

**BARTON VILLAGE, INC.
MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES**

MINUTES

6PM, Dec. 14th, 2015

PRESENT: Ryan Longe, Nathan Sicard, Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin, David Ormiston, Rose Harper, James Conley, Toni Eubanks, Colleen Moore de Ortiz (Vermont Department of Health), Elizabeth Trail (Barton Chronicle), Sylvia Manning, Jefferson Tolman (Utility Partners)

- A. Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. by Ryan Longe

- B. Changes to the Agenda / Additions or Deletions
 - a. Add Correspondence from Diane Kipp, Paul Sicard, and Public Service Board

- C. Meeting Minutes – November 23rd, 2015
 - a. NS motioned to approve November 23, 2015 Minutes, JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.

- D. Privilege of the Floor
 - a. Toni Eubanks stated that she attended to discuss water rates. She agrees that the rate structure needs to be addressed to attract families
 - b. Rose Harper requested additional consideration for the \$700 water/sewer abatement she previously requested and the Trustees previously denied.
 - i. Ms. Harper stated that a toilet that had been turned off was used once and then left to run accidentally for one night. She contacted Andy Sicard to check for a possible explanation for so much water usage, including a faulty meter. Meter was never tested and water bill since has seemed normal.
 - c. James Conley stated that the costs of living in Barton Village are becoming an issue. Too many vacant properties and now rate hikes for water and electric. He encouraged Trustees to fix this before it gets worse.
 - d. Sylvia Manning stated that she previously owned a house in Barton Village and would like to buy another property. However, the water rates keep her from buying here again.
 - e. Colleen Moore de Ortiz attended to support the Safe Streets Collaborative and to share the public health benefits of having a walkable community.

- E. Correspondence
 - a. Letter from Diane Kipp
 - i. No Action Taken
 - b. Public Service Board Letter
 - i. No Action Taken
 - c. Letter from Paul Sicard resigning as Delinquent Tax Collector
 - i. RL will contact Shelia Martin to see if she would be willing to serve in this capacity

- F. Old Business
 - 1. Audit Proposals
 - a. NS motioned to accept the audit proposal submitted by Graham & Graham for \$15,250, RL seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - 2. Water/Sewer Budget Discussion

- a. Further discussion of water and sewer budgets. Water budget indicates a definite need for additional revenue. NS requested that future versions of the budgets to be adjusted so that capital expenses/income be separated out.
- b. Discussion of doing one rate change as soon as possible with a changed rate structure for residential users. Commercial and public users need further work to finalize an appropriate rate structure.
- c. Discussion of remaining Glover payment for waste water. JBC motioned to bill Glover the outstanding balance for 2015 based on the correct amount calculated from contract, RL seconded. Unanimous approval.

G. **New Business**

1. Water/Electric Debt - CNB

- a. NS motioned to pass the resolution for Water Department Borrowing and to execute the Water Department Note with Community National Bank (10 year note, \$115,000 at 2.5% interest) and the Water Department Non-Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate, RL seconded. Unanimous approval.
- b. NS motioned to pass the resolution for the Electric Company Deficit Borrowing and to execute the Electric Department Deficit Note with Community National Bank (1 year note, not to exceed \$600,000 at 1% interest) and the Electric Company Non-Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate, RL seconded. Unanimous approval.

2. Safe Street Collaborative

- a. JBC motioned that the Trustees approve Barton Village Inc participation in the Safe Street Collaborative with Northeastern Vermont Development Association and LocalMotion, NS seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. NEMRC change over

- a. David Ormiston provided an update about the transition to NEMRC. Transition is taking longer than expected with the technical assistance consultation using up most of the budget for all the NEMRC software and transition. NEMRC is offering to waive the cost of all the software modules and allow those dollar amounts be used to pay for the technical assistance consultation.
- b. NS motioned to accept NEMRC's offer of free software modules with those budgeted amounts to be used for technical assistance consultation, RL seconded. Unanimous approval.

4. Electric Job Posting Update

- a. David Ormiston provided an update about the hiring process. Most experienced candidate did not log hours in a way that would meet Vermont requirements. Essentially no candidate can meet the 1st Class Lineman requirements. David and Mac will conduct 4 interviews. Discussion of possibly reposting to secure candidates with more experience.
- b. No action taken at this time

5. Utility Partners Contract

- a. Jefferson Tolman presented information on quotes for service contracts and load bearing testing for the generators from Kinsley. He will secure additional quotes. Discussion of the need for load bearing testing.
- b. NS will lead contract negotiations with Utilities Partners

6. DPW Update

- a. School Street Water Project is mostly complete. Discussion of the need to repave the entirety of School Street in the spring.

H. **Other**

1. Approval of Bills, Warrants and previous Warrant signed.
 - a. JBC motioned to approve bills, warrants, and previous warrants signed; NS seconded. Unanimous approval.

I. Executive Session

1. JBC motioned to enter Executive Session with David Ormiston at 9:35 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, ongoing litigation, and strategy related to the ongoing negotiations with IBEW Local 300—the premature disclosure there of would put BVI at significant disadvantage; NS seconded. Unanimous approval. (Dave Ormiston left Executive Session at 10:35 p.m., returned at 10:57 p.m. and left again at 11:02 p.m.)
 - a. Litigation - PSB
 - b. Personnel
 - c. CBA Update
2. RL motioned to leave Executive Session at 12:26 a.m. (December 15, 2015), JBC seconded.
 - a. No action taken

Motion to Adjourn

RL motioned to adjourn at 12:27 a.m. (December 15, 2015), JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.

Date of Next Trustees Meeting: December 28, 2015

Submitted by Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin | Board Clerk

Attested by



Shelia Martin | Village Clerk