

**Special Town Board Meeting**  
**6:00PM**  
**and**  
**MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING Minutes**  
**Tuesday – March 18th, 2025**  
**6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall**  
**Approved**

---

Call to order the **Special Town Board Meeting** to order at 6:00pm. Roll call to establish a quorum with Chair Tom Renz, Jim Frint, Seana Frint Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance.

Verification of public notice

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the Agenda for Special Town Board Meeting, and add Town of Barnes Employee issues and statute, roll call vote taken with all saying yes.*

Closed Session: As the governing body for the Town of Barnes, the Town Board will go into a closed session pursuant to the following: Possible litigation of the Town of Barnes

- a) § 19.85(g) allows governmental bodies to meet in closed session to consult with legal counsel about litigation. This includes strategy for litigation that the body is currently involved in or is likely to become involved in.

*A motion was made by Tom to go into closed session at 6:04pm, seconded by Dave.*

*A motion to return to open session for discussion and possible action from closed session at 6:26pm was made by Dave, seconded by Tom.*

*A motion was made by Dave to adjourn the special meeting at 6:28pm, seconded by Tom.*

Call to order the **Monthly Town Board Meeting** at 6:31pm. Roll call to establish a quorum with Chair Tom Renz, Jim Frint, Seana Frint, Dave Scully and Eric Neff in attendance.

Verification of public notice

Pledge of allegiance to the flag

*A motion was made by Eric to approve the agenda and the minutes of the 2/11/2025 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes, seconded by Dave.*

Public Comment Session-

Terry Kolberg spoke on her frustrations regarding board candidates on the ballot for the upcoming April 1, 2025 election not having any personal statements available for the

public. Terry was informed there are no State requirements that say candidates must present a statement to the public.

Clerk Correspondence- None

*A motion was made by Tom to contribute \$50.00 to the Calander events, roll call vote taken all voting yes.*

*A motion was made by Tom to allow the Drummond trap team to collect cans at transfer site, seconded by Seana.*

The topic of annexation was requested by the Board to be removed from this meeting.

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the Town insurance renewals and to further discuss in the May Meeting considering the increase, roll call vote taken all voting yes*

Building Commission update -None

Fire Commission update- None

Employee/Volunteer of the year- Tabled till April Meeting.

*A motion was made by Eric to approve the February vouchers, seconded by Seana.*

#### Treasurer's Report

As of February 28th, the balance in the general checking account was \$627,645.88. The Money market savings balance is \$418,960.88. Taste of Barnes \$5,531.21, PayPal \$6,439.56 and the tax account \$417,823.43. Total in all accounts, \$1,476,400.96. Interest earned in Feb. \$449.47 for a total YTD of \$948.37.

AIS committee update – New grant for Tomahawk and Sandbar Lake to cover diver wages and treatments. Chris Webb asked the board if they would allow EMT's to assist with Grant applications.

#### TOB Department Head Reports:

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

Jeff will order 100 tons of salt for the highway department. This should be a 2 year supply depending on weather.

Jeff will order 1000 tons of sand for the highway department. This should be a 2 year supply.

Jeff and highway workers will remove white arrow boards from the State's right of way along Highway 27.

Bayfield County is looking into our Sped limits and ordinances pertaining to speed limits.

Truck 42 is down again and in the shop for repairs.

A reservation for the town park pavilion has been made for the ATV/UTV club on June 21<sup>st</sup> for their regional meeting.

The Barnstormers requested fill for their building site and the board approved.

**Transfer Site Report- Jeff Hong**

The transfer site in February had two 30 yard open top trash containers go out.

The brush site is now cleaned and ready to be open to the public starting Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The transfer site will start being open again on Saturdays starting April 1.

*A motion was made by Dave to require a dump pass in order to use the brush site, seconded by Eric.*

**Fire Department – Monthly BES Report – Brock Frierhood**

Calls: 4 calls

-1 mutual aid to Iron River with UTV

-1 gas leak

-1 LZ setup for EMS/cancelled

-1 false alarm

We are currently installing the tank, hose reel and pump on the QRV.

We have received the battery operated extrication equipment and it has been placed into service on the QRV.

Will be switching the UTV back to wildland and summer operations shortly.

Will be having our annual DNR training Wednesday night.

*A motion was made by Dave to approve the purchase of SCBA compressor and fill station using funds in budget, roll call vote taken all voting yes.*

*A motion was made by Eric to approve beer sales for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, seconded by Dave, roll call vote taken with all voting yes.*

**Ambulance Department – Monthly BES Report – Brett Frierhood**

There have been 5 calls since the last meeting. One was a medical call into Highland.

Last week the State released the FAP awards and deposits should be seen shortly. The changes to the funding mechanism greatly increased the award amounts and we will be receiving a total of \$15,000 this year. The deadline also occurred last week for submission of the required expense report for the 2024 SFY award which was completed.

I was informed Bayfield County was performing interviews earlier this month for the EMS coordinator position with several applicants. Although there was a desire to have several EMS personnel on the hiring panel, the human resources department was primarily running the process with limited EMS input. I am not aware of an announcement being made yet regarding the position. Internally, the job posting for the open full-time EMT position received a total of 3 applications. Two interviews were conducted with the recommendation of hiring Tiffany Smith as part-time and Hallie Skweres as full-time.

Tiffany is a newly licensed EMT from Iron River and initially applied for part-time but was also open to full-time. Tiffany is still learning but interviewed well and will be a good addition to the department. Tiffany's availability to take shifts will be beneficial in helping to fill the schedule.

Although Hallie is also a newly licensed EMT she has considerable experience with us as an EMR, part-time EMR, and now part-time EMT. In the last month Hallie has stepped up to take additional shifts and has been working on keeping inventory up to date.

*A motion was made by Tom to hire Tiffany Smith as a part-time EMT, seconded by Dave.*

*A motion was made by Tom to hire Hallie Skweres as a full-time EMT, seconded by Dave.*

*\*\*\* Tom made a motion that no more interviews are to be conducted without a Board member being present\*\*\* A roll call vote was taken 3 voting yes and 2 voting no. Passed*

## **Review Timeline**

Add Diane Rupnow to re-appoint to LUPC

New Board members will be sworn in on April 15, 2025 at the Annual/ Town Board meeting

*A motion was made by Eric to Adjourn at 7:55pm, 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 Email: [clerk@townofbarneswi.gov](mailto:clerk@townofbarneswi.gov) Fax: 715-795-2784