

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BARNES
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

At Town Hall, 3360 County Highway N, Barnes, WI

APPROVED

1. **Chairperson Tom Krob called the Town Board meeting to order at 5:36 pm.**
2. **Roll Call was taken to establish a Quorum/Verification of Public Notice, and approval of the agenda.** Present were Jack Meinke, Chris Webb, Mitch McGee and Tom Krob. Donna Porter was on vacation. Quorum was established. Also present were Town Staff: Brenda Bakke, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Dorothy Vogel, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, and Bob Lang, Roads & Property Foreman. Bakke verified for Krob that the meeting notice had been posted per State Statutes.

Motion was made by Webb/Meinke to approve the agenda. Webb stated that Item 4 should be changed. The whole meeting is an open session so there is unnecessary verbiage. There will be no closed session. Roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion Carried.

3. **Public Comment Session – 3 minute limit for those not on the agenda.**

The following townspeople spoke favorably about keeping the Outlet Bay Bridge open, benefits to the Town by closing the bridge or leaving it open, tourism, questioned costs to repair or replace the bridge, where grant money was coming from, qualifications of bridge inspectors, access for emergency vehicles and mail carrier, safety issues, re-opening the bridge to traffic, condition of other bridges in Town, why the hurry to remove the bridge, and compliments to the Chairperson and Board members for allowing everyone to speak:

Maureen Fullington, Fred Barnes, Bill Larson, Dianne Lanhart, Bob Koser, Jon Harkness, Dick Lanhart, Cheryl Beshoar, Nancy Lindberg, Marianne Koser, Dana Hodowanic, Carol LeBreck, Wally Conlon, Tom Emerson, Bob Mix, Bud Heerema, Dave Waddell, Buzzy Harkness, Peggy Haueter, Dorothy Keifer, Dave O'Shaughnessy, Larry Peterson, Glen Holt, and Fred Haueter.

After everyone had a chance to speak at length, Krob offered the opportunity to present a 30 second summary. Most spoke again.

Krob stated closing of Outlet Bay bridge had been decided back in 2011 and information was available in the Minutes. Meinke read excerpts from Board Meeting Minutes from 3/15/11, 5/17/11, 7/19/11 and 11/15/11.

At 6:32 pm Krob closed the public comment session so the Board could discuss the issue.

4. **Specific matters for discussion and possible action in the Open Session:**

a) **Possible discussion of Outlet Bay Rd. bridge removal.**

Meinke read aloud Bridge Inspection Reports dated 10/16/2012, 8/26/10 and 8/25/08.

Krob read an appeal to his fellow Board members to reconsider removal of the bridge.

Meinke commented if decision is made to keep the bridge, adjustments should be made before it's opened relating to safety factors, a wire fence installed so kids couldn't fall under the railing, making it a one-way bridge or close to traffic and be a walking bridge only. It would have to be investigated further. Krob agreed the large gap is a big concern.

Motion was made by Webb/Meinke to table the bridge removal until an inspector or engineer can reevaluate. Webb further stated that she doesn't want the road to open as it sits now, barricades will remain in place. Three reports state problems exist.

Meinke read another memo, this one from Dick Collyard dated 7/7/06 to Bayfield County. Town of Barnes has 2 bridges that need work, Outlet Bay bridge needs replacement and River Road bridge needs work. Collyard contacted an engineering firm regarding Outlet Bay bridge, received a proposal of \$170,000 for the bridge construction, and \$40,000 for geotechnical engineering, and putting that into the budget for next year.

Webb stated Board has been looking at this issue a long time. She was given names of engineers and will present them to the Board. Webb questioned Lang about the grants, Lang stated he talked to Ben Dufford, Director of the Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Dept, and Dufford asked that if the grant would not be used at this time it should be released back to the County where it will be reallocated elsewhere.

Krob asked if there would be any further discussion necessary on the motion. Bakke took a roll call vote. Called on Meinke: Yes, Webb: Yes, McGee: No, Krob: Yes. Three Yes votes, 1 No vote, motion is carried.

Motion was made by Webb/Meinke to release the funds back to Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Dept. Roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried. Also stated next two items on agenda will be tabled.

b) **Bid Acceptance for the removal of the Outlet Bay Rd. bridge.**

c) **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant acceptance and Habitat Development Agreement signing.**

5. **Adjournment.**

Motion was made by Webb/Meinke to adjourn the August 27, 2013 Town Board Meeting. Roll call was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy E. Vogel
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer