

# MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING Minutes

Tuesday –May 20th, 2025  
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall  
**Approved**

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

A motion was made by Tom to appoint Seana Frint to take minutes in place of the clerk.

Verification of public notice

Pledge of allegiance to the flag

*A motion was made by Tom to amend the agenda with the addition of Budget conversations, Seconded by Eric.*

*A motion was made by Eric to approve the amended agenda and the minutes of the 4/15/2025 Monthly Board Meeting and to dispense with the reading of those minutes, roll call vote taken, all voting yes.*

## **Public Comment Session:**

Dave Schiss (Barnes Sexton)

Dave will be having surgery but is going to be able to continue his sexton work.

Suzette Trembley

Suzette expressed her thoughts on unapproved meeting minutes being posted. The

board informed her that the topic is on the agenda for later discussion later this evening.

## **Clerk Correspondence:**

Clerk Kari Hufnagle was not in attendance, but a letter was read by Tom stating that: Open Book is scheduled for Monday June 2, 2025, in the town office from 9am-11am. The board of review is scheduled for Wednesday June 11, 2025, in the town office from 9am-11am. The clerk will be attending the Spring Workshop for the Wisconsin Towns Association on Wednesday May 21, 2025 (the town office will be closed). The clerk will be attending the Clerk-Treasurer institute virtually July 14-18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (office will be closed)

## **Cedar Corp:**

Update on Ellison Lake rd. project:

Grading is done and pavement should be starting next week.

River rd. bridge study:

Bridge replacement we put a 40 foot bridge in at this time. the reason for that is, we wanted to make sure that we had enough space when the Riprap comes down from the abutment, that it would actually provide a distance away from pontoons. We want to keep the existing structure in place, so pontoons could get through without being in the area of construction, so that that existing bridge would stay in place, as is, and pontoons would be able to get through.

*Tom made a motion to add River Road bridge to the Roads and Right away agenda for June, seconded by Jim, roll call vote taken, all voting yes.*

## **Lake rd. L-rip application:**

*A motion was made by Tom to move the L-rip application to the June Meeting, Seconded by Eric.*

**Bayfield County Zoning:**

Bayfield County Zoning understands the Town of Barnes residents' concerns on how long zoning permits take. They are working on getting more employees to help streamline the process. They also updated the public on surrounding projects they have been involved in. They are currently looking for a meal site coordinator for Barnes to continue the senior meals.

**Discussion on Buoys in Tomahawk swimming area:**

The swimming dock will be installed at Tomahawk Lake this year. A few locals are going to make this happen.

*A motion was made by Tom to put the discussion of buoys at Tomahawk Lake to be added to the Parks and Rec committee agenda, seconded by Eric.*

**Campground Discussion:**

Dave Scully had submitted a grant to the DNR before he left office. The DNR response added some uneasy questions on funding.

*A motion was made by Tom that the Town of Barnes does not move forward with any campground plans at this time, seconded by Paul.*

**Taste of Barnes class B gathering liquor license:**

*A motion was made by Eric to approve the taste of Barnes class B liquor license to the VFW and Steve Vanderberg for the sole purpose of serving only at the Taste of Barnes event, seconded by Paul.*

**Kate Waggoner operator license:**

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the 2-year operator license for Kate Waggoner, seconded by Paul.*

**Property for sale:**

Property on Peninsula rd. Discussion about if the town is interested in purchasing extra parking for the boat landing. No action will be taken.

**Unapproved minute postings discussion:**

- Letter from clerk read by Tom: **Posting Requirements:**

While posting minutes is a common practice, the specific timing and method of posting unapproved minutes are not explicitly outlined in the statutes. The Open Meetings Law focuses on providing notice of meetings themselves, not necessarily the minutes.

In the case of town meetings, [Wis. Stat. § 60.80](#) requires that the clerk post or publish within 30 days all resolutions, motions, or actions adopted at the meeting.

I personally do not feel comfortable posting information to the public that has not been approved by the Town Board. I however will abide by the Town Boards wishes on the decision on this matter.

I will ask that if the decision is made to allow disbursement/posting of unapproved minutes, that I am allowed 10 business days after the meeting to compose them. I would also ask that a public records request be filled by any party wishing to receive a paper copy of the unapproved minutes be filled out (no emailed copies)

The state statute says I am only required to post them 30 days after a meeting, if the next meeting is longer than 30 days later, I will post them online as unapproved. This is not a typical event.

Thank you for accepting my input on this issue

Kari Hufnagle

Town of Barnes Clerk/Treasurer

Board Discussion on unapproved minutes:

Tom stated that the clerk is following the state statutes on requirements for meeting minutes and the posting of them. Eric cited more information showing there is no requirement to post unapproved minutes. Paul stated that unapproved minutes are legal documentation of town business and should not be posted to the public before they are approved.

*A motion was made by Tom to continue the current practice Kari is using regarding not publishing unapproved minutes to the public, seconded by Eric.*

**Town Chair Tom Renz appointing committee members and supervisors:**

*A motion was made by Tom to appoint Bill Webb for a 3-year term, Megan Stumpf a 3-year term and Jeff Johnson a 2-year term to the Land Use Planning committee, seconded by Eric.*

There is still 1 more spot that needs to be filled.

*A motion was made by Tom to appoint Seana to Land Use Planning, Eric to AIS and Fire/Ambulance, Jim to Highway, Paul to Building committee/Parks and rec.*

Building Committee:

Tom announced members: Dean Weber, Doug Westerburg and Jeff Stumpf.

**Monthly voucher approval:**

*A motion was made by Eric to approve April vouchers, seconded by Paul.*

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

As of April 30th, the balance in the general checking account was \$410,810.37. The Money market savings balance is \$435132.67. Taste of Barnes \$6,335.21, PayPal \$6639.56 and the tax account \$417,773.43. Total in all accounts, \$1,276,691.24. Interest earned in April was \$496.63 for a total YTD of \$1,943.16.

*A motion was made by Tom to approve the Treasures report, seconded by Seana.*

**Ais committee update by Chris Webb:**

**Chris Webb:**

Divers and boat monitors have started. AIS is still looking for more volunteers. AIS is sending out letters for people to sign up for the BAIS boat and a map showing where treatment will be completed this year.

**Parks and rec**

Blair:

The grant is for new signage and possible land surveyors in Bayfield County

The board approves Parks and Rec to move forward with the snowshoe grant.

*A motion was made by Tom to approve/accept the Snowshoe Grant for Parks and Rec, seconded by Paul, a roll call vote was taken, all voting yes.*

**Budget Discussion:**

Tom informed the board that there have been some issues that have arisen from the audit company. The clerk had to go back into 2024 and fix some double entries that were made to get the books back on track. The audit will hopefully be done by the next board meeting. Another issue has arisen; the highway department had some funds that were not properly

allocated during budgeting. The funds are still there; they just need to be reallocated to its proper position.

**TOB Department Head Reports:**

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

Chip sealing of gravel roads: Pros and cons. Initial cost – verses grading six or more times a year.

Pine Chip has been a good test. No grading, no dust, no complaints. Yes, there will be some maintenance in the next year or so but it will be minor.

The Highway department is trying some new patching material. Aquaphalt. It comes in pales of fifty pounds; it is activated by pouring water onto it. Does not require heating like normal cold patching material. One less piece of equipment on the road way impeding traffic. It can be used in any weather conditions.

If installed correctly the manufacturer has a warranty of three years. Ninety-two cents a pound for Aquaphalt and twenty-two cents a pound for traditional cold mix. Pease Road and Lake Road are the test locations for Aquaphalt. Gravel has been hauled, spread and compacted on Mulligan Creek Road. This project is a 50/50 cost share with Bayfield County Forest and the Town of Barnes. Total tons on this project were 747 Tons. \$ 6760.04. The town's portion must meet that amount or exceed by a small amount. Meaning, equipment, fuel, labor, hauling etc.

**Salt storage discussion:**

New code requirements state a door is required. We fall into an acceptance category due to our large scale shed. No door required.

**Sexton position:**

Discussion whether we hire a company or a single person to replace Dave when he decides to retire. Dave will keep working for now, I just would like to set forth a plan.

*A motion was made by Tom to provide a sexton job description and post it on the website, seconded by Eric.*

**MOU with Barnstormers: Doug Westerberg:**

Doug spoke on behalf of the Roads a Right of Way committee. Doug presented a new revised version of the MOU to the board with updated projects and requests of cooperation from the town highway department.

*A motion was made by Paul to accept the new MOU from the Barnstormers, seconded by Tom.*

**Transit Site Report-Jeff Hong**

No report

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

Calls: 1

1- motor vehicle accident

4 members have completed entry level classes. We are working on setting up pumper/operator class along with firefighter 1 and hazmat ops.

The compressor and fill station for the SCBA's have been delivered and installed.

We have recently purchased some handheld and pole lights, along with a battery powered chainsaw with our fundraiser money

**Discuss/approve Marlo Sunar for membership:**

*A motion was made by Tom to table the membership of Marlo Sumner until June to allow a background check to be completed, seconded by Eric.*

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

There have been 8 calls since the last meeting. No calls into Highland this month. Trevor resigned from his position at the end of April. His primary reason for leaving was the long commute time and taking a job much closer to home. Bayfield County has hired an EMS Coordinator. I couldn't attend the last EMS Council meeting due to being an ambulance run and missed any discussion that was had but I look forward to meeting Bryan and working with him as things progress. We have been working with Chris and the AIS committee to complete grant data entry. We've met with Chris to go over the process and are working through some issues with website access and GPS data.

**Discuss/ approve Tiffany smith as full time EMT:**

*A motion was made by Tom to approve Tiffany Smith as a full time EMT starting May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, roll call vote all voting yes.*

**Review Timeline:**

Tom will talk to the clerk and get the timeline updated.

*A motion was made by Eric to adjourn at 9:01pm, seconded by Jim.*

**\*\*\*\*\*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.***

***Physical notes taken by Seana Frint***

***Second look and verification by reviewing zoom recording by Kari Hufnagle***

Submitted by: Kari Hufnagle Clerk-Treasurer, Ph.: 715-795-2782 Email: clerk@townofbarneswi.gov Fax: 715-795-2784