

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES**  
**Monthly Town Board Meeting**  
Tuesday Aug. 20, 2024  
6:30 PM at the Barnes Town Hall

**UNAPPROVED**

1) The **Monthly Town Board Meeting** was called to Order by Chairman Renz at 6:30pm and a Roll Call was done to establish a Quorum with Seana Frint, Dave Scully, Jim Frint and Eric Neff in attendance. Clerk Meyer verified notice.

**Agenda was amended to add:** Approval for allowing Select trucking to use Pease Road for hauling purposes for Tract 41-23 logging off Mulligan Creek Rd. Steve Probst Bayfield Co Forester and Corey Verdegan from Sappi present to answer questions.

*A motion was made by Dave/Tom to approve the addition of the agenda item and move the item to #6A. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

2) *Motion to approve the minutes of the 7/16/2024 Monthly Board Meeting the 7/24/24 Special Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes by Dave/Jim. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

3) Pledge of allegiance to the flag

4) Public Comment Session – Mark Ector voiced his concerns regarding the permit for TB Investments. He is concerned about tree removal and erosion, the septic systems and the environmental impact. His property neighbors TB Investments property and he would like to see them follow the rules that Bayfield County has put in place as opposed to the State’s less strict rules, no special exemptions. He would like the board to consider the residents before they approve the recommendation to Bayfield County.

5) Clerk Correspondence:

- Informed the board of 2024-09 amendment to the short-term rental Ordinance for Bayfield Co., no effect on the Town’s Ordinance
- Introduce Kari Hufnagle, Deputy Clerk
- Inform the board we are going to a cloud-based network through CCS that will give us control of our server as well as making the server available on the cloud. All employees and volunteers that conduct business for the town will be required to use the network when creating town documents or saving town documents. We need to discuss employees/volunteers using personal laptops, computers as well as cell phones for town business. This puts the clerk’s office in a place where the documents are not within the clerk’s office’s control and is not following state statute. We are also going to be changing our website and emails (same domain) so that we have control over the site with local support and control of our emails in house with unlimited storage for saved files.

6A) Approval for allowing Select trucking to use Pease Road for hauling purposes for Tract 41-23 logging off Mulligan Creek Rd. Steve Probst Bayfield Co Forester and Corey Verdegan from Sappi present to answer questions.

*A motion was made by Tom/Eric to approve Select Trucking to use Pease Road for hauling purposes for Tract 41-23 logging off Mulligan Creek Rd. Jeff Jordheim will issue a permit and communicate with both Steve and Corey on ongoing road conditions Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

6) Claude Riglemon was present to explain the reassessment of the municipality that will be due for 2025-2026, costs and process. Claude described the process for reassessing that he would need to try to gain entry to each

property, take photos and sketches and based on the number of parcels in Barnes it would need to be at least a 2-year process. He stated that the total cost for reassessment would be \$146,000. We could split that cost up, \$73,000 for 2024 and \$73,000 for 2025. He also mentioned he could start this fall and bill for \$12,000 to \$14,000 for 2024 and decrease the amounts needed for 2025 and 2026. The board will consider when completing the budget for 2025.

7) Kari (sounds like: car-eeee) Hufnagle was sworn in by Tom Renz as Deputy Clerk

8) Approve amendment 11-6 to the Ordinance Chapter 11 Offenses Involving ATV/UTV Operation  
*A motion was made by Eric/Dave to approve the amendment 11-6 to Ordinance Chapter 11 Offenses Involving ATV/UTV Operation. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

9) The letter to Bayfield Co regarding zoning department issues at the county and informing the county that the Town of Barnes will be joining Cable, Grand View, Drummond and Namakagon to research and pursue establishing our own zoning jurisdiction. Tom Renz stated that the letter had already been signed, he just wanted to inform the board.

10) Approve Operators License for Lisa Johnson-Crosswinds  
*A motion was made by Dave/Eric to approve the Operator's License for Lisa Johnson-Crosswinds. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

11) Approval – July vouchers  
*A motion was made by Eric/Dave to approve the June vouchers. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

12) Treasurer's Report:

As of July 31st, the balance in the general checking account was \$454,151.49. The Money market savings balance is \$452,656.89. The Vatten Paddlar account \$4,633.35, Taste of Barnes \$5,511.21, PayPal \$5,414.56 and the tax account \$5,116.93. Total in all accounts, \$927,484.43, interest earned in July \$553.17 for a total YTD of \$4638.79.

Clerk Meyer asked if the board would like to go over the budget totals for our main expense accounts, Tom stated they have the P&L and can look at it if needed.

13) Update on Industrial Park and Tomahawk Park. Both purchase agreements and quit claim deeds have been sent to both JH Concrete and Superior Fuel for approval. Most likely closing next week. The attorney requested a copy of the survey for Tomahawk Park. Tom asked Brock Friermood to send the clerk a copy so the attorney can continue to move forward with getting Bayfield County to approve.

14) Discussion of sex offender being given supervised release in Gordon. Tom Renz mentioned Douglas County has purchased property and a home off Denver Road in Gordon which is very close to the town line between Gordon and Barnes. He asked that anyone concerned should do some research of statute 980 or contact Douglas County.

15) TOB Department Head Reports:

a) **Highway Department** – Monthly Roads Report (Jeff J.) – Transfer Site (Jeff H.)

**Hwy Dept. Roads Report:**

Buildings: Cedar Corp has been here and did a walk around the current building.

Bridges: River Road has been closed due to the rotting of the wood underneath the bridge.

Roads: Mowing will continue into early fall. Grading will continue as well. Industrial Road phase one is complete. Phase two will be done in the spring with a lift of three-quarter inch gravel. Ellison Lake road project will start this fall if the weather holds. There will be a short road closure, hoping only during the day. That is a contractor decision. Crack filling and chip sealing on Ellison Lake Road may have to be done in the spring due to other contractors being at the same location. Jeff also mentioned bags of used fireworks that were set by the garage door with a note from a citizen to keep the park clean. We will need to address clean-up after the fireworks for next year.

Equipment: 2015 John Deere Grader has been to the shop @ McCoy for its six-thousand-hour checkup. Still waiting for the oil samples to come back, the tech did find a bad AC hose that was repaired. Everything for wear items looked good. Truck Thirty, the little orange truck has been to the shop as well, did a pressure test on the motor, everything passed on the motor. This type of motor has been known to fail with the EGR cooler not being monitored. They did find that the starter was bad replaced it along both rear springs and trailing arms replaced with a rear alignment done. Truck forty-two has been repaired as well, it blew a cross over hose going into the EGR Cooler. That repair was made here in the town garage.

#### **HWY Agenda Items:**

1. Approval to start bidding process to crack fill and chip seal Ellison Lake Rd. in 2024

*A motion was made by Tom/Eric to approve the bidding process to crack-fill and chip-seal Ellison Lake Road with funds from expense account 57331A Roadwork Outlay. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

2. Approve/sign authorization for engineering services from Cedar Corp for Ellison Lake Road Project.

*A motion was made by Tom/Eric to the authorization for engineering services from Cedar Corp. for the Ellison Lake Road Project. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

3. Approve/sign authorization for engineering services from Cedar Corp for Town Garage Project.

*This item was tabled for a future meeting.*

4. Discuss/approve new plow truck quotes (Western & International) and plow equipment (Monroe)

*A motion was made by Jim/Eric to approve the quote from Monroe for the plow equipment. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried. Could not approve the quotes for the Western or International truck due to not having the bid for the International available at this meeting.*

5. Discuss sale of Truck #30

*A motion was made by Tom/Dave to put Truck #30 up for auction. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

#### **Transfer Site Report:**

The transfer site had three 30 yard open top demo roll off containers go out in July.

Also had the 30 yard open top mattress open top go out in July.

Also had three 40-yard trash compactor's go out in July, along with one 40-yard recycle compactor.

Also raised prices on recliners, couches, and hide a bed couches this month to try and break even on these items.

Discuss pricing on the open top roll off containers.

- b) **Fire Department** – Monthly BES Report –Brock Frierhood (Brock was absent from meeting)

#### **Fire Dept Monthly Report:**

Calls: 5 calls

-1 Water rescue

-2 landing zones for EMS

-1 structure fire

-1 Smoke alarm

The air compressor for filling the SCBA's had its annual maintenance completed 2 weeks ago, a small leak was found and repaired.

Annual pump testing for the fire trucks will be completed this week, no issues.

The old engine should be on the auction block soon through Wisconsin surplus.com, along with some equipment such as the 5" suction equipment.

c) **Ambulance Department** – Monthly BES Report – Sonja Von Frank

#### **Monthly Ambulance Report:**

There have been 3 staffed runs since the July meeting. We are at a combined total of 70 calls, projecting to 113 for the year. Both the ambulance and fire departments responded to another cardiac arrest call at the beginning of the month. Great job to those who responded. Although it was a sad outcome, everyone worked together well and provided great care for the patient. This was the 4th cardiac arrest within the last year and is among many other high-acuity and high-stress calls that we have responded to.

Hallie has been working weekdays with Courtney as she is available and will have more availability starting in September as school starts up. Hallie will be taking the EMT class beginning this month. Sarah continues to cover the night shift and has been beneficial in covering several night-time calls. An application for a full-time EMT has been received and we are working on scheduling an interview.

Brett and I attended an interview with Dana Sechler from Strategic Management & Consulting who is conducting the County commissioned EMS study. Dana conducted interviews with most of the service directors within the County and provided a way for him to gain additional insight into the current EMS situation. The option was given to meet with him in-person at each service's respective facilities with was taken advantage of and provided Dana a little extra perspective to our geography and distances.

We will be holding a Halloween event at the BES Building this year. Planning is ongoing and more information should be coming out in September.

#### 16) TOB Committee and Commission Reports

a) **A.I.S. Committee**-Chris Webb gave an update; they are talking with NWRPC about grant writing. Leaps will be going forward with grant applications that are due in Sept. The committee is also looking into Cedar Corp. and Regional Planning for grant writing and applications in the future. They will be concentrating on Tomahawk/Sandbar population control.

b) **LUPC Committee**-Seana Frint mentioned that the LUPC committee is struggling with meetings as they haven't had a quorum since the beginning of the year. Some members were claiming they did not get emails when meetings were scheduled, and some are just having struggles with the time. Seana will possibly be changing the times of the meetings to am instead of pm.

1. Approve permit for TB Investments 3145 Point O Pines Rd, Barnes. Mobil Home Park and Storage.

Consider citizen request for service opposing approval. *Comments: Tony Butterfield from TB Investments spoke about the septic approvals he received from the State as well as showed the board maps of the layout and stressed that all the septic's would be new and every consideration would be taken to improve the property, bring the septic's to code and require mobile homes to be a certain year or newer. He stated that the lights would be minimal at the storage location and that he would be willing to put a solid fence on the side that faced neighbor Mark Ector. He wants to clean up the property not cause problems.*

*A motion was made by Tom/Dave to open the floor. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

*Mark Ector spoke about how the approval of this permit would cause harm to his family. He strongly opposes the approval of the special exemption and has many concerns about the impact the approval of that exception will have on not only his residence but the environment.*

*A motion was made by Tom/Eric to close the floor. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Seana/Tom to approve TB Investments Special Use Application for a Mobil Home Park/Storage at 3145 Point O Pines Rd. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

c) **Parks & Recreation** – Blair Gagne updated the board regarding playground equipment and the possibility of obtaining grants to help fund. The memorial garden at the Town Park is underway and there will also be a sidewalk put in to make entry to the park.

1. Sign Wellness Grant

*A motion was made by Eric/Dave to accept the grant. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

d) **Cemetery** – Dave Scheiss updated the board regarding the Vet’s Memorial bench and surrounding area to be created. Costs and construction were discussed. Approval for the memorial was given at a previous meeting.

17) Review Timeline – nothing to add

*A motion was made by Tom/Seana to adjourn. Roll call vote taken with all members voting yes, motion carried.*

18) Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM