal going north as well. This will ensure SAFETY for the user groups and for the motoring public. The highway crew helped with the new snowshoe trail at the park, along with the mowing of the ski trail.

Roads last year were graded and maintained the best that they could be, for not having much moisture.

Rabbit Hutch is coming along nicely with just a small amount of rock being added and a culvert on the south end. This year the plan is to replace a couple more culverts that have been collapsing.

Mulligan Creek was ongoing with the beavers building in the culvert at Warner Road. That will end mid-June, when the new culvert will be placed and the road raised to meet DNR standards. The new culvert will be smooth on the inside to stop the beavers from building in the culvert. Roads to the north did receive forestry money last year for the upkeep and maintenance of the roads being used by the loggers.

We did apply for forestry money this year as well. No report on that yet.

Snowplowing went very well this year. No major issues. Yes, there have been a few minor casualties. Mail boxes that are not correctly placed in the Right of Way are always an issue.

Please do not place or use plastic posts for mail boxes. I don't think I have to explain why!

The South Shore bridge project will be going this year. Start date in July is the latest word.

The Emergency Services Building will have its wear course paved right out of the gate when road bans come off.

Preliminary plans have been started on the Lake Road/(Outlet Bay Rd)Windsor intersection. The job will start at the box culvert on Lake Road and will continue to Highway 27 with minor re-alignment of the road.

The highway is aware of the OAK WILT that invaded our great town. We are learning how to identify it and control the spread. So if any resident has any questions on Oak Wilt please contact anyone with the highway crew. If we don't have an answer for you, we will get you to someone that does have an answer for you.

Lastly, the Transfer Site has a new compactor for recyclables. I ask that everyone have just a little patience with the attendants as they trying their best to get you in & out as fast as they can.

Thanks to all for allowing me to look after your GREAT TOWN...

## **Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report**

Combined 94 calls between the Ambulance and Fire Departments. 86 of those were categorized as an EMS call type, although they may have involved the Fire Department for lifting, etc.

The current roster is 13 licensed providers. Of those, 12 are licensed at the EMT level or higher and 1 at the EMR level. As a service we operate at the EMT level. We currently employ 2 full-time EMTs on a daytime, weekday schedule. The remaining are volunteer, although 3 function in a dual role as part-time to fill scheduled shifts. One of the part-time recently had surgery and is unavailable until June and a second is new to the Department and currently being onboarded.

In the last year there have been several equipment upgrades. The most notable is the installation of a Stryker Power Load cot lifting system into the ambulance. A cost effective upgrade was performed on the existing cot to work with the system which provides a large jump in safety for both the patients and providers while loading or unloading and during transport. A new first in bag and monitor carry case were purchased to improve supply and equipment organization and increase efficiency of patient care, among several other organizational and safety updates.

The search continues for a third full-time EMT as approved in the budget to help provide overnight coverage when volunteers are not always able to respond. A number of interviews have been conducted, however the position has not been filled yet. Additional volunteers are always welcomed and if anyone would like to volunteer, they can reach out to myself, any member of the Department, or the Clerk.

Moving forward there are several projects in the works and additional news of improvements at the State level. Bayfield County has commissioned an EMS Study committee to look at ways to improve and assist with EMS in the County which has been moving along. Medicare/Medicaid has implemented a program referred to as the Ground Ambulance Data Collection System, which will gather cost data from all EMS services in the nation to determine if reimbursement rates should be increased from their currently level. Our 1-year collection period will begin towards the end of the year with the data being submitted in early 2024. This will be a major undertaking and represent a very large amount of data to both collect and store, then submit into the online database via a tool which has not been developed yet.

As we approach Spring and Summer, planning for community events is well underway including an open house at the BES Building. After a two year delay largely due to COVID-19, the long awaited open-house will be taking place on May 28th and will allow the community to see the new building, the equipment we use to protect and help them, and meet the members of both Departments.

The fire department had 14 calls last year.

We received a UTV through the DNR wildland grant. Tracks for this were just received and installed and we are prepping this for upcoming wildfire season.

Town board approved moving forward with getting a new engine to replace our 31 year old engine.

Recently received \$15,000 in grants toward the purchase of an alternate reality fire extinguisher.

The fire department fundraiser account accounted for the remaining balance to acquire this.

Working on setting up a PowerPoint and training program for community training.

We have had 2 new members join the fire department in 2021 and 2022 so far. Always looking for new members.

Susan Jansen requested that town board meetings be available via Zoom.

Chairperson Renz thanked everyone for coming and said unless there were any more questions, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

*7:42pm Motion made (J.Frint, seconded by Dave Scully) to adjourn the Annual Town meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried with 18 votes for and 0 votes opposed.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

These minutes represent the general subject matter discussed in the meeting but do not reflect a verbatim documentation of the subjects and conversation that took place.