

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, April 18th, 2023
5:30pm 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 5:31pm by Chairperson Tom Renz. Board Supervisors Seana Frint, Eric Neff, Dave Scully and Jim Frint were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer April Powell, 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

5:32 Motion made (Dave Scully, seconded by Seana Frint) 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.

5:33pm Motion made (Eric Neff, seconded by Dave Scully) to approve the 2021 minutes and dispense with reading of the minutes. Voice vote taken, 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 2022 were available upon entry to this meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the Spring Election for the Town Board is as follows: For the Board Chairman position, Tom Renz received 281 votes, there were 2 write in and 34 under vote; for the two Board Supervisor positions, Jim Frint received 243 votes and Dave Scully received 207 votes. There were 8 write in votes and 176 under votes. 317 out of 766 eligible voters voted (includes 7 Election Day registration) for a 41% turnout.

AUDIT REPORT

The Preliminary Audit has not been finalized. A copy will be presented at the next monthly Board Meeting. Anyone that would like to read through the Audit can stop by the Town Office after it is finalized.

**TOWN OF BARNES
TREASURER'S REPORT
Annual Meeting April 18, 2023**

General Fund Checking balance January 1, 2022	\$248,852.46
Deposits and Credits	\$4,419,298.78
Checks, Payments & Transfers	(\$4,325,734.91)
Less outstanding checks	(\$9,017.43)
Interest Earned	\$369.56

GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$333,768.46
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Money Market Checking balance January 1, 2022	\$766,969.24
Deposits and Credits	\$121,561.60
Checks, Payments & Transfers	(\$157,318.66)
Less outstanding checks	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$2,915.88

MONEY MARKET FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$734,128.06
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FUND BREAKDOWNS

Money Market General	\$200,613.6
Savings	9
Highway Dept. Sinking Fund	\$47,681.55
Emergency Services Sinking Fund	\$40,008.27
Parks & Rec. Sinking Fund	\$7,080.41
Tomahawk Lake Park Fund	\$11,358.43
Well Water Donations Fund	\$6,284.14
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Equipment	\$4,975.76
WI EMS-FAP Fund - Training	\$6,630.35
WI EMS Supplemental	\$947.50
Bridges Maintenance Fund	\$12,040.79
Waterways Maintenance Fund	\$10,033.99
Ambulance Billing Escrow Acct	\$1,000.00
APRA Designated Funds	\$52,520.35
TOB A.I.S. Sinking Fund	\$24,755.41
Land Acquisition Fund	\$109,009.95
Barnes Area Dev. Fund	\$19,687.47
S. Shore Bridge Fund	\$179,500.00
Total all Money Market Funds	\$734,128.06

Tax Collection Account Balance January 1, 2022	\$765,102.57
Deposits and Credits	\$2,377,177.94
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$2,448,044.13)
Less outstanding checks	(\$404.02)

Plus outstanding deposits	\$10,531.83
TAX COLLECTION ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$704,364.19
Vatten Paddlar Account balance January 1, 2022	\$3,414.92
Deposits and Credits	\$6,607.34
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$6,885.45)
VATTEN PADDLAR BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$3,136.81
Taste of Barnes Account balance January 1, 2022	\$0.00
Deposits and Credits	\$6,544.00
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$1,258.00)
Less outstanding checks	(\$350.00)
TASTE OF BARNES ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$4,936.00
PayPal Account balance January 1, 2022	\$4,604.73
Deposits and Credits	\$3,513.17
Checks, Payments & Service Charges	(\$2,903.34)
PAYPAL ACCT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$5,214.56
	\$1,785,548.08
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS DECEMBER 31, 2022	8
INDEBTEDNESS	\$76,729.02

5:40pm Motion made (Chris Webb/Carol Westerberg) to approve the Annual Treasurer's report. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairperson Renz then gave the Chair's Annual Report:

As I reflect over the past year, I don't feel that I need to talk about what I have done but rather what we have done as a team effort to make The Town of Barnes successful. The EMT and Fire Department have done a good job despite staffing issues. They have worked on trying to fill full time positions. Brock Frierhood has applied for several grants to try to make the BES Department run more efficient. The Road crew has kept the roads safe with their plowing and road repairs. Jeff Jordheim has made many improvements on equipment and the road crew has done an outstanding job on the roads this past winter. I have heard a lot of positive things from our residents regarding the road conditions and plowing efforts by our road crew. We will continue to keep the roads safe and drivable. The committees are doing a great job. The Taste of Barnes and Ruckus in the Woods were a success. Chris Webb has done a fantastic job with AIS. She puts in a lot of long hours. We thank Chris for her efforts. We will continue to promote our committees.

We are trying to make the meetings more convenient for residents that may not be here to attend by adding on line meetings so they may at least listen in. We will continue to work together as a team and make improvements as the year continues. Thank you all for your hard work.

Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman then spoke:

Annual Highway Department Report

The highway crew has been busy this past year. The winter has been very challenging with record snows and the clearing of the roads. We were in the cab of the snow plow trucks at one point during the winter for a seven day stretch. A new V Plow has helped a lot during this past winter season. The John Deere Grader is a nice machine. There were several mailboxes that had

been destroyed during the plowing season and they have been and will be addressed. The highway crew has done an excellent job and have really stepped up to the plate as a team effort. We have hired two full time guys to help with work load. Some of the projects we have completed this past year are; replacement of Mulligan Creek Road Culvert, a new pad was put up at Tomahawk Park and the concrete will be poured this year. The highway crew double chip sealed Pine Chip Drive and it faired about 99% over this past year. New Electrical was installed at the Courts this year. We added a new Baylor at the transfer site. As the year progresses, the highway crew will continue to clean up trees that have fallen into the road. The work for South Shore Bridge should start the first part of May. Signs will be put up during the construction. We will continue to clean up as time permits. Overall it has been a good year.

Annual Ambulance and Fire Departments Report

There were a combined 99 calls between the Ambulance and Fire Departments in 2022 with the ambulance responded to 92 of those.

The current roster is 13 licensed providers. Of those, 12 are licensed at the EMT level or higher and 1 at the EMR level. There is one student attending an EMT class and currently holds a Basic Training Permit allowing to her to act as a legal second crew member but is not yet licensed. As a service we continue to operate at the EMT level and utilize flexible staffing as approved through the State allowing a legal crew to consist of an EMT as the primary patient caregiver and an EMR as the second crew member. Four of our personnel are classified as part-time, while the remaining are volunteer.

Throughout 2022, we employed two full-time EMTs to provide day time, week day coverage. Both of those have now stepped down to part-time, one related to family commitments and the other to continue her medical education. Although there were a few candidates, the third full-time position was not filled. We continue to be approved for three full-time positions and have posted job openings in area newspapers multiple times with several inquiries. Postings made on indeed have garnered several applications, however no response has been received from most when requesting additional information. One candidate did reply, however was deemed disqualified by our insurance company due to the individuals driving history. The positions have been posted through the Wisconsin Job Center with no activity so far. One of the individuals who was interested based on one of the newspaper ads was reportedly taking an EMT class and would be available for possible full-time work starting in June.

Even with full-time staffing, our volunteers continue to hold the Department together. They do their best at covering day time calls when full-time are not working and cover nights and weekends. While we may not be able to cover every single call, we cover nearly all of them missing holidays, birthdays, parties, dinners, and sleep doing it. 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.

As a result of recommendations from the EMS study committee to the Bayfield County Board, each of the nine EMS services covering the County will be receiving a \$20,000 grant. This was born out of funding and recruitment and retention of providers being two of the larger issues identified by the committee. The funding is being given to each service to spend as they see fit, with preference toward recruitment and retention. Related to this grant, Bayfield County is forming a countywide mass casualty incident EMS service as a mutual aid asset to the established services. This is not a countywide service in terms of replacing the existing services, but instead is intended to supplement those services in times of large scale emergencies and mass casualty incidents.

The State of Wisconsin also provided additional funding through the Funding Assistance Program and a onetime Flex Grant. All licensed transporting EMS services were awarded \$24,390 in addition

to the normal FAP funding split into two deposits. The first deposit was received last fall and was used to purchase 6 portable radios and accessories to replace older radios that were being carried by EMTs, and to have spares. The first required expense report has been submitted which will trigger the second deposit. A Flex Grant program was also implemented which provided a funding pathway for non-transporting EMS services. Although funding priority was given to these services, transporting EMS services were also able to apply. Barnes submitted an application to add Carbon Monoxide monitoring capability to our EKG monitor and was awarded a grant at 43% of the requested amount. This was also split into two deposits and the first expense report has been submitted to obtain the second deposit and move forward with the upgrade.

After the success of the BES Open House last year there were several requests to make it an annual community event. We are planning another event for this year on May 27th, 10am-2pm, and invite everyone to stop by to meet everyone, see our equipment, and learn what we do.

Calls: 27 calls for the Fire Department

New engine is on track to be starting the build in May with an estimated completion of September.

Received 4 new SCBA units last year, now all of our units are the same.

Received 3 grants last year to cover the cost of a fire extinguisher training prop.

Received 1 grant to cover the cost of a car fire blanket.

Received 1 grant to cover 50% of the cost of wildland gear and portable radios to be used on wildland fires.

Had 2 new members join last year and 2 previous members join back on. All 4 have been instrumental in providing personnel for calls.

There is a total of 8-10 members at this time.

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

6:05pm Motion made (Pat Johnston seconded by Chris Webb) to adjourn the Annual Town meeting. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

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.