

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING Minutes

Tuesday –August 19th, 2025
6:30 PM in the Barnes Town Hall
Approved

Call to order the **Monthly Town Board Meeting** at 6:35 pm. Roll call to establish a quorum with Chair Tom Renz, Jim Frint, Seana Frint, Paul Susienka 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, seconded by Seana, motion carried

A motion was made by Eric to approve 7/15/2025 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes to dispense with the reading of those minutes, seconded by Paul, motion passed

Public Comment Session: none

Clerk Correspondence:

Future wood:

Future wood is looking to have a sale of 120 acres, 3 parcels (2944,2945,2946). They have requested these 3 parcels be rezoned from F2 to F1. Bayfield County asked the Town of Barnes to approve/deny this request.

A motion was made by Tom to allow the rezone of the 120 acers, parcel numbers 2944,2945, and 2946, to be rezoned from F2 to F1, seconded by Paul, motion carried

Martin Rip rap/grading project:

The town board did not see any issues with the Martin rip rap/ grading project. All permits have been completed.

Tom made a motion to approve the Martin rip rap/ grading project, seconded by Eric, motion passed

DOT white arrow signs:

The DOT was not in attendance at the meeting. Hwy Forman Jeff expressed interest in removing the signs and holding the signs in the town garage for business owners to pick up. Jeff thinks the signs will be more carefully removed and respectful to the businesses.

A motion was made by Tom to authorize the Hwy Dept to remove the white arrow signs at their convenience, seconded by Paul, motion passed

Cedar Corp:

Cedar Corp request an emergency unplanned emergency contract to be signed. This authorizes Cedar Corp to bill the town up to \$5,000 as needed without needing approval before billing.

A motion was made by Paul to approve the unplanned emergency contract for 2025, roll call vote take all voting yes, motion carried

Brian Udovich spoke on behalf of the Lake Rd bridge issue. Brian went over the DOT bridge inspectors report. The bridge is being rated at a 4, poor condition. The deck from below is what's known as the superstructure, or the girders. He gave that a rating of a 5, which is considered fair. The inspector did identify that there was some freckle rust, so just kind of spotty discoloration or minor rust, but no section loss. Section loss is, like, if the girder is starting to deteriorate, you're seeing thinning of the girder, holes in the girder, so none of that was observed. And then, on either side of the bridge are the abutments, or what's known as the substructure. It's the third element of the bridge, and that was given a score of a 6, which is typically satisfactory, and he also did make mention of the undermining of one of the piles that our inspector also observed. In addition, he did make note that there was some cracking and some spalling. Spalling is where some of the concrete on the surface is just kind of popping out. So he did make note of that.

there were no further recommendations to close the road or the bridge, or to further reduce the capacity of the structure from the existing 10-ton posting that is... that's there now. Cedar Corp mentioned there are a few different ways to seek funding for the bridge, Bridge aid programs, L-rip and an emergency fund for bridges.

A motion was made by Tom that if the town doesn't get bridge aids that the L-rip application include the bridge along with Lake rd. to Hwy 27, seconded by Pail, motion carried

BAHA Picnic license:

Baha has the Gordon Pilgrimage August 22nd and 23rd and is working with Tracks to provide for their event.

A motion was made by Tom to approve the temporary picnic license for BAHA, seconded by Seana, motion passed

Discuss/Approve 2-year operator license for Alayna Burger and Sam Grode:

Both Alayna and Sam have completed the required classes and passed a background check.

A motion was made by Tom to approve the 2-year operator's license for Alanya Burger and Sam Grode. Roll call vote taken all voting yes, motion passed

Discuss/Approve 2-year operator license for Richard Love:

Richard did complete required class for an operator license but failed the background check.

A motion was made by Tom to deny Richard Love his operator license due to background check results, seconded by Eric

Rural Insurance bill:

The clerk presented the latest bill from Rural insurance. The insurance increased almost \$20,000 in 2025. The reasoning is due to the audit finding an increase in payroll through the BES.

A motion was made by Tom to pay the Rural insurance bill, seconded by Paul, motion passed

Voucher Approval:

A motion was made by Eric to approve July vouchers, seconded by Seana, motion passed

Treasurer's Report: by Kari Hufnagle -Clerk-Treasurer

Two months were reported by the clerk

As of June 30th, the balance in the general checking account was \$435,626.09. The Money market savings balance is \$436,151.35. Taste of Barnes \$6,639.77, PayPal \$6,689.56 and the tax account \$92,000.00. Total in all accounts, \$977,830.20. Interest earned in June was \$501.29 for a total YTD of \$2,961.84.

As of July 31st, the balance in the general checking account was \$267,316.28. The Money market savings balance is \$438,549.09. Taste of Barnes \$5,011.21, PayPal \$6,689.56 and the tax account \$92,698.38. Total in all accounts, \$810,264.57. Interest earned in Jul was \$501.29 for a total YTD of \$3,481.04.

A motion was made by Tom to approve the Treasures reports for June and July as presented, seconded by Seana, motion passed

Ais committee update-Chris

The AIS BAISS boat is at Tomahawk and Sandbar for the month of August. A subcommittee of AIS did meet with Megan from Northwest Regional, and we have a skeleton of a plan for next year. She's working on the preliminary, which is due September 15th to the DNR, and then the final application's due November 15th. The Volunteer/town employee appreciation picnic will be held on Labor Day. AIS presented a T-shirt they are asking the board's approval to purchase for employee/volunteers.

A motion was made by Eric that the Town will allow the purchase of t-shirts for town and volunteers in the limit of \$3,000.00, seconded by Paul, motion passed

Parks and rec- Blair

Dave Johnson donated all his time from Premier Concrete to do our slab. Other pictures that we can put up, Cari? There are. And you'll find them while I'm talking, which will be cool. Sure, I'll just flash them up on the screen for you guys. Okay. Thanks to Jeff for allowing a few hours of a staff member

to help put the trusses up. Harvey Tree service came and lifted the end gable wall. Don Willett donated two of the garage doors on a cost of about \$4,000. Chad Nix from Farmer Coating is going to put the floor in as a donation and a retired electrician donating his services. Fundraising is now starting for the new playground equipment.

Roads and right of way-Doug

Doug presented multiple pictures showing the issues and temporary fixes of the Lake Rd. bridge. These pictures brought up some concerns on the rating and inspection that was previously done by the DOT.

Building committee-Dean

Dean requested board approval for a new client request contract with Cedar Corp to not exceed \$61,000.00. This includes an assessment of the existing building, code review, list of deficiencies with an estimate of the cost to be repaired. It also includes preliminary design for a new facility, and, you know, to be determining that, whether that's the, you know, steel or concrete wall structure, and the exact size of it, but that's, that's all part of the proposal to put that together. Hopes are a plan will be ready to present at the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Tom to approve the new client request with Cedar Corp so we can continue moving forward and start getting figures together, seconded by Paul, motion carried

Land Use Planning: Committee- Seana

The land use permit for Jason Curry was presented. All permits looked as if they were completed correctly.

A motion was made by Paul to support the permit for Jason Curry, seconded by Jim

TOB Department Head Reports:

Transfer Site- Jeff Stumpf

Jeff gave the board a copy of other transfer site rates to compare to the towns rates. The transfer site now has cameras installed and working. Passes are required to use the transfer site. Jeff is looking into getting mirror hanger passes for 2026.

Highway Department – Monthly Roads Report-Jeff Jordheim

Jeff requested payment for the new truck at Monroe. There was a price increase due to tariffs from \$177,644.00 to \$180,919.00. Truck is expected to be at Monroe in February and they are estimating an additional \$10,000.00 in tariffs.

A motion was made by Tom to make the payment for the new truck for \$180,919.00, seconded by Jim, motion carried

Equipment: Truck 48 went in for new steer tires and alignment. Plows and wings are hard on alignments.

New truck has been at Monroe for the past month waiting to have plow equipment installed

Buildings: Highway Department has been updating some new radio equipment. New antenna on highway garage. As well as a repeater license and a repeater.

Roads: Sand being hauled from Barnes Quarry for salt sand. Salt usually delivers in September.

Chips are also being delivered for Ellison, Farhner, Point of Pines.

Mowing: Mowing will continue into fall. Residents, please use caution around the mower. Most roads in Barnes are a 66' right of way. So, if there are items of concern, please move or remove them from the right of way.

Property: Property west of Barnes Road & south of Ellison Lake Road would be good to discuss affordable housing.

Fire Department – Monthly BES Report – Brock Frierhood

Calls: 7

1- boat rescue

1- lift assist for EMS

2- Motor vehicle crash

1- Landing zone for EMS

1- search and rescue

1- carbon monoxide alarm

Tender 1 items repaired that were found during the inspection when the oil was changed. Annual hose testing was scheduled for this past Saturday. Annual pump testing has been scheduled for today but was not preformed. NFIRS transition to NERIS is in December. Brock presented two quotes for a new incident reporting system. EPR Fireworks was his recommendation.

A motion was made by Tom to approve the quote from EPR Fireworks, seconded by Eric, motion carried

Ambulance Department – Monthly BES Report – Brett Frierhood

We have had 18 calls in the last month. I am aware of 1 call we were not able to staff which was covered by Great Divide. We provided coverage for two calls in Iron River's area.

We discovered an issue with the ambulance not charging when plugged into the shoreline. Jeff was able to test the batteries and found a bad one that was replaced. Pomasl also determined the indicator light module was faulty and it was replaced. It has been charging since and we are continuing to monitor.

Our biennial ambulance inspection was completed in July. There were two outstanding items from the inspection. One has been completed, the second is pending receiving paperwork from our medical director.

Review Timeline:

Add 2 parcels to Spring 2026

A motion was made by Eric to adjourn at 9:37, seconded by Jim, motion passed

*******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 Fax: 715-795-2784