TOWN OF BARNES

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday – December 17, 2024 at 6:30PM

At Barnes Town Hall

Approved

The **Town Board** was called to order by Tom Renz at 6:32PM. Roll call was done to establish a Quorum with Chairman Tom Renz, Seana Frint, Jim Frint, Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance. Clerk- Treasurer Kari Hufnagle verified notice of the meeting.

Pledge Allegiance to the flag

*A motion to Approve the agenda, meeting minutes from 11/19/2024 and meeting minutes from 11/20/2024 was made by Dave seconded by Seana.*

Public Comment Session

Lori Norberg came on behalf of the Taste of Banes and asked if the town hall would be available to them and questioned about trash removal.

*A motion was made by Tom to sign the Audit Engagement letter from Bauman Associates seconded by* Dave.

Kari Hufnagle was sworn in as Clerk-Treasurer by Tom.

*A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed*.

*A motion was made by Tom for LeeAnn Friebe and Dolly Hehl to be appointed as election workers seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Tom to approve Jack Gribble as a new member of the Roads and Right of way committee seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Tom on the taste of Barnes checking account to stay in control of the town of Barnes seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Tom to open the floor at 6:50PM seconded by Eric.*

*A motion was made by Tom at 6:54PM to close the floor seconded by Eric.*

*A motion was made by Tom for the Town of Barnes office hours to now be 8:AM-4PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays the town office shall be open from 8:00AM- 12:00PM starting January 1, 2025, seconded by Dave. Seana requests that the new hours be revisited in February 2025.*

Discussion on the Great Divide

No decisions were made due to lack of cost and service information.

*A motion was made by Tom to open the floor at 7:39PM seconded by Jim.*

*A motion was made by Tom to close the floor at 7:50PM seconded by Eric.*

*A motion was made by Eric to approve the November vouchers seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Eric to* *approve the Treasurer’s Report*. *Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

The Highways department had no report for this month. Jeff Jordheim

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the radiator replacement payment for truck 42 using funds from the savings account seconded by Eric.*

Highway report was given by Jeff Jordheim

Winter Storm Event: Discussed what the town has in place for snow plowing, amount of snow that dictates if it is a full plow or a partial plow.

The WIS DOT states that the highway department has up to three weeks before the town becomes liable for injuries.

Wisconsin Statue 346.94 (5) : Prohibits placing or causing to be placed on the roadway. Meaning, it prohibits anyone from plowing, shoveling, or blowing snow onto the road.

Town Board Resolution Chapter 17 section 3 (c) : Minimum drivable surface is as follows: 12’ for driveways.

16’ for multiple driveways.

Minimum total driveway/road cleared width is 24’.

Minimum height: 14’

The driveway surface at intersection or entrance shall be 20’. With a minimum cleared width of 24’.

Buildings: Cedar Corp is still works on the “Scope of the Project” for the town garage.

River Road Bridge: Cedar Corp is still looking into possible viable options for the town.

Roads: Ellison/Moore Road intersection is going to be a go in the spring of 2025.

Equipment: New Plow Truck is to be built, late summer of 2025. Then shipped to Monroe Truck Equipment for the install of plow equipment. Which should be delivered spring of 2026.

There will also be prebuild meeting for the new truck at Monroe, but no date as of yet. Foreman asked if any board members are interested in attending the meeting.

The transfer site discussion by Jeff Hong

Jeff asked if Recycling should continue to be free due to the high cost to the town for removal.

*A motion was made by Tom to keep recycling as a free service to our residents at the transfer site until further discussion seconded by Eric.*

Fire Department report was given by Brock Friermood

Calls: 5 calls

2-Mutual Aid to Iron River

1-Landing Zone for EMS

1-Vehicle fire

1-Carbon monoxide call

The tank for the Brush truck has come in, working on getting it in.

Will be putting the tracks on the UTV soon to get it ready for winter operation.

Ordered the battery operated extrication tools that were approved at the budget hearing. Estimating the be here around the middle of February. We are already working on setting up an extrication training in the spring to become familiar with these as well as get the newer members some hands on experience in auto extrication.

The fiscal year 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant(AFG) deadline is coming up this Friday. I have been working on it and is currently out for review.

We conducted ice rescue training on the 5th. Had some of the newer members get some hands-on experience.

Just a reminder for everybody, keep all your vents clear of snow and ice. Don’t want any carbon monoxide build up in your homes.

*A motion was made by Tom to approve Ben Roecker for Fire Department membership seconded by Eric.*

*A motion was made by Eric to approve Jaxston Glinski for Fire Department membership Seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the Fire Departments purchase from Darley using their 2% dues seconded by Dave.*

Ambulance report was given by Brett Friermood

There have been 7 calls in the last month. We have been seeing an increase in calls to assist Iron River. There were 3 calls to Iron River in the last month and two in October. We are currently at a combined total of 109 calls for the year.

The Ferno Lifeline ARM has arrived and will be put into service shortly. We had a high number of CPR calls in the last year so while we hope not to need to use it, it will be nice to have a new device. I’ve mentioned it before but I would like to again bring attention to the effort and teamwork that has taken place during these and other very high stress calls our personnel have responded to.

The Wisconsin EMS Office is continuing to process the Funding Assistance Program grant applications. With the expansion to all EMS services, 496 applications were received so it is taking longer than normal for the awards to be determined. The base amounts have been confirmed but the per capita amount will not be finalized until all the applications have been gone through.

The timeline was reviewed and Tom requested that the January Board meeting include discussion on a referendum for the Ambulance services and recommendations for a Fire commission. Tom also requested that a discussion on the transfer site be added for March.

*A motion made by Eric to Adjourn the Town Board meeting was made at 8:41PM seconded by Dave.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*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 Fax: 715-795-2784 Email:** [**clerk@townofbarneswi.gov**](mailto:clerk@townofbarneswi.gov)