

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairman Tom Renz 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 Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim, Brett Frierhood and Brock Frierhood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve the minutes of the 4/19/22 Monthly Board Meeting and the 4/12/22 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to amend the agenda to move agenda item #6 to item #4 and #18a-2 to item #5 then approve the amended agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion in regard to the upgrading of the electrical service in the Town Garage and Park Pavilion was held with Larry Roecker of Roecker Electric in attendance. Larry addressed the board and provided some options, one being 200 amp service, another with 400 amp service and one with 600 amp service. Upgrades are needed in the Town Garage and the Park Pavilion to accommodate future park events, including the Taste of Barnes and Ruckus in the Woods and the proposed campground.

Public Comment Session – Gary Kearns spoke in regard to the Robinson Lake campground proposal and is opposed to the proposal.

Mark Ecton also spoke in opposition to the campground proposal, citing concern for increased boating activity.

Brian Johnston said he is opposed to the campground proposal due to additional traffic, noise and lake traffic.

Susan Jansen said she seconds the comments already made and requested a copy of the application Dave Scully filed for the grant for Municipal campground. Supervisor Scully said he would provide the clerk with a copy so she can send it to Susan.

Lee Wiesner said he was on the Land Use Planning Commission when it was developed and he has concerns with the travel on the gravel road, property rights issues and cautioned that development around the lakes should be carefully considered.

Mike Beckler said he agrees with everything Mr. Wiesner said and thinks the bar should be required to blacktop the road since the ATVs will tear it up. The boat ramp would need to be expanded to accommodate additional vehicles. The area is too dense and sloped for a campground.

Douglas Scheider spoke in opposition to the campground proposal due to the increase in density this would create and concerns about groundwater contamination. He provided the board with maps and said he contacted the County regarding the septic system but that has not been finalized yet so that needs to be taken into consideration.

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Greg Dalbec (the applicant) spoke and responded to some of the comments made – he said he’s had the kitchen inspected, the roof was fixed to drain properly and the campers will be permanent campers (seasonal) and that the campground isn’t on the lake. He’s willing to do what he can to appease the concerns but he wants to use the land the way it is intended to be used.

Motion made (Neff/Scully) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The clerk then read the emails and letters received from the following: Eric Altman, Lori & Rich Norberg, Richard Needham, Norbert & Caroline Kearns, Kevin Shriver representing The Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area, Wayne Monsen, Rob & Beth Knoelke and S. Odom.

The chair read an email from Andy Drinkwine that he received this evening.

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

Carol LeBreck suggested that people who have comments attend the Bayfield County Planning & Zoning meeting this Thursday, May 19th at 4pm in Washburn and urged the Board to forward all the emails and letters received on to the County so they can consider them in their deliberations.

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

Motion made (Renz/Scully) that we send it on to the County Zoning Department disapproving the application.

Discussion followed with Supervisor Scully saying he sympathizes with all of the concerns but he doesn’t want our Town to dictate who can use the lakes or restrict its usage. He said he was in favor of approving the application but is re-considering his stance based on the comments made tonight by all the speakers. Supervisor Neff said the Comprehensive Land Use Plan the Town drafted is available on the Town’s website and encouraged interested parties to read it. He has read it and found several issues with the application that conflict with the Land Use Plan, including the septic system, drainage and sensitive lake water. He likes the idea, but thinks it’s not suited for their location. Chairman Renz stated he’s concerned with people trying to dictate how a property owner uses his property but does have concerns with the application. He has spoken with the County Planning & Zoning Administrator regarding the application and has read the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as well. Some of the concerns brought up (dog barking, litter...) are issues that have ordinances in effect and complaints should be referred to the Sheriff’s Office. The Chair asked if any other board members had any comments, there were none.

Roll call vote taken, with Supervisor Neff voting yes, Supervisor Jim Frint voting yes, Supervisor Seana Frint voting yes, Supervisor Scully voting yes and Chairman Renz voting yes – motion carried, application is DENIED.

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk read an email received from Suzette Tremblay regarding the recording of Town Meetings and would like the Town Board to consider allowing the use of Zoom for meetings and using some of the funds from the COVID Relief Funds to pay to upgrade the equipment. A letter was received from the WI Dept. of Transportation advising that we were not approved for funding under the TRIS or TRID programs for the Lake Rd project.

Chris Webb addressed the board regarding the lot on Tomahawk Lake owned by the town and being considered for sale (the sale has been approved by the electors). The town applied to the DNR for an access abandonment but have been unable to find a platted subdivision map and deed

for the parcel required by the DNR for consideration of the access abandonment. The DNR suggests hiring a title company to search for the deed and map.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to have the clerk contact a title company to research the property. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Dana Hodowanic was unable to attend due to illness, but said she would like to donate funds (in her will) to start a dog park in Barnes.

A motion was made (Renz/S.Frint) to table the item until Dana can attend. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the implementation of a room tax in Barnes. If the tax was implemented, the percentage of tax charged and where the tax collected would be allocated would need to be determined. An ordinance used by Town of Lincoln was reviewed that could be used as a template. An ordinance would have be drafted and adopted before it could take effect.

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

The Fullingtons of Deer Grove Resort addressed the board expressing their concern that this tax would apply only to Barnes area businesses/lodges/short term rentals... and Gordon does not charge this tax so it would put them at a disadvantage. They support all tourism events (Vatten Paddlar...) so feel it would be an undue hardship since they support tourism in other ways.

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

Chairman Renz read a letter from Bayfield County regarding their proposal to monitor short-term rentals by purchasing software (at a cost of \$12,000) that they are proposing to towns in the county that they cost share.

Chairman Renz would like to have the board table this issue to next month's meeting.

A two year operator's license application for Susan DeBrozzo was reviewed.

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to approve the 2 year operator's license for Susan DeBrozzo. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A proposal from Bayfield County to towns, villages and cities in the County to update their Comprehensive Plans was reviewed. Supervisor Neff said we should participate in the update and a commission should be re-activated to work on the update. The clerk will post on Facebook and the town website looking for interested parties to be members of the commission.

The Iron River Chamber of Commerce membership is up for renewal and dues have increased by \$25 (to \$120) for 2022-2023.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to renew the town's membership with the Iron River Chamber of Commerce. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion regarding the issuance of picnic license(s) for the Taste of Barnes event was held. It was suggested that The Eau Claire Lakes Business Association could be the named organization on the application.

Chairman Renz reported that he has been in contact with Inspector Rob Lietha and is satisfied that he will be more responsive in the future so his contract will remain in force.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve April vouchers

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$706,023.21. The Money Market account balance as of 4/30/22 was \$853,448.64 and includes interest of \$320.60. \$5,940.56 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account after receiving sponsorships in April. The PayPal account has a balance \$5,457.84 after registrations for the Vatten Paddlar race were received and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$2,068.40 which is the amount of outstanding checks. The total of all funds was \$1,572,938.65 with \$340.86 of interest earned year to date. The clerk reported that the transfer of funds from Chippewa Valley Bank to Associated Bank has been completed. Checks and deposit slips have been ordered.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

Report from the Highway Department

Road Bans are now lifted.

Start on Moen Road on stump removal, rent a stump grinder from Lulich and operate with the town owned cat skid steer.

Begin work on north roads with gravel from the Forestry Department.

Mulligan Creek Culvert replacement will start first week of June.

Highway crew will provide all the material.

Grading will continue as weather permits.

Meet later this month with Delmore Consulting to go over PASER ratings and future road projects.

The foreman had requested that a discussion be held on whether or not to repair the newer grader or replace it but this was addressed in the earlier Special Board Meeting.

“Juneteenth” (June 19th) is now a federal holiday so the Transfer Site employees have asked if the Transfer Site will be open that day since it falls on a Sunday in 2022.

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

Bob Simonsen, Transfer Site employee said he discussed it with the other employees and they would just as soon work the federal holiday “Juneteenth”.

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

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) that the Transfer Site be open on Sunday, June 19th. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Foreman suggested that the board consider increasing the fees charged at the Transfer Site for mattresses but he's been informed that the cost is going up so he wants to table this until he has more information. He mentioned possibly charging for as a way to offset increasing costs to run the facility. He reported that the recycling compactor is in need of repair and he's contacted Republic Services and parts are on order.

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

Bob Simonsen said the recycling compactor is not handling the cardboard as it should.

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

Fire Department Report – Brock Frierhood

Monthly report Fire

No calls.

Tracks have been received and installed on the UTV.

We are getting ready for wildfire season coming up. Have had members attending DNR trainings.

We have received a \$12,000 grant toward the purchase of an alternate reality fire extinguisher prop, along with the \$3,000 previously received. The FiAR has been approved for purchase with the remaining cost coming from the fire department fundraising account. This has been ordered and is currently in shipping.

I have made repeated attempts to contact members and receive town equipment from members that haven't appeared for a while, with varying results. None have shown up yet, however some have said they intend to show up.

The application of Jacob Larson as a member of the Fire Department was reviewed.

A motion was made (Scully/Neff) to accept Jacob Larson as a member of the Fire Department. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Frierhood

Monthly report Ambulance

5 calls since last meeting with two transports. No changes in staffing.

With the help of Jeff and others, the Bayfield County health infrastructure grant application was completed. The full-time EMTs are working on additional grants that were identified. The replacement AED has arrived and is being placed in service.

The State of Wisconsin Funding Assistance Program application has been completed. As a reminder, there is an additional \$8 million dollars to be given out this year under this program. Currently waiting on additional information for the separate grant program to non-transporting services as it may be applicable.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission –

Chairman Renz reported that Elliott Hough will not be serving as a Commissioner and he is appointing Greg Strasser to serve in his place. The clerk will draft the required document for the board to sign.

A.I.S. Committee – Chris Webb

A plant ID training was held on April 22, with 23 people attending. Another plant ID training will be this Friday, May 20th at the Town Hall at noon.

A volunteer appreciation day was held May 6th with only 12 people attending (possibly was held too early in the year) and prizes were awarded. She asked the board to appoint Barb Clements as AIS Coordinator and Barb has been working on scheduling and working with the divers and boat landing monitors.

Barb said she has attended a few local organizations meetings (Conservation Club and Friends of Eau Claire Lakes) and will be attending the Northwest Lakes Conference.

The public comment period for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Tomahawk Lake hasn't started yet so the 21 day comment period will be beginning soon. Permits for the Chemical Treatment on Tomahawk Lake and harvesting of AIS with the BAISS boat are pending. Harvesting will begin on the Upper the week after next for 4 weeks.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to appoint Barb Clements as the A.I.S. Coordinator. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz noted the board needs to accept the resignation of BJ Skweres from the Highway Department, his last day was today.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to accept the resignation of BJ Skweres from the Highway Dept. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Parks & Rec Committee – Tom Renz

Board Liaison Tom Renz reported that Linda Clark has submitted her resignation from the Committee and the Committee has nominated Blair Gagne as chair.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to accept the resignation of Linda Clark from the Parks & Rec Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to approve the nomination of Blair Gagne as the Parks & Rec Chair. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Committee would like the Highway Department to create a small parking area across the road from the sledding hill for 3 or 4 cars. They are considering a new sledding hill by the warming hut that would require the cutting of some trees. They would like to create a fire pit area for "winter use only" south of the warming hut.

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

Pat Johnston suggested that the fire pit area be created for year round use and Barb Clements asked where the wood will come from, and was told they would have to bring it or pick up deadfall to burn.

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

The committee is also getting quotes for a storage building to be installed at Tomahawk Lake Park next year. A fundraising campaign is being considered along with requesting 2023 budget funds from the Town.

Roads & Right of Way Committee – Board Liaison Jim Frint

Supervisor Jim Frint reported the Committee has nominated Dave Schiess as the new chair.

A motion was made (Neff/J. Frint) to approve the nomination of Dave Schiess as the RROW chair. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The timeline was reviewed and will updated as needed.

Motion made (Neff/J.Frint) to adjourn the Monthly Board Meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@barnes-wi.com Fax: 715-795-2784