

# MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING Minutes

Tuesday – July 15th, 2025  
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall  
**Approved**

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Call to order the **Monthly Town Board Meeting** at 6:30 pm. Roll call to establish a quorum with Chair Tom Renz, Jim Frint, Seana Frint, Paul Susienka and Eric Neff in attendance.

Verification of public notice

Pledge of allegiance to the flag

*A motion was made by Paul to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim*

*A motion was made by Eric to approve 6/17/2025 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes to dispense with the reading of those minutes, seconded by Paul, motion passed*

**Public Comment Session: none**

**Clerk Correspondence:**

Clerk informed the board that the auditor bill has arrived and is significantly higher than last year due to having to undo payroll entries from 2024. Clerk will be working with auditor to reverse these entries.

**Jeff and Lianne property discussion:**

Jeff asked the Board if they would be willing to sell a small piece of property by Middle Eau Claire boat landing. Jeff is currently maintaining this property and wants to purchase this from the town. Board members discussed land survey and maintaining the right of way. The Board requested this be tabled till the November Budget meeting of the electors.

**Cedar Corp: Hwy 27 and Lake Rd**

The public did not have any questions for Cedar Corp. Cedar Corp requested an agreement to assist in the LRIP program be signed.

*A motion was made by Paul to enter and sign the agreement with Cedar Corp to assist in the LRIP application, seconded by Jim, motion passed*

**Barnes/Highland Ambulance service contract:**

Tom informed the rest of the board that the Town of Barnes has been in this contract since 2018. All members agreed to table the discussion till the August Board meeting when the Ambulance Director will be present.

**Local Emergency plan:**

All Board members reviewed the new plan. No adjustments needed. Tom requested this be added to the timeline for April every year to keep contacts up to date.

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the Local Emergency Plan for the Town of Barnes and to provide Bayfield County Emergency Management Coordinator with said document, roll call vote taken all voting yes, motion passed.*

**Discuss/Approve 2-year operator license for Julia Fahner, Delaney Brown, Alyssa Nelson and Kent Walley.**

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the 2-year operator's license for Julia Fahner, Delaney Brown, Alyssa Nelson and Kent Walley. Roll call vote taken all voting yes, motion passed*

**Taste of Barnes:**

The clerk informed the Board of discrepancy in some social media information on how much money the Taste of Barnes had raised for the donation to Parks and Rec for the purchase of the playground. The clerk went through all income and expenses of the Taste of Barnes and found the actual profit amount is \$1,878.56.

**Voucher Approval:**

*A motion was made by Paul to approve July vouchers, seconded by Seana, motion passed*

**Treasurer's Report:** by Kari Hufnagle -Clerk-Treasurer

As of June 30th, the balance in the general checking account was \$435,626.09. The Money market savings balance is \$436,151.35. Taste of Barnes \$6,639.77, PayPal \$6,689.56 and the tax account \$442,773.43. Total in all accounts, \$1,327,880.20. Interest earned in June was \$501.29 for a total YTD of \$2,961.84. The clerk noticed that a negative number was not used in the formula calculation and informed the board.

*A motion was made by Tom to not approve the Treasures report as presented and to have a correct June report at the August meeting, seconded by Seana, motion passed*

**Ais committee update-Chris**

Lower, Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes are presenting big problems, divers have been working many long days removing the invasive species. Boat monitors are doing a great job this year. AIS is always looking for volunteers.

**Parks and rec- Blair**

The new storage garage order has been placed, and materials are showing up. There are now some trail cams out at Tomahawk. Blair mentioned wanting to make a new entrance for the memorial garden leading into the town Park. Tom appointed Dave Scully to the Parks and Rec committee.

**Roads and right of way-Doug**

No update

**Building committee-Dean**

Dean reported that the committee would still like to work with Cedar Corp for the new Hwy facility. They would like to have a plan for next year's annual meeting. Dean requested to be added to the August Board meeting agenda.

**TOB Department Head Reports:**

**Highway Department – Monthly Roads Report-Jeff Jordheim**

Hwy Forman presented a proposal to the board about outsourcing for tree cutting/limbing. The Town of Barnes does not have the proper equipment or manpower.

*A motion was made by Tom to allow the Hwy Forman get quotes for outsourcing tree cutting and limbing, seconded by Jim, motion passed*

Hwy Forman presented a quote for a radio antenna from Rassbach. This antenna is for our CB radio for emergency purposes. The discussion was to either install the antenna at the town hall or the town garage.

*A motion was made by Tom to install the antenna by the town garage up as high as it can be for better signal, seconded by Paul, motion passed*

Hwy Forman informed the board and public about mailbox requirements. The post is not allowed to be larger than 4in and cannot have red reflectors (they are illegal)

Discussion on two septic tanks behind the town garage. Tom says it is still on record that there are two of them but in fact there is only one. Tom will talk to zoning to get records updated.

**Fire Department – Monthly BES Report – Brock Frierhood absent-Eric Neff**

Calls: 5

1- smoke alarm

1- lift assist for EMS

1- motor vehicle crash

2- Landing zones for EMS

Had oil changes completed on the Engine, Tender 1 and Tender 2. The technician completed an inspection of the trucks and found some things that need to be fixed on tender 1; working on getting them corrected. Had our 4<sup>th</sup> of July fundraiser and raffle drawing. Annual hose testing is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM, if anyone wants to come see the process.

I am working on trying to find a new incident reporting system. With the changeover from NFIRS to NERIS coming in January, Emergency Reporting is not NERIS compatible. I am meeting with some

different companies, including ESO, which owns Emergency Reporting. I will have some information along with some quotes for the August meeting.

**Discuss/approve Jackson Hinkel for junior firefighter membership:**

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the membership of Jackson Hinkel, seconded by Jim, motion passed*

**Ambulance Department – Monthly BES Report – Brett Frierhood absent - Eric Neff**

It has been a busy month with 14 calls. Unfortunately, we had two CPR calls during the week around the 4<sup>th</sup>, however I am able to report that the new Lifeline ARM device performed very well. I also want to recognize both the ambulance and fire personnel that were on those calls as well as others recently that showed great teamwork and provided excellent patient care.

I had an introductory meeting with Bryan Ziemann, the County EMS Coordinator. We will now be having a brainstorming session later in July with all service directors.

Ashland and Bayfield counties have switched to a new CAD system. There have been some growing pains, but we have not seen any negative effects. They will soon be implementing a digital dispatching solution to supplement normal procedures. Everyone is excited about this to improve the transfer of dispatch information

**Review Timeline:**

Eric asked for the Employee/volunteer appreciation picnic to be added to the timeline for every year on the Monday following Labor Day.

Tom asked for the Local Emergency Plan to be added to the timeline every year in April to keep contacts up to date.

The Board requested that the property purchase of Jeff and Lisanne be added to the timeline and be added to the agenda for the November Budget meeting of the electors.

*A motion was made by Eric to adjourn at 8:11pm, seconded by Jim, motion passed*

**\*\*\*\*\*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 Clerk-Treasurer, Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@townofbarneswi.gov Fax: 715-795-2784