TOWN OF BARNES

2024 BUDGET HEARING,

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS

And MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday – November 19, 2024 at 5:30PM

At Barnes Town Hall

Approved

The **Budget Hearing** was called to order by Tom Renz at 5:34PM. Roll call was don’t to establish a Quorum with Chairman Tom Renz, Seana Frint, Jim Frint, Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance. Deputy Clerk Kari Hufnagle verified notice of the meeting.

Pledge Allegiance to the flag

Discussion of the Proposed 2025 Budget

Tom informed the public that the Fire Department had a 6.7% decrease in their budget due to the purchase of a new Fire truck and a Brush truck in 2024.The increase in the budget was also explained. The town of Barnes is going through a new assessment that requires a large fee to the Town of Barnes. A new full-time Administrative position is being implemented in the Town office to better assist the public, employees and committees. There will be a second full- time employee in the office being the Clerk/Treasurer. Grants are becoming more difficult and less available to help fund our local committees such as AIS and Parks and Recreation.

Tom Renz made a motion to adjourn the 2025 Budget meeting at 6:21PM seconded by Eric Neff.

The **Special Town Meeting** of the Electors to order to adopt the Resolutions and

Budget Levies was called to order by Tom Renz at 6:23PM and seconded by Jim Frint Roll call taken to establish a Quorum with Chairman Tom Renz, Seana Frint, Jim Frint, Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance.

Tom Renz selected two Electors, Doug Westerburg and Jeanne Umtin.

Tom Renz asked for a hand count or a paper vote, Hand vote was selected.

A vote was taken to adopt Resolution R24-07, the number of electors voting yes was 20, number of electors voting no was 0, and the number of electors abstaining or not voting was 2. A motion was made by Jim Frint to adopt Resolution R24-07 and Seconded by Eric Neff.

A vote was taken to adopt Resolution R24-08, the number of electors voting yes was 21, electors voting no 0 and the number of electors abstained was 1. Motion made by Dave Scully to adopt Resolution R24-08 seconded by Greg Strasser (Elector).

A motion was made by Dave Scully to obligate the SLRF funds to buy a generator for the Town Hall, Jaws of Life for the Fire Department and the remaining funds to be given to Parks. The motion was seconded by all Electors present.

Tom Renz made a motion to Adjourn the Special Town Meeting of the Electors at 6:40PM seconded by Jim Frint.

The **Monthly Town Board Meeting** was called to order by Tom Renz at 6:51PM. Roll call was taken to establish a Quorum with Chairman Tom Renz, Seana Frint, Jim Frint, Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance.

Tom made a recommendation to move item #15 on the Agenda, Norvado Quick Claim Deed, to right after the Public Comment session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Dave Scully to approve the Agenda with the recommendation to move Norvado to after the Public comment session and the Minutes from the 10/15/2024 Monthly Board meeting, 10/21/2024 Special Board Meetings and 10/28/2024 Special Town Board Meeting to dispense with the reading of those minutes, seconded by Eric Neff.

Public Comment Session

Doug Scheider from the Town of Barnes Community Church informed the board that they have a ramp lending program.

A motion was made by Eric Neff to accept the Quick Claim deed for Norvado seconded by Seana Frint.

The Clerk informed the Board on the DNR wetland approval application for Steve Probst.

The clerk informed the Board on Intergovernmental donations.

A motion was made by Erik Neff to approve October vouchers seconded by Dave Scully.

Treasurer’s Report: As of October 31st, the balance in the general checking account was $499,518.45. The Money market savings balance is $441,394.95. The Vatten Paddlar account $4,488.35, Taste of Barnes $5,011.21, PayPal $6,039.56 and the tax account $5,091.93. Total in all accounts, $955460.87 interest earned in Aug. $523.44 for a total YTD of $6783.16.

A motion was made by Dave Scully to approve the October Treasurer Report, seconded by Jim Frint.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to close the Vatten Paddlar account and transfer any remaining funds to the General account seconded by Eric Neff. Roll call vote taken all motioned yes, motion carried.

The board was informed that Kate Waggoner will be taking on the Taste of Barnes.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to table the topic of the Taste of Barnes funds till the December Town Board meeting, roll call vote taken motion yes.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to approve the transfer of $21,284.00 from the Money market account to the General account to cover expenses incurred for Tomahawk/ Sandbar treatments, seconded by Eric Neff.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to set department heads and committee chair purchases above $1,500 be approved by the Town Admin/Clerk. Purchases $5,000 or higher requires board approval, along with a copy of the approval and Total cost be put in the Town Chairs mailbox, roll call vote taken Tom Renz yes, Seana Frint yes, Jim Frint yes, Eric Neff yes, with Dave Scully voting no, Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to sell Lot #3 (2.7acres) at Barnes Ind Park to Lake Country ATV Club for $2,000/acre for a total of $5,400, roll call vote was taken all voting yes, motion passed.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to approve Bayfield County 2025 Visitor Guide for $600.00, roll call vote taken all voting yes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to approve the removal of the playground by Dave Scully, Roll call vote taken all voting yes with Dave Scully abstaining, motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to donate $500.00 to the Jack Attack show Choir, seconded by Jim Frint.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to contribute $250.00 for the Barnes Christmas tree lighting event held on December 7th. Also approving the location of the Christmas tree on the corner of the Town Hall. No second was needed due to the event being a Town of Barnes event.

A motion was made by Tom Renz to approve Tim Zwickey Land use permit XXXX River Rd seconded by Seana Frint.

The Highways department had no report for this month.

The transfer site report was given by Jeff Hong

The transfer site had one 40 yard trash compactor and one 30 yard open top trash container go out in October.

Fire Department report was given by Brock Friermood

Calls: calls 2

We held training on the second of November through Northwood Tech. We utilized their burn trailer to practice our SCBA skills, smoke reading and normal “fireground” procedures.

We have procured a cold storage shed to aid in storing seasonal items, like the UTV tracks, ice rescue equipment and not very often used equipment. This was done in conjunction with the ambulance department. Budget money along with both departments fundraiser money were used. This will help us keep the hall nice and clean for public viewing.

We have purchased some new helmets due to our current inventory getting old and out of compliance. These new helmets are lighter weight and include built in lighting for increased safety of our firefighters.

We have ordered some new gear for some members, as current gear is not fitting properly or getting old and out of compliance.

We have ordered a new hose reel and tank with foam cell for our new QRV using our fundraiser money. The hose reel has been delivered, still waiting on the tank. This will be a good winter project to switch out items. We have been spending fundraiser money to help outfit the truck and get it to where we would like it for responses to a variety of different calls. We have also ordered and received a winch that needs to be installed yet, which will be completed along with the reel and tank.

I have ordered an online command board to help our command staff on incidents and increase firefighter safety. We are going to try it for a year and see how it goes. We are one of the first in the country to purchase this and as such the price will never increase. As soon as I get it set up and ready for use, we will be doing training to make sure everyone will know how to use it. It can be used on our phones or a computer.

We also ordered a new, bigger and quieter air compressor for keeping the trucks full of air. I will be working on getting air hoses and start plumbing the lines to all the bays.

The new WICSOM system is coming up soon, sounds like 2026 for implementation in Northwest Wisconsin. With that, we will have to purchase new radios for compatibility. There should be a few grants coming out soon for that, we will be starting to look at these and how to go about getting new radios.

The fiscal year 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant(AFG) has opened. Ricky and myself are looking into what their priorities are this year and working to get this grant completed.

A motion was made by Eric Neff to approve Jeff Jordheim and Jeff Stumpf for a Fire Department membership. Seconded by Seana Frint.

A motion was made by Dave Scully to approve Damian VonFrank as Captain on the fire department seconded by Tom Renz.

Ambulance report was given by Brett Friermood

There have been eight ambulance calls for the month. Two were mutual aid to Iron River, which were cancelled. Two were medical calls to Highland. We are currently at a combined total of 100 calls for the year with over a month to go. The gun deer hunting season and the month of December have historically produced a number of additional calls.

The Trunk or Treat event was held in October and was very successful. We received many compliments and everyone had a great time. We are planning to continue it as an annual event next year.

In conjunction with the Fire Department, a small shed was purchased and placed at the BES Building to be used as cold storage for the purpose of helping to organize and better utilize space inside the BES Building by moving some items outside. The shed was purchased with fundraiser money from both the Fire and Ambulance Departments and some remaining available budget money. I have also purchased cameras and am working on installing them under a new account to replace the original ones at the BES Building.

The FY2025 Funding Assistance Program application was completed and submitted in October. This will be the first year that includes non-transporting services and the increased funding amount. I am not aware of an award date being announced yet. The State EMS Office is also considering creating a new EMS provider level of first aid responder. I have been told this would be a non-transporting level below EMR. No further details have been announced.

The Medicare application was completed with the help of our billing company. I have not received confirmation of application approval, but an inspector did visit to confirm existence and operation of the service. The Veteran’s Affairs account update application was submitted but rejected due to needing additional information. It has since been resubmitted with the requested information.

The County’s ad-hoc EMS committee moved two proposals on to the County Board for inclusion in next year’s budget. Unfortunately, neither of the proposals had a well-developed plan and the decision to move them on was seen as rushed due to the timing of the budget approval. Several entities voiced concerns to the Board about this and instead recommended budgeting to hire an EMS coordinator. The Board ultimately approved the EMS coordinator recommendation with the intention of the coordinator working with Service Directors to develop a plan to improve the County EMS System which would result in more vetted budget proposals going to the County Board.

Seana Frint reported for the LUPC that they had a meeting and they did approve the permit for Tim Zwickey.

The timeline was reviewed and Tom Renz requested that a Fire commission be formed by spring 2025.

A motion made by Eric Neff to Adjourn the Town Board meeting was made at 8:15PM seconded by Dave Scully.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*DISCUSSION AND ACTION MAY OCCUR ON ANY OF THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEMS\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

***The Town Board reserves the right to solicit information only from Town Staff or Committee members present, without opening the floor to discussion.***

**Submitted by: Kari Hufnagle, Deputy Clerk PH: 715-795-2782 Fax: 715-795-2784 Email:** [**clerk@townofbarneswi.gov**](mailto:clerk@townofbarneswi.gov)