

VILLAGE OF BARTON ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2020

In accordance with the foregoing notice, the legal voters of the Village of Barton, Vermont convened at the time and location specified in the warning. Moderator Patricia Bermon called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Article 1. Elect a Moderator for one year.

Patricia Bermon was nominated for the office of Moderator. A motion was made by Dolores Chamberlain and seconded by Paul Sicard. The motion carried and Patricia Bermon was elected Moderator for ensuing year.

Shelia R. Martin was nominated for the office of Clerk. A motion was made by Lawrence Burdick and seconded by Kristin Atwood that nominations cease and that the Moderator be instructed to cast one ballot for Shelia R. Martin for the office of Clerk. The motion carried, the Moderator so did and Shelia R. Martin was elected Clerk for the ensuing year.

Article 2. Elect a Clerk for one year.

Shelia Martin was nominated for the office of Clerk. A motion was made by Nathan Sicard and seconded by Paul Sicard. The motion carried and Shelia Martin was elected Clerk for the ensuing year.

Article 3: Elect a Trustee for three years.

Nathan Sicard was nominated for the office of Trustee. A motion was made by Cathy Swain and seconded by Susan Penharlow. The motion carried and Nathan Sicard was elected Trustee for a 3-year term.

Article 4: Elect the following officers for one year.
Treasurer, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Shelia Martin was nominated for the offices of Treasurer and Collector of Delinquent Taxes. A motion was made by Dolores Chamberlain and seconded by Paul Sicard. The motion carried and Shelia Martin was elected Treasurer and Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Article 5: Shall the Village NOT elect a Chief Engineer, First Assistant Engineer, and Second Assistant Engineer for a Fire Department as long as Orleans Fire Department provides the service to Barton Village.

Susan Penharlow made a motion to not elect a Fire Department Chief Engineer, First Assistant Engineer, and Second Assistant Engineer as long as Orleans Fire Department provides the service to Barton Village. Dolores Chamberlain seconded the motion.

Discussion: Delores Chamberlain asked how long the article had to be carried for. Nathan Sicard advised that the charter says what is elected for positions and that the Village Charter would need to change. The discussion ended and the motion carried.

Article 6: Shall the Village compensate the following elected officials for 2020. These funds will be raised through operating budgets from the Village departments as allowed:

Trustee - \$1260, Clerk - \$210, Treasurer – 1% of taxes collected, Delinquent Tax Collector – 8% of Taxes Collected.

Paul Sicard made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Dolores Chamberlain seconded. The motion carried.

Article 7: Shall the Village raise \$61,200 through taxes upon the grand list for the funds requested in the 2020 Annual Village Budget for the ensuing year and direct the Trustees to assess a tax on the grand list sufficient to meet the same.

Dolores Chamberlain made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Paul Sicard seconded.

Discussion: Dolores Chamberlain asked about the \$1,200.00 increase. Nathan Sicard stated it was general inflation. There was further discussion about the restricted cash on page 24 of the annual report. The figures were explained.

Discussion ended and the motion passed.

Article 8: Shall the Village raise \$331,500 through taxes upon the grand list for the funds requested in the 2020 Annual Highway Budget for the ensuing year and direct the Trustees to assess a tax on the grand list sufficient to meet the same.

Nathan Sicard made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Leonidas Zenonos seconded.

Discussion: There was a question about the \$6,500.00 increase. Nathan Sicard stated the increase is about 1% due to the consumer price index. Justin Barton-Caplin stated staff are also union and the contract dictates increases.

Dolores Chamberlain asked about the Capital Reserve Account increase from \$27,000.00 to \$91,800.00. Nathan Sicard explained that the money is allocated for paving programs.

Marjorie Brown asked how many miles of pavement are in Barton Village and Nathan Sicard advised there are over 8 miles of pavement.

Nathan Sicard advised that VT Transportation will continue to plow and the Village is working on a strategic plan with VT Transportation for long-term

planning. Nathan Sicard advised the Highway Department is going to work with Class 3 Roads in residential areas to work on reconstruction and resurfacing. The hopes are for West Street and hopefully High Street this summer.

Nathan Sicard advised there will be an ad in the Chronicle this week to hire 2 part-time seasonal workers for maintenance, ditching, potholes, etc.

Paul Sicard asked how much the Village is still receiving in State Aid since the state took over plowing the state highways. Nathan Sicard advised there has been no change at this point as the Village continues to invest the money back into the state highway, crosswalks, street sweeping, pothole patching, etc. Discussion ended and the motion passed.

Article 9: Shall the Village raise \$62,500 through taxes and user fees for water department capital debt retirement and water capital reserve funds, such funds to be used for major repairs, replacement and upgrades to the structural components of the Village water system.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Dolores Chamberlain seconded.

Discussion: Nathan Sicard spoke about the operating budget and the capital budget and why the Trustees were asking for less. Dolores Chamberlain asked about labor expenses and Nathan Sicard advised that the labor is shared with the Electric Department and they are also hoping to hire 2 part-time seasonal employees to help with work for all departments.

Dolores Chamberlain asked about uncollected accounts and abatement, which was explained and noted that the Trustees are also turning over accounts to the Delinquent Tax Collector for collection; the system has been working well.

Susan Penharlow asked about the outcome of past drilling for water wells. The Trustees explained the outcomes. There was further discussion about what would be a good resolution. Nathan Sicard advised the Trustees are working on it. Justin Barton-Caplin advised there are a lot of moving parts and staffing issues.

Leonidas Zenonos advised that Andy Sicard has been very responsive and is doing a remarkable job.

Discussion ended and the motion passed.

Article 10: Shall the Village raise \$53,900 through taxes and user fees for wastewater department capital debt retirement and wastewater capital reserve funds, such funds to be used for major replacements and upgrades to the structural components of the Village Wastewater System.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to accept the article as proposed and Susan Penharlow seconded.

Discussion: There was discussion about the budget and about the West Street sewer line issue being an important project and paying off debt.

Discussion ended and the motion carried.

Article 11: Shall the Village appropriate the sum of \$5,000 in funds to be used as matching funds for grant applications that demonstrate direct benefit to the Village of Barton community and/or its residents with requirements for said appropriation to be a report of income and expense and instruct the Trustees to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same.

Susan Penharlow made a motion to accept the article as proposed and Dolores Chamberlain seconded. The motion passed.

Article 12: Shall the Village collect its taxes due and payable within 60 days without discount, interest to accrue on delinquent taxes at the maximum rate allowed by law, an 8% penalty assessed on all delinquent taxes, and postmarks not acceptable as payment dates?

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to accept the article as proposed and Marjorie Brown seconded. The motion passed.

Article 13: Shall the Village authorize the Board of Trustees to spend an amount not to exceed 3 1/12th of the 2020 annual budget article adopted at the 2020 annual meeting during the period from January 1, 2021 until the annual village meeting held in March 2021.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Dolores Chamberlain seconded. The motion carried.

Article 14: To act on any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to accept the article as proposed and Dolores Chamberlain seconded.

Discussion: Dolores Chamberlain asked about the LIHI and Transco entries. Nathan Sicard explained what the numbers were and how they were figured.

Nathan Sicard also advised there have been articles in the local paper about the Electric Department. Nathan Sicard advised the update from VEC & VPPSA was that VEC is putting an evaluation together after doing a field operation for the past 9 – 12 months and it is believed that VEC would like to increase their role in providing services. Nathan Sicard advised that in the next couple months he expects to hear more about the long-term plans. He stated if anyone had questions to feel free to contact the Trustees. The Electric Department cannot be sold unless Barton Village approves it and the Charter is changed.

Nathan Sicard stated the Trustees are expecting a surplus of \$13,900, which isn't a lot, but it is a surplus.

Paul Sicard thanked the Trustees and stated the books look great and the electric and highway department look good.

Justin Barton-Caplin spoke about the COVID-19 virus and stated they are working with staff for back up plans. He stated there is increased cleaning and disinfecting going on and currently it is a low-risk situation. He advised of the ways to communicate with the Village office and the options of paying bills without coming into the office.

Article 15: To Adjourn.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion to Adjourn; Dolores Chamberlain seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Shelia Martin
Village Clerk

Acceptance of aforewritten minutes by the Trustees:

Nathan Sicard

Cathy Swain

Justin Barton-Caplin

Acceptance of the aforewritten minutes by the Moderator:

Patricia Bermon