

BARTON VILLAGE INC.
MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES
MINUTES
November 12, 2019 6 PM

PRESENT: Nate Sicard, Cathy Swain, Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin, Kate Kran, Jefferson Tolman (Utility Partners)

Call to Order: Called to order by NS at 6:02 p.m.

- A. Changes to Agenda / Additions or Deletions
 - a. None
- B. Meeting Minutes October 28th, 2019 Minutes & Special Meeting Minutes on October 31st, 2019
 - a. JBC motioned to approve October 28th, 2019 minutes and the October 31st, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes, CS seconded. Unanimous approval.
- C. Privilege of the Floor
 - a. None
- D. Old Business
 - a. Request for Sewer Tax Exemption
 - i. Discussion of the request for sewer tax exemption on 170 Sunrise Ave
 - ii. NS indicated that the request came from a relative and that he would recuse himself
 - iii. Trustees discussed that in previous meetings, the bond attorney for the Village has indicated that water and sewer bonds should be considered general obligation bonds and applied to all parcels. This is what is done in most municipalities, including nearby municipalities. Trustees further discussed that the practice in the past has been to only assess taxes related to these bonds on properties with connections to the water and/or sewer service. This year as a step towards more equitably applying these general obligation bonds, all parcels with access to the services would be assessed (even if the property owner has chosen to not connect to the system(s)).
 - iv. Trustees discussed that the parcel has had the ability to connect to the sewer lines since 2012 and hence why there was a sewer assessment this year.
 - v. Trustees further discussed that there should be no water tax assessment.
 - vi. Given this, JBC motioned to not approve request for sewer tax exemption for 170 Sunrise Ave, CS seconded. 2-Yays, 0-Nays, 1-Abstain
- E. New Business
 - a. None
- F. Other
 - a. Approval of Bills, Warrants, and previous Warrants signed.
 - i. JBC motioned to approve bills, warrants, and previous warrants signed, CS seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - ii. October Budget vs Actual

1. Kate will provide these documents later in the week
- b. Trustee Mail
 - i. Opioid Litigation Letter – AG’s Office
 1. CS motioned to not “opt-out” of opioid litigation, JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.
 2. JBC will follow up with AG’s Office to confirm that Villages have been included in the list of municipalities.
- c. Office / Facilities
 - i. Fuel Purchasing
 1. CS motioned to approve Andy’s recommendations for accepting the following bids:
 - a. Heating Fuel – Butlers
 - b. Off Road Diesel—Butlers
 - c. Gasoline—Butlers
 - d. Propane—Fred’s
 - ii. Revised 2019 Interdepartmental Rent Agreements
 1. Discussion that the executed 2019 rental agreements erroneously used the 2018 rental amounts and not the amounts used in the 2019 budgets.
 2. CS motioned to approve the revised 2019 interdepartmental rental agreements which supersede the previously approved 2019 rental agreements, JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.
 3. Revisions:
 - a. Village & Wastewater – changed from “\$1,430” to “\$2,100”
 - b. Village & Electric – changed from “\$15,808” to “\$21,200” for 17 Village Square
 - c. Village & Electric – changed from “\$24,024” to “\$29,750” for 107 Municipal Lane
 - d. Village & Water – changed from “\$1,430” to “\$2,100”
 - iii. Staff Health Insurance
 1. Reviewed healthcare proposal presented by Kate for non-bargaining unit employees.
 2. Kate shared that the associated health plans through BRS were no longer available and that even using the comparable health plan off Health Connect, there would be a 30% jump in premiums. Kate presented a proposal that maintained similar coverage provided under BRS (Blue Rewards Gold CDHP) paired with an HSA that would have employee exposure similar to bargaining unit employees.
 3. The proposal would cost approximately \$24,651.91 to BVI
 4. CS motioned to approve the recommended healthcare proposal, JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - iv. Review 5-year draft strategic plan for highway operations

1. JBC requested a word version to make some edits. Suggested the concepts were mainly good, but the organization of the document might be improved. JBC would make suggestions once a word version is received
 - v. Electric Department Operations
 1. NS reported that the scheduled operations meeting with VEC didn't occur and he was working with VEC operations team to find a new meeting time
 2. NS provided an update that the VEC CFO is working on assisting with an asset evaluation
 - vi. Water / Sewer Operations
 1. Given the possible impact on staff and/or contracts this discussion was moved to Executive Session.\
 - vii. Highway
 1. Highway Plowing agreement
 - a. Received a signed copy of highway plowing agreement from the State of Vermont
 2. Budget Change Form
 - a. JBC motioned to approve and execute the highway budget change form based on previous discussions, CS seconded. Unanimous approval.
- G. Executive Session:
- a. CS motioned to enter Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. with Jefferson Tolman to discuss water/sewer operations that would have possible impact on personnel and implications for contract negotiations where the premature disclosure of information would put the Village at significant disadvantage, JBC seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - b. Jefferson Tolman left at 8:42 p.m.
 - c. JBC motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:44 p.m., CS seconded. Unanimous approval.
- H. Adjourn: JBC motioned to adjourn at 9:23 p.m., CS seconded. Unanimous approval.

Date of Next Meetings: November 25th, 2019

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

Attested by Shelia Martin | Village Clerk