

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

UNAPPROVED

Chairperson Tom Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting in the Town Hall to order at 7:11pm (meeting start time was delayed due to Public Information Meeting immediately preceding the Monthly Board Meeting). A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Eric Neff, Dave Scully, Seana Frint and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim and Brett 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 (Neff/Scully) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 12/21/21 Monthly Board Meeting and the 12/21/21 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Public Comment Session – there were no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported that there will NOT be February primary on Feb. 15th as reported in the Calendar of Events. Bayfield County Health Dept. has provided the results of the Water Sample test at Tomahawk Lake Park and it safe and below maximum contamination levels. An email was received from Cooper Engineering, contractor for the South Shore Bridge replacement project, advising that the project had an increase of \$132,981.49 federal dollars due to the addition of the piling and beam guard; bids are due February 8th. The town has been credited an additional \$3,133.40 for unemployment wages (COVID Relief funds) paid in 2020 by Unemployment Insurance. An email was received from Craig Krenz, Chairperson of the Solon Springs Transfer Station Commission, asking if the Town of Barnes would be interested in cost sharing for stump grinding. Chairperson Renz reported receiving a letter from Bayfield County Forestry & Parks Dept. stating a check has been mailed to the town for \$88,958.61 for timber sale revenue.

Chairman Renz has recommended appointing Elliott Hough as an alternate Board of Review member per Resolution R22-01.

A motion was made (Neff/Scully) to appoint Elliott Hough as an alternate Board of Review member. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The 2- year operator's license application of Lester Gates was reviewed. Mr. Gates was present and the board asked him a few questions regarding his background check.

A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the 2- year operator's license of Lester Gates (expiring 6/30/23). Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the notice that Chippewa Valley Bank of Barnes will be closing on March 31, 2022. Supervisor Neff suggested investigating other banks in the area where we could move our business. He suggested Frandsen Bank (formerly Peoples Bank), Johnson Bank and Associated Bank. Supervisor Seana Frint also suggested Hayward Community Credit Union. The clerk will look into the services currently needed and what costs are associated with those services.

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve December vouchers

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$196,196.78 after \$52,655.68 was transferred to the Money Market account for 2021 budget dollars allocated but not spent in 2021. The Money Market account balance as of 12/31/21 was \$819,624.92 which includes interest of \$857.00 this year. \$3,414.92 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The PayPal account has a balance \$4,604.73 after a donation was received for the Tomahawk Lk Park fund and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$765,102.57 of tax payments collected in December. The total of all funds was \$1,788,943.92 with \$922.41 of interest earned this year.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim no report

The road projects for Rabbit Hutch and Mulligan Creek Rd were discussed. Supervisor Neff recommends purchasing a culvert (48" has been recommended by the DNR) to replace the collapsing culvert (at a cost of \$4,000) at Mulligan Creek and the foreman has received a quote from a contractor to install it at a cost of \$3,500. The board decided to table the request until the cost for gravel can be determined. The repairs of Rabbit Hutch will be referred to the RROW Committee for their review and make a recommendation to the board.

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

BJ Skweres said there are 3 logging companies working in the area of Rabbit Hutch and will be taking out 10,000 cords of wood so the road will be getting a lot of use in the coming months.

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

The repairs needed on the 140H Cat grader were reviewed at a cost of \$10,000. A meeting to discuss equipment repairs/needs and budget review was set for Monday, February 7th at 5pm.

The Snow Emergency policy was reviewed. It needs to be declared by the board (or its designee, such as the town chair) in consultation with the Foreman. This allows the Foreman to deploy additional personnel as needed.

Dahlberg is in the area now doing tree trimming/removal in the Right of Ways.

Fire Department Report – Brock Friermood

Monthly report Fire

Calls: none

There is an entry-level class coming up in Drummond, if anyone wants to join the fire department, please contact me. Working on a recruiting campaign in search of volunteers.

Continuing to work on a complete inventory list and setting up a replacement schedule.

Fire Chief Brock Friermood would like to appoint Richard Renz as Secretary/Treasurer of the Fire Department. Sherrie Carlson is no longer able to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

A motion was made (Neff/S. Neff) to appoint Richard Renz as Secretary/Treasurer. Roll call vote taken with Chairman Renz abstaining, motion carried.

The Fire Chief requested approval to purchase a trailer for the UTV for \$6,995.00 from Lulich Implement. They would write a check back to the Fire Department for \$2,000.00.

A motion was made (Renz/Neff) to authorize the purchase of a trailer for the UTV. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Friermood

Monthly report Ambulance

7 calls since last meeting. 2 so far in 2022, 1 no transport.

The replacement AED has been ordered. Power-Load has also been ordered, awaiting confirmation on delivery which is expected early to mid-February. Device will be delivered to Pomasi who will inspect and inventory, then transport to our location for installation. Waiting on timing information to schedule install and provide for ambulance coverage during the downtime.

Continuing to receive and implement end of year purchases. EKG monitor mount has been installed in ambulance and new jump bag has been put in-service. Planning continues for the open house on May 28th. Beginning to work on 4th of July items. Full-time EMTs are assisting with the LRIP application for the Highway Department.

The Town's radio license for the highway department channel was due to expire on January 7th and has been renewed for another 10 years. There are a couple changes that may need to be made and I am currently investigating the process to do so.

3rd full-time EMT application period ending today with a total of two applications received.

Medicare has re-instituted the Ground Ambulance Data Collection System requiring services to collect and submit data for a continuous 12-month period. The penalty for not completing the data collection is a one year 10% reduction in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements. Barnes has been selected to participate in 2022, although official notification has not been received from CMS. An initial response is due within 30 days, part of which is selecting the start date of the 12-month period. More information to follow as needed.

The Ambulance Director, Brett Frierhood, discussed the interview of a part-time EMT candidate and would like the board to approve the hiring.

A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to authorize the hiring of Rebecca Harula as a part-time EMT at a rate of \$16.80. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

The committee's memberships were reviewed and the clerk will update any changes

Parks & Rec Committee

1. Pat Johnston, chairperson of the committee, has submitted her resignation eff. January 5th.

Pat said she is resigning for personal reasons. The board thanked Pat for her service over the past several years.

A motion was made (S. Frint/Renz) to reluctantly accept the resignation of Pat Johnston as chairperson of the Parks & Rec Committee. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The timeline was reviewed-the clerk will make the changes requested

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer
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