

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall

APPROVED

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

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

Chairman Renz asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 03/21/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 3/21/23 Special Town Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes.

Motion made (Scully/S.Frint) to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 03/21/23 Monthly Board Meeting and the 03/21/23 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz asked for a motion to move 13B-Land Use Planning Commission-Dalbec Campground up on the agenda following the Public Comment Session.

Motion made (Neff/S.Frint) to move the Land Use Planning Commission regarding the Dalbec Campground up on the agenda following the Public Comment Session. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz asked the Dalbec team if they wanted to speak first but they all requested to speak at the end of the Public comment session.

Public Comment Session

*Mike Beckler wanted to know why we were all here again regarding the campground when it had already been decided that it was not a good thing last year. Mike stated it was a big surprise that this was happening again and that the Dalbecs did not even discuss it with any of the neighbors on Robinson Lake. Mike stated that it would create a lot of dust and extra movement throughout the night. It would no longer be a quiet area. Mike stated that every single neighbor was against this campground and they don't want it.

*Brian Johnston stated that he is 340' from the proposed campground. He wanted to know if there was going to be some kind of retaining wall in place. Brian wanted to know what the elevation was going to be to the campground. Were there going to be any culverts? Brian stated that he had not received any information regarding draining. Brian stated that he had a biology degree and with his knowledge he stated that he does not see this as a suitable site for a campground now or ever.

*Jim Warn stated that he was on Birch Lake, opposite side of the proposed campground. He wanted to know what kind of grading was going to be done. He felt that with all the extra boat traffic that it would overwhelm the dock. He wanted to know if there were going to be extra docks installed to help with the extra boat traffic. Jim felt like the timing of this campground proposal was not good since a lot of the neighbors were still out of state for the winter and were not there to voice their concerns. Jim stated that the ones that are out of state are not for this campground.

*Doug Scheider stated that the proposed septic system is 20' above grade and 4' above Robinson Lake and that the septic was not designed to take on the campground waste. Doug stated that there is a potential for height contamination. Doug stated with the sandy soil, the waste would seep through the sand and into the lake. Doug stated that according to the DNR, that septic systems are not designed to filter the waste completely out and if it seeps into the lakes, it could feed the bacteria and pollute the lake.

* Richard Buckwalter stated that he is a property owner on Robinson Lake and that he had environmental concerns regarding the Dalbec campground. He stated that the discharge from the 28 units on 4 acres of land with 2-4 people per site would create a large amount of water usage. Richard stated that the proposed water usage for the campground was estimated at 30 gals a day which Richard feels is extremely low. Richard feels with all the extra water usage it will seep through the sand causing pollution into the lake. He feels the 23% slope is extremely too deep and that with a large amount of rain fall, it will not be able to stabilize.

*Gary Kearns was speaking on his parents' behalf. He feels that the Land Use Rules that are in place says it all. He feels that the proposed campground will have a negative impact on all the neighbors. There would be lots of congestion and noise with extra RV's, extra people, pets etc. Gary feels that the people living there will have to adapt to a RV life style. He asked that the Town consider the Land Use Rules.

Supervisor S. Frint touched base regarding the yes vote by the Land Use Planning Commission and stated that she could see both sides and that she tried to take into consideration both sides point of view. Supervisor S. Frint stated that they did not really come up with a solid reason but that all requirements were met by the Dalbecs in regards to the campground and since all the requirements were met, they voted yes.

Mike Furtak stated that the Dalbecs had a reputable plumbing company, Rasmussen's Plumbing, design the septic system. They have gone with less campsites then originally proposed. Mike stated that sand filters and after it is filtered 3' down it would be filtered enough that it would be drinkable. Mike also stated that most water load is created by doing laundry and that people that are camping don't typically have a washing machine and are doing laundry. Mike also stated that campers have less dishes and are not usually filling up bath tubs to bathe in. Mike stated that the people camping would also utilize other lakes, not just Robinson Lake. Mike knows that the erosion concern had been brought up several times but the Dalbecs would have a professional grading company doing the work that would know how to address erosion. Mike recommended that speed limit signs be added to the Robinson Lake area since there are not really any at this time. There will not be any additional docks added and the Dalbecs have not asked for any additional dock space for the campers. They will enforce a quiet time of 11:00 PM to help with the noise.

Attorney Robert Eaton stated that the campground is a good thing and it would stimulate the town. He stated that there were 14 conditions that had to be met by the Dalbecs before the campground application could be allowed and if all 14 conditions were met, the town/county will have to allow the application. Attorney Robert Eaton also stated that there have been safeguards put in place regarding the environmental issues that had been addressed such as; all camp sites will be marked, all units will be over 15' apart with 1 auto per site. Bayfield Water & Land Conservation will be involved so all requirements will be covered. The Dalbecs will put up walls & fence and will meet all requirements once the permit is issued. There will be a low risk of flooding. Attorney Robert Eaton asked everyone to look at the big picture.

Supervisor S. Frint asked how long of a time frame were the Dalbecs thinking this would take. Attorney Robert Eaton stated that all of Dalbec's information has been submitted except the vegetation screening which cannot be done until the snow is gone. Also, if the campground is

approved it will take 60 days to obtain permits from the Health Dept. The Dalbecs did not want to apply for this permit until the campground was approved due to cost.

Chairman Renz asked when the DNR will be involved and Mike Furtak stated that the DNR is already involved.

Town of Barnes Attorney John Carlson stated that whatever the Town of Barnes decides, the town would have to have substantial evidence to make a decision of no and it would not be a good thing to base the decision on opinions from neighbors with no evidence backing the decision. He also stated, at the end of the day, it still is the decision of Bayfield County. Attorney John Carlson also stated that the Town of Barnes cannot be sued by the Dalbecs on whatever decision is reached tonight. However, Bayfield County could be sued by the Dalbecs.

Supervisor Scully asked if the Dalbecs are going to have a holding tank. Mike Furtak stated that the county prefers septic versus a holding tank. The Dalbecs are not going with a holding tank, but with a septic system that was originally proposed.

Chairman Renz would like to see the Dalbecs move the septic to the opposite side of the property than it was originally proposed.

Supervisor Scully stated he did not feel it was fair to have a Town Campground but not allow the Dalbecs to have their campground. Supervisor Scully stated that the Dalbecs is zoned already to allow a campground and he does not feel the town has a leg to stand on voting no on the campground. Supervisor Scully stated that the State of Wisconsin owns the Lakes not the Town of Barnes.

Chairman Renz would like the Dalbecs to work with Foreman Jordheim regarding the culvert located near the property to make sure the culvert is safe.

Supervisor S. Frint asked if the culvert is weak and needs work can the town require Dalbecs to repair.

Greg Dalbec stated that he will not pay for any repairs to the culvert if needed as it is the town's culvert, not his.

Supervisor S. Frint stated she voted in favor of the Dalbec campground as chair of the Land Use Planning Commission.

Supervisor J. Frint was concerned about making a decision on the campground and he did not want his decision to effect his business or friendships. Supervisor J. Frint stated with everything presented and the Dalbecs following all requirements, he would vote in favor of approving the Dalbec campground.

Supervisor Scully does not feel that anything was presented that should cause the campground to not be approved. Supervisor Scully stated he would vote in favor of the Dalbec campground.

Chairman Renz was concerned about the large amount of traffic on Robinson Lake Road and the dust that it would create. He was also concerned that the EMTs may not be able to handle additional calls at the campground due to staffing. Chairman Renz still would like the Dalbecs to consider moving the location of the septic to the other side of the property. Chairman Renz stated he is in favor of the Dalbec campground.

Supervisor Neff stated he would vote against the campground.

The Board reviewed the Dalbec Campground at Robinson Lake Resort application.

Motion Made (Scully/S. Frint) to approve the Dalbec Campground application. A roll call vote was taken with 4 board members voting in favor and Supervisor Neff voting against it, motion carried.

Clerk Correspondence – There were 33 emails and letters received regarding the Dalbec Campground application. None were in favor of the Campground.

The board reviewed the 2-year Operator license applications for Kendra Ruhman & Brenda Drall.

Motion made (Scully/J.Frint) to approve the 2-year operator licenses for Kendra Ruhman & Brenda Drall. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The board reviewed the Vatten Paddlar Coordinator request by Kelly Knaus.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to approve the request of Vatten Paddlar Coordinator, Kelly Knaus. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The Board asked Kelly if she had any questions regarding the Vatten Paddlar position. Kelly wanted to get more clarification on the town's involvement with Vatten Paddlar. Chairman Renz stated that the town left the event planning to the past Vatten Paddlar Coordinator and that other than taking care of the Vatten Paddlar account, the coordinator was the person who was in charge of the event registration and sponsor participation. Kelly inquired about liability insurance, even though the participants had to sign a waiver, Kelly wanted to make sure she would not be liable in case there was some type of accident. Chairman Renz stated that the town does have liability insurance and she would not be held accountable if an accident was to happen. Kelly wanted to see the Vatten Paddlar event as a charitable event and wanted to make sure that any profit that was made would be put back into the community. She suggested maybe putting the money toward the lakes. Supervisor J. Frint asked Kelly if she was aware that a compensation of \$1,400 would be paid to her as the coordinator of Vatten Paddlar. Kelly stated she was not aware of the compensation but she would take the \$1,400 and put it back into the event/community instead of keeping it for herself. Chairman Renz told Kelly she could do whatever she wanted to with the \$1,400 compensation. Supervisor Scully told Kelly if she had any other questions as to how to plan the event that she could reach out to Melissa Scully who is in charge of the Taste of Barnes.

The board reviewed the yearly update for Quickbooks in the amount of \$749.00.

Motion was made (J.Frint/Neff) to approve the yearly update to Quickbooks. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The board reviewed the annual renewal for Wisconsin Towns Association membership.

Motion was made (Renz/J.Frint) to renew the Wisconsin Towns Association membership. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz asked that from now on the Wisconsin Towns Association membership not be put on the Agenda but just be renewed every year as it has much needed information that is valuable to not only clerks but other town employees.

March vouchers were reviewed.

Motion was made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the March vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: April Powell

The ending balance in the General Checking is \$606,392.45, \$1,070,950.30 is the ending balance in the Money Market account with \$759.34 interest earned; 3,136.81 is the ending balance in the Vatten Paddlar Account (no activity); The PayPal account has a balance \$5,425.40 (\$379.79) was used to purchase bibs for the groomer at Tomahawk Lake; Taste of Barnes account has balance of \$5,441.00 (a \$30.00 donation received) and the Tax Collection Account had a balance of \$4,026.95 for a total of all funds of \$1,689,931.91

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

Highway Department Report-Jeff Jordheim

May Roads/Property Report

South Shore Bridge: Start Date May 8th, 2023

Ellison Lake Road: Cut down hill at Moore Rd. Will send out for bids

Idlewild: Widen and pull down berms, gravel where needed.

Forest Roads: Awarded Forestry money of \$6,500.00

Equipment: Foreman Jordheim discussed whether they should replace the clutch on the John Deere Brush tractor and to keep it or sell it. Foreman Jordheim would like to sell it due to the fact that there would be more things that would eventually need to be replaced and it would be costly. Also, it does not have a cab. There is also safety concerns regarding the Brush tractor as it does not shift correctly. Doug Westerberg volunteered his time to help repair the John Deere Brush tractor.

Motion was made (Renz/Scully) to repair and sell the John Deere Brush tractor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Foreman Jordheim would like to switch Porta Potty rental companies from Mr. Biffy, LLC to #2 Septic & Excavating Inc. starting May 1st and would like to have a letter sent to Mr. Biffy, LLC discontinuing their service. He feels that Mr. Biffy does not keep the porta potties clean and he has had several complaints regarding the cleanliness of the porta potties. #2 Septic & Excavating Inc. will clean the porta potty at Tomahawk Park during winter months and will clean the porta potties once per month except for the Upper Lake Boat ramp porta potty which will be cleaned twice per month during the summer months. The owner of #2 Septic will also donate 3 porta potties for the 4th of July event.

Motion was made (Renz/S. Frint) to switch from Mr. Biffy LLC to #2 Septic and Excavating Inc. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Foreman Jordheim would like to discuss adding scanners to the plow trucks for a cost of around \$3,500 this fall. Foreman Jordheim would like to discuss cost sharing with Mark at the town of Drummond regarding the scanners.

Foreman Jordheim stated that the City of Drummond has reached out to him to see if The Town of Barnes would be interested in taking care of all of Wilderness Rd and that Barnes would receive the

Gas Tax for taking care of this road. Foreman Jordheim is in favor of taking care of Wilderness Rd as Barnes Road crew already does a good portion of maintaining this road.

Monthly Fire Report

Calls: 2 calls

Motor vehicle fire

Extricate person from camper

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

Working on inventory of all the apparatus.

Will be/currently are shifting over to wildland fire season. Quick snowmelt will lead to fire season.

Finalized last year's DNR FFP grant.

Monthly Ambulance Report

There have been 3 calls since the last meeting. There were one or two that were missed and covered by neighboring services.

Dawn continues to fill shifts as she is able to. She has been able to help cover some calls this way, as well as responding during the day time outside of working a shift. An interview was conducted with a potential candidate with the recommendation to hire forwarded to the clerk. A posting has been made on the Wisconsin Job Center with no applications yet at this time.

The Bayfield County funding checks should have been printed but ours has not yet been received. I have received confirmation from the State that the Flex Grant expense report has been received and is currently being reviewed which is expected to take some time due to the large amount of reports that have to be gone through. The second deposit of the ARPA FAP Supplement has also not been received yet.

We are finishing up setting up our 4th of July Raffle and should be selling tickets soon. The departments have decided to hold another Open House community event this year which will be on May 27th, 10am-2pm.

I interviewed Courtney on Monday, March 27th and recommend pursuing hiring her as a full-time EMT. She is very motivated and clearly enthusiastic about working after being a stay-at-home mom for several years. Through her experience with Brule Fire Department she also brings a lot to the table.

Motion was made (Renz/Scully) to hire Courtney Mashlan as a full-time EMT. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Chairman Renz would like new hire Courtney Mashlan's hours to be adjusted so that she may attend the monthly meetings. Courtney's wage will be \$22.00/hour and \$25.00/hour on a run call.

A.I.S. Committee-Chris Webb reported that she had given the clerks the letters to be sent out to the boat monitors, divers and property owners requiring access of their property. She is setting up schedules and she has requested that the clerk let her know when the letters come back. She wanted to confirm that the monitors would be paid \$15.00 hour this year. It was confirmed that the \$15.00/hour was correct. Chris stated that she was trying to be more flexible with the monitor's schedules so that they did not get burned out before the season is over. Chris stated that for every

lake monitoring we receive \$4,000 but there must be a total of 200 hours of monitoring done. Chris would like to propose to the Gordon Town Board that The Town of Gordon do the monitoring on the Lower Eau Claire Lake. Chairman Renz stated he would go with Chris to the meeting to propose this.

Chairman Renz reviewed the Timeline- clerk will add the status of the application regarding the Barnes Campground for this fall.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Submitted by: April Powell, Clerk-Treasurer
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