

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon, (chair) Marilyn Prue, Ellis Merchant, Vera LaPorte (Village Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), David Billado

Agenda

- A. Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:06pm
- B. Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** *Addition* for discussion; Letter of support for Barton Library, and after-hours answering service options. *Deletion* of item I as Water Treatment Manager Lucus DiMaurio could not make the meeting.
- C. Privilege of the Floor: None**

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting February 26, 2024** – Gina Lyon made a motion to approve and seconded by Marilyn Prue. Accepted as presented. The motion carried.
- E. Bills and Warrants** – Reviewed. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve and Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. 2024 Electric Department Budget** - There was an error in the 2023 Actuals Column of the Electric Department Budget as it was presented in the 2023 Annual Report. A correction has been issued. Gina Lyon a motion to approve the corrected Electric Department Budget for inclusion in the 2023 Annual Report. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. The motion carried
- G. Property Lien for Electric/Water/Sewer:** The owner of 76 Water Street has passed, and left behind unpaid Electric and Water Bills. Gina Lyon made a motion to place a lien on 76 Water Street in Barton for unpaid Electric/water/sewer balance that total \$1,254.75. Marilyn Prue seconded it. Motion passed.
- H. Green Mountain Farm-to-School Lunchbox Program:** Green Mountain Farm-to-School has requested use of the Barton Public Library’s parking lot to distribute nutritious, locally sourced meals to the community through their summer Lunchbox Program. The BOT has historically approved this request. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve Green Mountain Farm-to-School request to use the Barton Public Library’s parking lot for their summer Lunchbox Program. Ellis Merchant second the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- I. Water Operations Update:** [**CANCELLED**] Chief Water Operator/Manager Lucas DiMaurio has provided the board with an update of ongoing operations at the water plant.
- J. Wastewater Operations Update | Flood Update - None**

- K. Salt/Sand Shed Update** - As the board is aware, due to various delays the cost of the salt/sand shed is significantly higher than originally proposed. The Village was granted funds from USDA based on the original cost and subsequent application for funding

Due to the increases, the Village submitted a second application with USDA for the cost over-run in December.

Vera heard from USDA on the application status and unfortunately their funding is significantly less than it has been in the past so funding is limited. The village asked for an additional \$139K and USDA is willing to provide \$75K. Vera informed them to move forward with the grant with whatever level they can provide. They did indicate that it may be in a position to offer slightly more once they have more concrete information on their funding sources, but the village should not count on anything more than \$75K. A summary of the cost estimates and the funding we expected is below.

	Original	Overrun	Total	Proposed	Variance
Village	31,077	46,423	77,500	141,769	64,269
USDA	93,231	139,269	232,500	168,231	(64,269)
Total	124,308	185,692	310,000	310,000	0

This is a bit of a setback as the amount in the CY2024 budget assumed the Village would receive 75% Federal funding from both applications.

This leaves the project in a shortfall of approximately \$64K that the village will need to fund (in addition to what was budgeted).

However, this assumes the project costs are realized at the full estimated cost.

- L. Management/Staff Report:** Of Note: 1) NEK'D Plumbing is scheduled to begin work on the hall bathroom 3/25/2024 2) Damage to Duck Pond Road from 12/18/2023 storm will be addressed in new FEMA disaster 4762DF-VT
- M. Barton Library:** Gina Lyon wrote a letter of support from the Trustees in support for a grant the Library is applying for to renovate the lower part of the Library for more space to continue their community offerings.
- N. After hours answering service options:** The Trustees would like to review options of other answering service providers for the Village. Vera LaPorte will gather some options for the Trustees to review at a future meeting and a decision will be made after that point.

OTHER ITEMS:

- O. Other Business:** Ellis Merchant inquired about the School caution lighted sign, and Vera LaPorte will have all the information for the board to review at the next scheduled meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- P. Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – N/A
- Q. **Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)** – Gina Lyon made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 7:35pm. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action was taken.

- R. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Upcoming Meetings:

Annual Village Meeting: March 12, 2024

Regular Board Meeting: March 25, 2024

Regular board Meeting: April 8, 2024