

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES  
MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2013  
AT TOWN HALL, 3360 COUNTY HIGHWAY N, BARNES, WI**

[APPROVED]

**Agenda**

**1. Roll Call to establish a Quorum & Verification of Public Notice**

Chairperson Lu Peet called the January Monthly Board Meeting to order at 6:30p.m. She noted that the earlier Roll Call conducted for the Special Board Meeting that preceded this meeting was still in effect and all Board members were present: Jack Meinke, Chris Webb, Mitch McGee, Donna Porter and Lu Peet. Baldwin verified for Peet that the meetings notice had been posted per State Statutes. Also in attendance was Town staff: Steve Baldwin, Clerk-Treasurer; Brenda Bakke, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer; Bob Lang, Roads & Property Foreman; and Tom Renz, Fire Chief & Ambulance Director.

**2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag:** Peet led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. Peet called for a motion to approve the agenda, the minutes of the December 2012 & January 9th 2013 Town Board meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes Motion.**

**Motion (Porter/Meinke) to approve the agenda, the minutes of the December 2012 & January 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 Town Board meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.** Call for discussion. **Motion carried.**

**4. Voucher's Approval:**

**Motion (McGee/Porter) to approve the voucher's as presented.** Call for discussion. **Motion carried.**

**5. Clerk/Treasurer Report:**

**a) Treasurer's Report** Clerk-Treasurer Baldwin read the attached Treasure's report. He noted that the Highway Sinking Fund balance had increased from last month to a new total of \$241,300. Because, per Board approval at the December meeting, the Capital Outlay Highway 2012 surplus budget was transferred to the fund to pay for the new Plow Truck ordered in October but not yet received.

**Motion (Meinke/Porter) to approve the Treasurer's report as read.** Call for discussion.

**Motion carried.**

**b) Cash Reserves CD at HCCU: 18 mo. CD for \$53,550. Expiring this month, Motion to Approve reinvestment in a 35-mo. CD**

**Motion (Webb/Meinke) to approve reinvesting the expired 18-mo. CD into a 35-mo. CD.** Call for discussion. **Roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion carried.**

**c) Final 2012 Budget Review:** Baldwin reviewed the budget report with the Board, noting that all Fuel usage accounts were now based upon actual usage. It was noted that the Fire Department was \$5, 845. over budget but the Ambulance Department budget was

\$11,920. under budget; as a result, the Public Safety Cost Center was \$7,951. under budget overall so no budget amendment was required. The Highway Department was \$12,587. under budget. The final review of the 2012 Budget is included in the Annual Audit report that will be reviewed at the April Annual Town Meeting.

**d) Election News: Spring Primary Required on Tuesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**

- Baldwin announced that a Spring Primary is required with a single ballot item for the open Supreme Court Justice position.
- **Discuss/Motion to Reschedule the Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Monthly Board Meeting**

**Motion (McGee/Webb) to approve rescheduling the February 19<sup>th</sup> Monthly Board Meeting to February 12<sup>th</sup>.** Call for discussion. **Motion carried.**

**e) Timber cutting Notices from County Clerk:** Baldwin read 3 cutting notices received from the County Clerk: 2 for the Rucker parcels in section 21-45N and 1 for the Heritage hill of Bayfield Co. parcel in Section 3-44N

**6. December Monthly Board Meeting Follow-up:**

- **Reminder: Sign up for FREE Income Tax Services at Town Hall!** – Irene Bott (an EMT member of the Barnes Emergency Services Departments) has completed her IRS tax services training and certification. Irene is offering to provide free Federal & WI State Income tax forms preparation services at Town Hall. She can also file WI Homestead Credit. She can go back as far as the last five years to check previous taxes for qualification to file Homestead Credit if it was not taken, possibly gaining a taxpayer \$50 - \$300 per year in Homestead Credit dollars. Irene cannot do any multi/interstate forms filing or Depreciation filing. Any interested residents who would like to have FREE assistance on tax forms should contact the Town Clerk/Treasurer's office and sign-up. To offer these services, Irene needs to have a list of 50 interested people ***before the end of January.***
- **Marsha Ritter – Status/Update on Project for New/Additional Flags & Banners for Town** – The Flag Committee has been established with a membership of Marcia Ritter (contact person), Sara Hartman, Brenda Heltne, Dorothy Keifer, and Bobbie Shemwell. They have obtained several catalogs and will be reviewing the many flag choices. Bob Lang contacted Dahlberg Electric to discuss continuing to use their power poles to hang flags on, and the use of additional Dahlberg poles for hanging flags. The committee has set a goal of ordering new flags by early August with delivery by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow the Highway Department approximately three weeks to get the brackets up so the flags can be hung for the holiday season. First Committee Meeting will be 10:00AM on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall.

- 7. ECLA-POA/Ted Eastlund Request for Board Letter in Support of their Grant Request for their summer Youth Ecology Education Program** – Fred Haueter, Treasurer of the ECLA-POA, discussed the activities of the ECLA/POA Youth Ecology Education Program that the association does each year; classes are conducted at the Drummond School and at our lakes. The ECLA/POA is requesting a letter of support from the Town Board to accompany their DNR Grant Request.

**Motion (Webb/Porter) to approve sending a letter of support from the entire Town Board.**  
Call for discussion. **Motion carried.**

8. **Kevin Shriver Request for permission to run a Triathlon at Tomahawk Park in May on Memorial Day weekend.** –More information is needed, such as the proposed route, is it going to be widely advertised, expected number of participants, do we need to have an ambulance on standby? Peet will follow up with Shriver who was not present at the meeting. Additional discussion planned for February.
9. **Zoning: Special Use Permit – 6 mo. Review for Michelle Ruprecht “Hobby Farm” permit for 3135 South Shore Road** – Discussion of changes at “Hobby Farm”. The horses are no longer there. Owner has only a few chickens now.

**Motion (McGee/Webb) to approve to renew Special Use Permit for an additional 6 months and review again in July 2013. Call for discussion. Roll call vote: Meinke-Yes, Webb-Yes, McGee-Yes, and Porter-Yes, Peet-Abstained (due to relationship to property owner). Motion carried.**

10. **TOB Department Head Reports:**

a) **Highway Department – Monthly Roads Report – Bob Lang**

Our unusual weather patterns continue. Last week was almost tropical by northern Wisconsin standards. We applied over 100 tons of sand to the roads after the rain we received last Friday.

Speaking of sand, I hope to screen sand out of the north west corner of the town property for next and future years. I assume this will require permitting from Bayfield County. I hope to have paperwork lined up for February’s meeting.

We are trying to prepare for other projects this time of year. The letters for Point O Pines landowners went out in December. I am starting to receive phone calls and questions, but I have no indication of what the landowners want to do yet. I wrote a letter to the property owner on Lower Lake Road to get permission to go beyond our right-of-way with water runoff ditches. I’m also trying to get a straight answer on gravel crushing. We are basically out of gravel at the milestone pit. If we don’t have gravel to work with, this could drastically alter our summer construction schedule.

We are taking advantage of the snowless winter by continuing our brushing program. We are currently working on Lower Lake Road with the brusher, and utilizing our new limb saw on roads like Fahrner Road, Point O Pines East, and Sweet Lake Road. The brushing tractor is down right now with an antifreeze leak, but we hope to be up and running by the end of the week.

We built a sign post rack for the pickup so we can utilize that truck to do our signing. I’ve ordered over 30 street name signs, so we can start getting those in compliance with the new standards. This is another chore we hope to accomplish before summer construction.

We haven’t been able to do anything with the ski trail due to the lack of snow, but the rink is in good shape and saw quite a bit of use over the holidays.

Finally, the new truck is being delivered to Universal Truck tomorrow. We will be making a trip down there soon to make sure it meets our specs. They anticipate the completed truck being completed and ready for delivery in mid-March.

Respectfully Submitted – **Bob Lang – Roads & Property Foreman**

- Lang requested discussion of his cell phone usage, as well as his application for a Sandpit Permit for Town property, be added to the February agenda.

**b) Fire and Ambulance Departments – Monthly Report – Tom Renz**

**Ambulance Dept.:** Since the last meeting we have had one ambulance run transported to St. Luke's. I still have not received any call back or email from Rob Puls. We did receive a bill from when their Paramedic rode with us in our ambulance. I paid it, with notations on the bill for Rob to call me. We will see what happens. We need to bill Highland for the 2013

**Fire Department:** There are no Fire calls to report for the last month. We are starting to plan for the spring wild fire season. I know it is a ways off, but planning has to start now.

We also need to appoint a new Fire Inspector to replace Ken Wilk, who retired December 31<sup>st</sup>. I recommend John Prohaska to replace Ken and be our other Fire Inspector.

**Motion (Porter/Meinke) to approve appointment of John Prohaska as new Fire Inspector.** Call for discussion. **A Roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion carried.**

- Renz stated that quotes for a new ambulance will be requested in the coming month, and recommends that the old ambulance be kept and used as a rescue vehicle and equipment truck for the emergency extrication equipment and other gear. He announced that on next Tuesday, January 22 at 1:00p.m., Rob Little from Lifeline will be at the Fire Dept. to demonstrate a new 4-wheel drive ambulance.

**c) Constable – Monthly Report from Mike O'Keefe**

- ( 2 ) Alarm's : from sheriff / private alarm company.....
- ( 2 ) Animal complaint's : Barking at late hour.....
- ( 2 ) Trespass complaints : Fishermen crossing private land to access lake .....
- ( 1 ) Possible break-in : Mail man noticed front door of lake home open and that owner was gone until spring . I found door un-locked and open . No evidence anyone had entered . Possibly not closed by local contractor working on site .....
- ( 10 ) Weekly home checks for out of town residents .....
- Jan..7 , 8 , 9 , 10: Attended law enforcement conference in Superior , WI.....
- End Report.....O'Keefe

**11. TOB Committee and Commission Reports:**

- a) **Buildings Maintenance Committee – Approve Committee name change and revised membership:** The former “Town hall Maintenance Committee” is being restored to be a Town Buildings Committee to address any building issues. The revised committee membership is: Mitch McGee (Board Liaison & Chairman), Bob Lang (), Mike Tremblay, Greg Martin, Bob Paszak, Dennis Terry, and Jack Meinke. The first meeting will be tomorrow, Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, to address the issues discussed at last month's meeting with the Town Hall kitchen, as well as the office annex issues.
- b) **Transfer Site Committee: Update on negotiation discussions and new contract proposal from Waste Management:** Baldwin reported that he had arranged for Darrell Hoekstra, our Waste Management rep, to meet with Mitch McGee and Bob Lang. They met last Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, and he agreed to send a proposal that is 20% less than our current contract that will be 22 months, March 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014. McGee said that he and Bob Lang will also meet on January 29<sup>th</sup> with the new Allied rep to also obtain an updated proposal from them.
- c) **Cemetery Sexton & Committee**

Peet stated that the V.F.W. post will provide a new flag for the cemetery this spring.

**d) Land Use Planning Commission: (No meeting was required, so no report)**

**12. Public Comment Session – 5 minute limit for those not on Agenda**

Doug White inquired why rather than charging at the Transfer Site, the town doesn't add a special assessment to all owners for the year so no cash transaction would be required. It was explained that when we did that, many residents included glass and can recyclables in their garbage.

**13. Town Board Issues Timeline Log - Review & Update**

The Log was reviewed and updated.

- Smart Road Lawsuit update: Peet reported that she had just had discussions with the Town attorney. There is a monthly conference call with the Judge scheduled for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> on the status of the case. Most importantly, the lawyers have finally scheduled the arbitration meeting with the Smart Road residents for **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00**; it will be at Town Hall. The court-appointed arbitrator lawyer, who is an expert in establishing private roads, will meet with the residents.

**14. Adjourn**

**Motion (Webb/Porter) to Adjourn the January 2013 Monthly Town Board Meeting.**

**Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Stephen C. Baldwin**, Town of Barnes Clerk-Treasurer

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2013