

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
2023 BUDGET HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
and MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday – November 15, 2022 at 6:00PM
At Barnes Town Hall
(UNAPPROVED)**

At 6:05PM, Chairman Tom Renz called the Annual Public Budget Hearing to order. Roll call was taken with Town Supervisors Dave Scully, Seana Frint, Jim Frint and Eric Neff present at the Town Hall, establishing a quorum. Also present was Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer, April Powell, Clerk-Treasurer trainee, Jeff Jordheim, Roads & Property Foreman, Brett Frierhood, Ambulance Director and Brock Frierhood, Fire Chief. Judy Bourassa verified public notice. The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

Discussion of the 2023 Proposed Town Budget –

The proposed levy for 2022 (payable in 2023) would be \$898,139.00, an increase of \$42,769.00 which is allowable net new construction plus a 5 percent increase. The board voted to exceed the allowable levy limit with Resolution 22-08. Chairman Renz asked if there are any questions regarding the 2023 budget.

Chris Webb asked what funds make up the “transfer from other funds”. The clerk replied that the funds would be coming from the sinking funds from the Land Acquisition and Barnes Area Development Fund. She also asked about the status of the South Shore Bridge Project. This project has been postponed until spring. She also asked about the Park Outlay budget amount - that is for the construction of a garage at Tomahawk Lake Park. Guy Johnston asked about the increase in the license fees and the increase in the public charges for services - this is due to the short term rental ordinance going into effect in January of 2023 and the implementation of a ‘cashless’ system which requires the purchase of a “Transfer Site pass” at a cost of \$120/yr. Chairman Renz read the letter that will be sent to all property owners with the tax bills. Sue Jansen asked what if you don’t use \$120 worth - the fee is the same regardless of use. Jack Hoff asked if there will be storage for the cardboard bales - the Chairman said they would be stored on-site until picked up. Lee Wiesner commented that he likes the idea but said he feels it might dis-incentivize people to recycle. Pat Johnston asked about those people that only visit for 3 weeks in the summer – they would either pay the \$120 fee or they can take the garbage home with them. The passes will be available for purchase at the Transfer Site or the Clerk’s Office in December. The fee will not be pro-rated and a 2nd pass (for a 2nd vehicle) is available for purchase for \$5.00. Tami Hoff is concerned about the tax increase the board is proposing and understands health insurance costs go up and wages & fuel costs have gone up but feels that the board should maintain a budget instead of increasing taxes. The Chairman said they reached out to other townships for a comparison of wages and feels we are on par with other municipalities. Eric Neff reiterated that the board is responsible for maintaining roads and providing emergency services and the costs to do that have gone up significantly. Tami Hoff questioned the expenses for the Aquatic Invasive Species and the Town Chairman pointed out that we will be getting grant funds so the net spent is approximately \$40,000. Susan Jansen asked about the increase in the Fireworks & Events Expenses - that is due to the fact that the cost has increased 30%.

Motion made (Webb/Tremblay) to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Public Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:08PM.

At 7:10PM, the Special Town Meeting of the Electors was called to order. Volunteers were requested to count the voters. Jim Bakken and Bill Stewart were selected. There were 25 Electors present.

Chairman Renz read the language of Resolution R22-09 as follows: "BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the town electors of the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County, Wisconsin endorse the town board resolution to increase the town tax levy for 2022 (collected in 2023) by 5.5 percent over the allowable 2022 levy, which is an increase of \$42,769 over the allowable 2022 town tax levy."

Motion made (Renz/Bourassa) to adopt Resolution 22-09. Vote by show of hands taken with 23 voting yes and 2 voting no. Motion carried.

Chairman Renz read the language of Resolution R22-10 as follows: "BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the town electors of the Town of Barnes, Bayfield County, Wisconsin adopt the town tax levy paid in 2023 in the sum of \$898,139 which will be levied for the purpose of Operating Expenses for the year 2023."

Motion made (Scully/J. Frint) to adopt Resolution 22-10. Vote by show of hands taken with 23 voting yes and 2 voting no. Motion carried.

Motion made (Scully/Webb) to adjourn the Town Electors meeting at 7:19PM. Voice vote taken with all voting yes and no one voting no. Motion carried.

The Town Meeting of the Electors adjourned at 7:20PM.

At 7:20PM Chairman Renz called the Monthly Town Board Meeting to order.

Motion made (Scully/J. Frint) to approve the agenda. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Motion made (S.Frint/Scully) to approve the minutes of the 10/18/2022 Monthly Board meeting and the 10/4, 10/11, 10/19 and 10/25/22 Special Board Meetings and to dispense with the reading of those minutes. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Town of Barnes 2023 Budget –

Motion made (Scully/J.Frint) to adopt the Town of Barnes budget of \$1,863,243 for fiscal year 2023. Voice vote taken with all voting yes, motion carried.

Public Comment Session –Jim Bakken addressed the board and presented a check to the Town for \$10,200 from the Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area. This was pledged in support of AIS activities, BAISS boat support and Clean Boats, Clean Waters shoreline monitoring. He also reported on the lake level readings and boating education efforts. The LEEPS program continues through Drummond school and he thanked the town for their support. The Town Board thanked FOECLA for the check.

Bill Stewart, Lee Wiesner, and Carol LeBreck all addressed the board regarding a conditional use application that is on the agenda. Carol LeBreck also commented that she opposes the opening of more county roads to ATV/UTV use. Mike Furtak also commented on the conditional use application to be considered. Susan Jansen asked Supervisor Scully in regard to the campground being proposed asking the dimensions of the cabins and if a committee has been formed. He suggested that she attend the presentation he is doing in April of 2023 where that information will be shared.

Clerk Correspondence - The clerk reported receiving a letter from Bayfield County Planning & Zoning Department regarding the update to the county Comprehensive plan; she also reported receipt of an email from Carol LeBreck wanting the public to be aware of tire spikes that have been strewn on our town roads causing flat tires; a letter was also received from Bayfield County Administrator regarding supporting local EMS; an email was received from Pam Toshner in regard to the Vatten Paddlar coordinator vacancy asking if it is a paid position (this is an agenda item); The clerk reported the Spring

Election will be April 4, 2023 and the Town Board Chairman, Tom Renz and Supervisors Dave Scully and Jim Frint are the incumbents. Nomination papers can be circulated beginning December 1, 2022 and are due in the clerk's office on January 3, 2023.

Update on Veteran's Memorial at Barnes Cemetery – Chris Webb

She is asking the board to donate land for a memorial to be built at the Cemetery and the VFW would do the fundraising to pay for the memorial itself. She will keep the board apprised on this project.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) that the town donate the requested land and work with the Highway Department to do the necessary repairs to the road. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion on compensation for event coordinators-Dave Scully advised the board that he is abstaining from this conversation/decision. Chairman Renz stated that the Vatten Paddlar is not self-sustaining but would like to see someone coordinate it and make it profitable, we could then consider compensation; he also commented on the Taste of Barnes –it's a new event and he'd like to see it become profitable before a coordinator be compensated; the 4th of July event has been run without a coordinator so he didn't see a need. No motion was made so no action was taken.

Consider Norvado proposal for IT services for 2 office computers and 5 laptops.

Motion made (Renz/Scully) to accept the proposal from Norvado at a cost of \$84.00 per month. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Consider contract with Northwest Regional Planning Commission to update the Comprehensive Plan. Members of the commission were present and shared some insight with the board.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to accept the contract for \$11,000 (to be paid quarterly) to update the Comprehensive Plan. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Discussion regarding opening of County Roads to ATV/UTV traffic. Supervisor Neff expressed safety concerns for the users sharing the highway with vehicles. The Chairman said the highways that are currently open should stay open but isn't in favor of opening any others. The county is asking for feedback, no motion needed.

Consider renewal of Town Advocacy Council membership at a cost \$205 for the year. The board feels we benefit from this so would like to continue it.

Motion made (Renz/S.Frint) to renew the membership with TAC. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Voucher's Approval –

Motion made (Scully/Neff) to approve the October vouchers. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

The October Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Judy Bourassa. The 10/31 ending balance in the General Checking account was \$554,385.89. The balance in the Money Market account was \$801,356.32 as of 10/31. There was no activity in either the Vatten Paddlar, Paypal or Tax Collection accounts, except for bank service charges with ending balances of \$3,136.81, \$4,966.50 and \$1,977.39, respectively. The Taste of Barnes account has an ending balance of \$5,536.00. Year-to-date interest earnings are \$2,181.23, the balance in all accounts totals \$1,365,822.91.

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

TOB Department Head Reports:

Highway Department Monthly Report-Jeff Jordheim

November 2022 Report

Roads: Grading will end at freeze up. Leaf removal along side of roads is ongoing. I am open to allowing town tractor to blow leaves on private drives if there is a citizen request.

Equipment: Plow trucks are changed over to winter use. Mower's serviced/washed and will be stored at transfer site building. The cat grader will be stored there to. Meaning no equipment will staged outside.

Transfer Site: Cardboard baler has been installed with a roof built over the top. Lighting will be installed above baler when time allows. Thanks Dave Scully!

It has made a bale already, weighing in at 1400 #s.

Parks: TLP bathroom has been closed for the season. Water has been drained and well turned off.

Discussion regarding John Deere mower/tractor-repair or sell or add mower to New Holland –the Foreman has requested a quote so it was tabled to next month's meeting.

Fire & Ambulance Departments Monthly Reports-Brock & Brett Frierhood

Monthly report Ambulance

7 calls since the last meeting.

We have received a payment of 1/2 the award amount from the Flex Grant. The timing of the second payment will determine when the money can be spent.

We have purchased and received a flag pole with the plan of installing it in the spring. I have checked on the replacement ambulance step, however I have received no update. The State has completed the work needed for the new radios and I am developing a short training session for handing them out.

We completed the skills day for our refresher class this past Saturday. Members have until the end of November to complete the online learning portion.

Fire

Calls: 2 calls
-smoke alarm
-gas leak

Truck Chassis for the new fire truck has arrived at the dealer.

Auction has ended for the surplus items listed. 1 bidder didn't pay and these items will be put back on the auction block.

Still haven't heard about this years AFG grant, working on starting on the next AFG grant cycle.
Still working on searching and applying for grants.

Consider addition surcharges on new fire truck. The original order was for \$96,464.50 and the additional surcharges total \$2,750 which the dealer is willing to split with the town resulting with the total price of the truck at \$97,839.50.

Motion made (Scully/J.Frint) to pay \$1,375.00 for the additional surcharges. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Supervisor Scully wanted the townspeople know that Brock has done a really great job finding grant money.

TOB Committee and Commission Reports:

a) Planning Commission-Seana Frint

Richard & Kathryn Cochrane of 3305 Bony Lake Rd-Conditional Use application for construction of 2nd principal structure on parcel 1399. The LUPC considered and ultimately denied the application. Mr. Cochrane was in attendance and addressed the board as well as Mike Furtak representing the Cochranes.

Motion made (J. Frint/S.Frint) to approve the conditional use application for the Cochranes.

Discussion followed with Supervisor Neff stressing that there are extenuating circumstances with this application including historical grandfathering.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to open the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Bill Stewart commented in opposition to granting of this conditional use application.

Motion made (Renz/Neff) to close the floor. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken with Eric Neff and Tom Renz voting no, and Supervisors S. Frint, J. Frint and Scully voting yes. Motion carried.

Timeline-

Motion to adjourn (Neff/J.Frint) was made. Voice vote taken with no opposition, motion carried.

The Monthly Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Submitted by Judy Bourassa, Clerk-Treasurer

Letter from Town Chairman regarding Transfer Site changes:

To the Town of Barnes residents, taxpayers and visitors,

In October of 2021, the Town Board purchased a recycling compactor for recyclables which would drastically reduce costs by eliminating the ten dumpsters and a significant savings in charges per ton as we were charged a dumping fee regardless of how full they were. The one thing we did not take into consideration was the amount of cardboard that was being put into our recyclable containers. Members of the Town Board traveled to other municipalities in the area to observe their operations and brought the information back to the rest of the Town Board. A decision was made to purchase a cardboard baler which compacts, bales and secures them with metal bands, reducing the amount that goes in the recycling compactor which will reduce the tonnage and the frequency of pickups. Bales will be sold (price market-dependent) and will be a revenue stream.

Changes have been implemented at the Transfer Site with regard to traffic flow and beginning in January 2023, we will no longer be accepting cash. Transfer site passes will be available for purchase at a cost of \$120.00 per year which can be purchased at the Transfer Site or at the Clerk's office. You will no longer pay a per bag fee, however, charges will still apply for items like tvs and mattresses and must be paid for by credit/debit card.

Thank you,

Tom Renz

Barnes Town Chairman

Town Board