

**Barton Village, Inc.**  
**Regular Trustees Meeting**

**DRAFT**

Monday, July 24, 2023

6:00 pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair) Marilyn Prue, Ellis Merchant, Crystal Currier, Nate Sicard, Lenny Zenno, Tim Dagesse (WasteWater Operator) Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk) NEKO staff-(EL Stone, Meghan Wayland), Ken Nolan VPPSA, Mr. Dopp (Glover Street)

**Agenda**

- A. **Call to Order** - Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6PM.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** - Add additional executive session related to personnel to the end of the agenda.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** Tim Dagesse inquired about why the Village truck was being removed from his use and moved to the Electric department. Crystal noted that there was a need in the electric department and that the truck was not being taken away; rather, the intent was for staff to share the vehicle. There is a question regarding who purchased the truck and Nate Sicard noted that the intent was for WW and not Electric. The minutes do not reflect that it was 100% meant for Wastewater use. Lenny asked why the truck was taken from Tim and the Trustees indicated that they were trying to use the truck for other departments and hope to come up with solutions that will work for all Barton Village departments. It was reiterated that no one was trying to “take the truck away” from the wastewater department; rather, trying to use the village assets to their fullest potential where needed. Nate Sicard noted that it is not wise to have Tim use his personal vehicle given the environment he works in daily. Tim noted that he is not just at the WW treatment plant but needed in a variety of situations that he cannot foresee or have control over from day to day. The Trustees will table this discussion for a future meeting but noted that they will try to accommodate the needs of the wastewater department along with all other Village departments.  
**NEKO** requested assistance with Dumpsters from the Town and Village. I (Jacqueline Laurion) updated NEKO that Kristin Atwood of Barton Town recently updated me that the Town will take on the responsibility of the dumpsters and I will assist with the communication out to the Barton community. A question was raised about getting electric service turned back on for homes on Glover Street. Crystal indicated that a private homeowner can request the power be restored; however, a rental property or a commercial property is under State jurisdiction and the landlord or home-owner would need to have the dwelling certified by an electrician before services could be turned back on.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **VPPSA Operational Contract** - Ken Nolan of VPPSA was present and discussed the current contract with VPPSA that also includes Orleans, Lyndonville & Northline that provides operational services to Barton Electric. A few weeks back Northline provided a 90 day notice to terminate their contract with VPPSA. Orleans Electric has offered to provide contract services assisting Barton Electric. Line crews would be hired, a line truck would be purchased and there would be savings to the Village on the annual cost of around \$50,000. All operational activities would be handled by Orleans Electric. Orleans would hire a 3-man crew, one being an apprentice dedicated to Barton Electric and they would assume the day-to-day operations. VPPSA is proposing a 5-yr contract between Barton Village Electric and VPPSA and VPPSA will contract with Orleans Electric or another entity as it deems necessary. Barton Village would still have ownership of the electric department. Marilyn Prue decided to abstain from voting since she is an employee of Orleans Village. Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the new contract as presented by VPPSA with the intent that Orleans Electric will be the contracted vendor under the VPPSA contract for a 5-year term. Ellis 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.
- E. **Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting July 6, 2023** - Motion made by Gina Lyon to accept the minutes as presented and 2nd by Marilyn Prue. The motion was approved.
- F. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting July 10, 2023** - Motion made by Marilyn Prue to accept as presented and 2nd by Ellis Merchant. The motion was approved.
- G. **Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting July 17, 2023** - These minutes were not available; therefore, this agenda item will be tabled until the next meeting.
- H. **Financial Reports for period ending June 30, 2023** – The Wastewater Department is currently experiencing a large deficit of funds coming in vs funds going; therefore, a close review of the wastewater rates for the CY 2024 budget will be needed. A discussion regarding department staffing and hours worked in the WasteWater department will be reviewed in an effort to bring costs down. Ellis Merchant made a motion to approve the finance reports for the period ending June 30th 2023. Gina Lyon 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.
- I. **Letters to the Board** – Various Requests -1) A request came in from a Barton Village resident located on Park Street for an abatement of wastewater charges. The usage increased dramatically due to an open water pipe and water was running freely. Marilyn Prue stated an anonymous person has offered to pay this bill for this resident on Park Street. 2) Barton United Church is asking for an abatement of wastewater charges due to the flooding and its clean-up efforts. This request will be tabled until more detail comes out with what FEMA is covering and what the actual water usage was for the month. 3) A customer who installed a new Electric Service at 2000 Cooks Road, Westmore contacted the Chair to file a complaint regarding the overall cost of the line extension. Barton’s line extension policy does indicate that the customer

will receive an “estimate” and that the costs are trued-up once the work is completed and it is Barton’s policy that the service meter is not installed until the cost of the work has been paid in full. The remaining balance being disputed by the resident is \$11,084.00 A proposed solution made by the Trustees was to pay ½ of the bill now and then payments can be made for the balance due and that both would be interest free. This proposal also included the ability for him to receive a meter provided he stays current on both his service meter and the payments on the outstanding service installation. Marilyn Prue made a motion to submit this proposal to the resident and Ellis 2nd the motion. The motion was approved. 4) The Vermont Trapper’s Association submitted a request for a waiver to discharge firearms for their annual event on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24th. Marilyn Prue made a motion to allow a waiver to all allow the discharge of firearms on 9/23/2023 -9/24/2023 and Gina Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- J. **Personnel Policy** - Crystal submitted the updated the personal policy and noted the only change since the last version was the inclusion of the following language per the Board’s request: *Holidays: Added language: “Any employee who is absent from work due to illness on the day preceding or following a holiday shall forfeit being paid for that holiday unless the employee’s illness is certified by a doctor’s certificate, if required by the immediate supervisor”*. Ellis Merchant made a motion to accept this the personal policy as presented and Gina Lyon 2nd the motion to be effective 7/24/2023. The motion was approved.
- K. **Rental Agreements:** Space and Location allocations based on departments. A question was posed by Marilyn Prue why the departments were allocated as they are. The proposed re-allocation for consideration is listed below. While the pilot won’t change the rental fees will change based on the new methodology and the actual space that is being used by each department. The proposed rental agreements result in the highway department seeing the biggest impact whereas the Electric would receive the largest reduction. Marilyn Prue questioned how this change will affect the Highway and Electric departments for the calendar year and should this be held off until 2024. After some discussion of departmental impact Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the inter-departmental rent agreements and the pilot agreement as presented for the 2023 year. Ellis 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.

|                       | 2022         |                |             |             |               |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|                       | Highway      | Electric       | Water       | Sewer       | TOTAL         |
| BMB Office/Garage     | \$ 2,235.00  | \$ 21,540.00   | \$ 2,134.00 | \$ 2,134.00 | \$ 28,043.00  |
| Municipal Garage/Land | \$ 2,540.00  | \$ 30,226.00   | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 32,766.00  |
| High Street           | \$ 305.00    | \$ 1,585.00    | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 1,890.00   |
|                       | \$ 5,080.00  | \$ 53,351.00   | \$ 2,134.00 | \$ 2,134.00 | \$ 62,699.00  |
|                       |              |                |             |             |               |
|                       | 2023         |                |             |             |               |
|                       | Highway      | Electric       | Water       | Sewer       | TOTAL         |
| BMB Office/Garage     | \$ 948.00    | \$ 9,516.00    | \$ 1,512.00 | \$ 1,464.00 | \$ 13,440.00  |
| Municipal Garage/Land | \$ 20,664.00 | \$ 20,664.00   | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 41,328.00  |
| High Street           | \$ -         | \$ -           | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -          |
|                       | \$ 21,612.00 | \$ 30,180.00   | \$ 1,512.00 | \$ 1,464.00 | \$ 54,768.00  |
|                       |              |                |             |             |               |
| 2023 vs 2022 Change   | \$ 16,532.00 | \$ (23,171.00) | \$ (622.00) | \$ (670.00) | \$ (7,931.00) |

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- L. Pageant Park - Discussion regarding # of tents allowed at the park. Park map indicates only 3 tent sites are to be reserved. Seems more than three tents are being allowed at the park impending on the public use area. Crystal will review with Emily and Park Caretakers. It is important to keep the park grass and green areas open for picnics, family use and recreation (Volleyball & Horseshoes).
- M. VPPSA Membership - The letter from Ken Nolan, General Manager of VPPSA was for informational purposes, unless the Board disagreed with VPPSA’s interpretation of Barton’s membership. The Board does not disagree; therefore, no action was taken.
- N. Management/Staff Report - brief review no action taken.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- O. Other Business - Gina Lyon received a thank you note from the Royers for the coin drop. It was very successful for the Senior Meals center.  
  
Gina Lyon also noted that on behalf of the Barton Village Trustees she wrote a letter of support for a Downtown and Center tax credit for C & L Upholstery  
  
Jacqueline Laurion will work with Kristin at the Barton Town offices on flood debris removal.

**P. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

Gina Lyon made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the Village's discussions with a specific hired consultant would place the Village in a position to suffer a substantial disadvantage because it would expose sensitive information regarding the contract work that may result in future litigation that the Village may be a party to. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Gina Lyon made a motion to enter executive session at 8:27 p.m for two purposes: 1) to discuss contract work that may result in future litigation that the Village may be a party to, as allowed under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1)(E) of the Vermont Statutes and 2) to discuss personnel matters as allowed under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(3) and/or (a) (4) of the Vermont Statutes. The motion was seconded by Ellis Merchant and the motion was approved.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:00 p.m. and no action was taken.

Q. Adjourn: Gina Lyon motioned to adjourn at 10:01pm with unanimous approval.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Special Board Meeting: July 31, 2023**

**Regular Board Meeting: August 14, 2023**