**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES**

**MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 15, 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 6:31pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum with Seana Frint, Dave Scully and Jim Frint in attendance in the Town Hall. Supervisor Eric Neff was absent. Clerk Judy Bourassa verified public notice. Jeff Jordheim and Brett and Brock Friermood were also in attendance in the Town Hall.

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

*A motion was made (S. Frint/J. Frint) to approve the agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

*A motion was made (S. Frint/Scully) to approve the minutes of the 2/15/22 Monthly Board Meeting and the 2/7 and 2/22 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Public Comment Session – no public comments

Clerk Correspondence – The clerk reported that 2 timber cut notices were received; the barnes-wi.com domain was auto renewed, we’ll continue to maintain it even after we get the .gov domain established.

Representatives of Associated Bank were in attendance to answer any questions the board might have after reviewing their proposal to move the Town accounts to their bank. They can provide additional fraud services protection, ACH blocks, check block, positive pay…

The board reviewed the information about services that Hayward Community Credit Union, Security State Bank, National Bank of Commerce and Frandsen Bank offer that was provided by the clerk.

*A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to table the decision until the full board can be in attendance. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Resolution #R22-02 to amend 2022 budget for Delmore Consulting contract was read by the Chair. This would increase the Roadwork Outlay account by $13,500 and increase the Transfer from other funds account by $13,500 and funds from the S. Shore Bridge Project sinking fund would be transferred to a new sinking fund as the amount of funds in the bridge account is more than needed.

*A motion was made (Scully/S. Frint) to approve Resolution #22-02. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The Hayward Chamber of Commerce membership is up for renewal at a cost of $275.00.

*A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to renew the town’s membership. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The clerk reported that an Election Security sub grant for $600 is available to help cover the costs of changing our email and website domain to a .gov name and requested that the board authorize her to apply.

*A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to authorize the clerk to apply for the sub grant for the email domain. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

The Town’s policies with Rural Mutual Insurance Company renew April 1st and the board reviewed the invoices for the Business Owners and Worker’s Compensation renewals.

*A motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to renew the Business Owners and Worker’s Compensation policies with Rural Mutual Insurance Company for a total of $28,827.00. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Michael Nelson has applied for a 2 year operator’s license.

*A motion was made (Renz/J. Frint) to approve the 2 year operator’s license application of Michael Nelson. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Supervisor Dave Scully is recommending that department heads be given the authority to purchase without board approval as long as it is within their budget. Discussion followed with Chairman Renz stating he would like to continue with the $1,500 limit. Supervisor Seana Frint asked if emergency repairs are an exception to that limit. Supervisor Scully suggested increasing the limit to $5,000.

*A motion was made (Scully/S.Frint) that the threshold for board approval be raised from $1,500 to $5,000 with a caveat that in case of an emergency the EMS, Fire Department and Roads do not need board approval for repairs. Roll call vote taken, with Supervisor Scully voting yes, S. Frint voting no, J. Frint voting no and T. Renz voting no. Motion failed.*

*A motion was made (S.Frint/Scully) that the threshold be set at $3,500 for requiring board approval.*

Discussion followed with Supervisor Jim Frint said he’d like the threshold to be set at $2,500 but is willing to compromise. Purchase orders are still required for purchases over $1,500. Supervisor Seana Frint asked the department heads for their input. Foreman Jordheim asked for some guidance as to what defines an “emergency”. Chairman Renz said it’s not micro-managing or a matter of trust, it’s a matter of accountability.

*Roll call vote taken, with Supervisors Scully, S. Frint and J.Frint voting yes, and Chairman Renz voting no. Motion carried.*

Supervisor Dave Scully updated the board on the Taste of Barnes event to be held June 17-18th. There will be two bands, beer garden, bounce house, dunk tank, softball and pickleball tournaments and a 5K run. He checked with the Wisconsin Towns Association regarding the organizers’ request that the Town provide $1,000 (reduced from $2,500) in “seed money” to get the event established and he said it is ok as long as it benefits the town. He said ½ of the proceeds would be donated to Fire Department and Ambulance services.

*A motion was made (Scully/S. Frint) to allocate $1,000 to a new bank account for the Taste of Barnes event. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

An invoice from Event Specialities has been received for the 4th of July fireworks at a cost of $14,000. The vendor says costs have increased 30% but will honor this price in 2022. He suggests that the board raise the budget for 2023.

*A motion was made (Scully/J. Frint) to approve the invoice from Event Specialities for $14,000. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Vouchers approval – discussion/motion to approve February vouchers

*A motion was made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the February vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Supervisor Scully requested that the minutes record that a grant application has been submitted for repairs to the channel between the Middle Eau Claire and Bony Lakes. We won’t be notified until September, however.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Judy Bourassa

The ending balance in the General Checking is $822,039.72 after the February settlement and the transfer of ARPA funds to the Money Market account. The Money Market account balance as of 2/28/22 was $859,169.39 after transferring the ARPA funds from the General Account and includes interest of $63.42. $2,815.56 is ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account. The PayPal account has a balance $4,735.51 after donations for the Tomahawk Lk Park fund and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of $349,805.54. These funds have since been transferred to the General Account. The total of all funds was $2,038,565.72 with $141.35 of interest earned year to date.

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

Highway Dept. Report – Jeff Jordheim

**Report from the highway department**

Plowing going well. Salt/sand is low, as the rain/snow storm required a lot.

Truck # 42 head Plow is broke. New parts are on order. Talking with manufacturer they are telling me they see this type of breakage after many years of service. Not nine years and the few amount of miles on the truck. I have not been in this position long enough to say either way.

Truck # 30 is also requiring new cylinders for the head plow. They are also on order. All those little hidden things add up to a big expense.

Rabbit Hutch – Loggers are doing their deal now, as well as 43 road.

Loggers are also up north on Moore/Hughes Town line and Moore/East Bingo.

The roads up north have opened and re-opened for loggers and emergency vehicles.

Road Bans are to go into effect on March 16th @ Noon. The town will follow the county with banding of the local roads as well.

The new compactor was installed on March 8th, and is up and running. We will have further discussion as to how many workers will we need to man the transfer site with the addition of the recycle compactor.

It is my recommendation to the board the TOB purchase a scrap roll-off for the iron. When we have outside parties come pick-up only good iron, it leaves the town with the garbage. I am concerned if those parties should happen to get hurt while doing so.

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

Bob Simonsen, a Transfer Site attendant, reported that a “scrapper” contacts him when he’s going to be going to the Transfer Site and Chairman Renz said the Foreman should be notified as well. The Foreman will get additional information and present it at the next Town Board meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the number of Transfer Site attendants needed. Bob Simonsen spoke on behalf of the attendants and said they would like a 3rd attendant on duty at all times to monitor the new recycling compactor to ensure only allowed recyclables are deposited in the compactor. There are 4 bins on site to be used as backup in case the recycling compactor is full. Discussion followed with Supervisor Scully suggesting that the entrance/exit routes be changed to allow access from both sides and prevent backups onto County Hwy N. That would require the attendants to be outside which the attendants aren’t willing to do when it’s 30 below or 90 above. Chairman Renz asked why two attendants need to be inside because a 3rd attendant wasn’t budgeted and the attendants said the recycling compactor wasn’t planned for when the attendant budget was set. Supervisor J. Frint said Drummond only has one attendant and they’re open fewer hours. He proposed shortening the hours as an option that would allow us to pay 3 attendants. Supervisor Scully suggested changing the hours on Wednesdays so they open later and stay open later. He suggested that a 4th employee be hired as a substitute/floater and Chairman Renz said we’ve received two applications to consider. The clerk suggested that the board consider not opening 3 days a week until later in the spring (currently April 1st) and/or reducing the number of days in the fall (currently October 1st). The Foreman suggested that the attendants not handle the bags, that the residents/property owners should put the bags in the compactor. Chairman Renz did some calculating and said it would cost approx. $10k more this year for a 3rd attendant.

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

*A motion was made (Renz/Scully) that the Transfer Site continue to be only open on 2 days a week until Memorial Day weekend with 3 attendants and then be open 3 days a week until Labor Day with 3 attendants. It will be re-evaluated at that time. Roll call vote taken with Jim Frint voting yes, Seana Frint voting yes, Dave Scully voting yes and Chairman Renz voting yes, motion carried.*

The sign will need to be updated to reflect the new hours of operation and it will be on the Facebook page and website. The two applications will be reviewed and interviews set to hire a substitute/floater. Chairman Renz said the board will need to plan a meeting to review some budget issues.

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

Greg Strasser asked if there is a town policy regarding removal of the bags and is there a job description for transfer site attendants. There is not a policy and it is not included in the job description.

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

Fire Department Report – Brock Friermood

**Monthly report**

**Fire**

Calls: 1 call

1 lift assist for EMS

We have had 1 call, a lift assist for EMS in the last month.

I completed follow ups on the latest round of fire inspections that were done a couple months ago.

We have received a $3,000 grant toward the purchase of an alternate reality fire extinguisher prop to be implemented in a Fire Safety Public Education program. I have submitted two more grants to aid in covering the equipment cost for this.

Fire Chief Brock Friermood submitted a purchase order for turnout coats and pants at a cost of $2,035.80. This was not voted on as board approval is not needed since it was budgeted and the 2% Fires Dues funds will be used.

Ambulance Department Report – Brett Friermood

**Monthly report**

**Ambulance**

3 calls since last meeting, 1 no transport.

Adequate ambulances were on site for the Birkebeiner and no mutual aid needed to be requested. Jake has been working on developing a training plan for the 2023-2026 license cycle to accomplish our required continuing education in-house. Alternate methods are being looked at to complete requirements for renewal in 2023. The Stryker Power Load was installed the first week of March.

Planning continues for the Open House on May 28th. Working with Melissa Scully about possible involvement in the Taste of Barnes event. The classroom portion of EVOC was completed last weekend but the driving portion was cancelled due to weather. Driving will be rescheduled. Will be hosting a PHTLS class on May 15th.

Continuing to look for 3rd full-time EMT, as well as volunteers. EMT interview scheduled for Thursday.

Ambulance Director Brett Friermood asked the board to review a quote from Firecom for a headset intercom system at a cost of $5,508.87. This would allow for improved communication between the driver and the EMTs in the back with the patient and could also be used elsewhere. Funds in the FAP sinking fund would be used. Board approval is not needed for this since FAP funds will be used.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports

Land Use Planning Commission – Seana Frint

John Friermood of 50475 Mulligan Creek Rd-Class B Special Use application for a hobby farm (15-30 chickens and 3-4 bovine) and 10’x20’ 3 sided wind break.

*A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve the Class B Special Use permit for a hobby farm. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

Discussion regarding the hours of use for the Milestone quarry on Highway 27. Supervisor Seana Frint reported that Milestone Materials would like to extend the hours at the quarry which would decrease the number of days/weeks they would have to operate. They would like the hours for crushing to be 6am-6pm Monday thru Friday with quiet work from 6pm-8pm Monday thru Friday and 6am-2pm on Saturdays (no crushing on Saturdays).

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

Chris Webb shared her knowledge of the history of the quarry’s hours of operation and that normally a class A application is submitted for town approval and then it goes to the county. The clerk reported that Jon Humburg of Northwoods Paving (affiliated with Milestone Materials) has submitted an application but it’s currently at the county office.

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

Chairman Renz reported that Diane Rupnow has agreed to continue as a commissioner on the Land Use Planning Commission for a new 3 year term ending 4/30/2025.

*A motion was made (Renz/Scully) to approve Diane Rupnow’s appointment to a 3 year term. Voice vote taken, motion carried.*

A.I.S. Committee

Chris Webb was in attendance and provided an update to the board. LEAPS would like to hold a meeting on April 19th at 5:30 (prior to the Annual Meeting and Monthly Board Meeting) to present their Aquatic Plant Management plan and it will be open to the public for input. She reported that Tomahawk Lake has 5 acres of Eurasianwater Milfoil and the town is considering treating it. The committee is looking for additional committee members for anyone that might be interested.

Dave Scully said he’d like to go on record that he’d like to see Chris Webb run for County Board.

Roads & Right of Way Committee-Jim Frint

Dave Schiess has applied to be a member of the Roads and Right of Way Committee. His application was reviewed and Dave worked on the Highway crew for several years and has a lot of experience that would be of value to the committee. Tom Renz has appointed Dave to the committee.

The timeline was reviewed and updates will be made as needed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.

**Submitted by: Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer**

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