

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

Monday, October 23, 2023

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express), and David Billado

**Agenda**

- A. **Call to Order** – Marilyn Prue called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – Lien added and named Action Item G1.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting October 9, 2023** – After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.
- E. **Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting October 18, 2023** – After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.
- F. **Financial Reports for period ending September 30, 2023** – See Agenda backup online for full financial reporting. It was noted by Marilyn Prue that the electric department was doing particularly well, partly because of customer prepayments (new service and broadband applications). After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to accept the financial reports for the period ending 09/30/2023 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.
- G. **2023-2024 Interlocal Winter Maintenance Agreement** – The Interlocal Winter Maintenance Agreement between Barton Village and the Town of Barton is ready for signature. Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.
  - 1. **Lien** – 111 Prospect Street in Barton Village is reportedly for sale. The overdue electric and water/sewer balances (\$1,805.33 and \$309.54, respectively) were previously turned over to Treasurer Shelia Martin for collections, which is why it was not liened before. Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the lien as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- H. **Softball Field Usage Liability** – Concern has been expressed that unattended children playing at the softball field behind Kinney Drugs may injure themselves and open the Village to potential liability. Vera LaPorte noted that she had submitted a question regarding liability to VLCT but had not yet received an answer. There was discussion regarding possible “own risk” signage or

the creation of a parks and rec user policy. Discussion will resume pending the answer from VLCT.

- I. **Wastewater Operations Update** – The State is satisfied with Vera LaPorte’s response to the Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) received by the Village. A progress meeting with the State and engineering firm (Aldrich & Elliott) is scheduled for 10/30/2023 to discuss the preliminary engineering report required for WWTF infrastructure upgrades. Ellis Merchant enquired about the status of the daily testing. Vera LaPorte reported that all testing is being performed as required and that Jeremiah Borsoi (WWTF) is doing an excellent job.
- J. **Winter Maintenance Update** – The VTrans Agreement and Interlocal Agreement are approved for the 2023-2024 season.
- K. **Salt/Sand Shed Update** – Work on the temporary salt/sand shed was paused due to rain and was originally on target to be completed by 10/27/2023. Completion has been further delayed due to the State’s presence in the Village to assist with removal of flood debris (see below).
- L. **Flood Updates** – Vera LaPorte, Andy Sicard (DPW) and Jeremiah Borsoi have been working with the State since August to schedule vactoring and jetting of manholes and wastewater lines within the Village. The State and their vendor will finally be performing this work 10/24/2023-10/27/2023. Areas affected will be Lincoln Avenue, Church Street, Elm Street and Glover Road. The Village website will be updated to reflect areas affected as they are identified.
- M. **Management/Staff Report** – A running list of closed and updated items can be located on the Village website 10/23/2023 agenda. Ditching has been completed on Duck Pond and paving on Eastern/16 has commenced. Paving on Duck Pond is to begin this week. Ellis Merchant enquired about the status of purchasing a new truck for the Village. A truck has not yet been found that satisfies the Village’s needs.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- N. **Other Business** – Ellis Merchant provided an update on the new electric line extension on Kinsey Road and reported that despite a few initial hiccups it is progressing well.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- O. **Executive Session** - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E)
- P. **Executive Session** - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)

Marilyn Prue made a motion to enter executive session at 6:25pm for the purpose of discussing potential litigation as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) and to further discuss personnel as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:00pm.

Ellis Merchant made a motion to accept the proposal presented by Absolute Spill Response, LLC for testing of materials ahead of disposal in the amount of \$3,960.00. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved.

No action was taken related to the personnel discussion allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3).

Q. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: November 13, 2023**

**Regular Board Meeting: November 27, 2023**