

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

Monday, April 8, 2024

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager)

**Agenda**

- A. **Call to Order** – Marilyn Prue called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – Vera LaPorte added Water/Sewer Rates to Action Items, labeled G1.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting March 25, 2024** – After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting March 25, 2024. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.
  - E. **Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting March 29, 2024** – After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting March 29, 2024. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.
  - F. **Bills and Warrants** – After review, Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the Bills and Warrants as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.
  - G. **Wastewater Deficit/Short-Term Loan** – After discussion, Ellis Merchant made a motion to approve the transfer of \$200,000 from the Village reserve to the Wastewater department. This transfer shall be considered a short-term loan, not to exceed a period of one year. The Wastewater department shall pay the Village reserve interest quarterly on the loan in the amount of 3.5% for the period the amount remains outstanding and unpaid to the Village. Marilyn Prue seconded. The motion carried.
- G1. Water/Sewer Rates** – Vera LaPorte informed the Board that while changing the water and sewer rates was at the Board’s discretion, the Village’s Water Ordinance outlined a specific process to do so (not so for Wastewater). The Board must warn and hold an informational meeting, and then meet to vote on the new water rates. After discussion, Marilyn Prue made a motion to direct Vera LaPorte to warn the informational meeting for 04/22/2024 (before the Regular Trustees Meeting), include a letter with the 04/13/2024 water/sewer bills warning the meeting, and advertising the meeting in the Barton Chronicle. The Board would then vote on

the water rates during the Regular Trustees Meeting directly after. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- H. Department Operations Updates** – Vera LaPorte updated the Board with ongoing department activities (in an effort to streamline the information presented, the following will be moved to Management/Staff Report as part of the ongoing list of items):

**Electric Department** – Winter disconnection rules are no longer in effect and disconnections will resume 04/23/2024, with a total of \$82,256.37 past due and collectible. Outages during the last storm were relatively brief and mainly due to trees on the lines, which is improving as we gain on tree trimming.

**Wastewater Department** – New rates for wastewater will be implemented with the 04/13/2024 billing (\$44.23 base and \$8.33/1000 gallons – notice to customers was sent 03/13/2024). Disconnection procedure has been finalized and disconnections will begin with the new billing cycle.

**Water Department** – Water Manager Lucas DiMauro is seeking an additional estimate for the rehabilitation of the carbon filters at the water plant. New water rates will be implemented with the 05/13/2024 billing following the informational meeting and Board vote (proposed increase to \$26.93 base and \$6.53/1000 gallons). Disconnection procedure will be the same as wastewater (as dictated by the Water Ordinance).

- I. Salt/Sand Shed Update** – USDA funding for the salt/sand shed will not be as much as anticipated. The Board approached the Town regarding possible funding through their Miscellaneous Grants Fund at their Regular Selectboard Meeting on 04/01/2024, but have not had a response. Vera LaPorte and Crystal Currier are exploring additional options.
- J. Management/Staff Report** – See ongoing list of items in the Board packet at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- K. Other Business** – Ellis Merchant advised the Board that he confirmed the drop-off/pick-up and parking areas with Barton Academy & Graded School and that the caution sign project can proceed. Vera LaPorte will work with DPW Foreman Andy Sicard to identify the proper placement for the signs and the cost of installation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- L. Executive Session** - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – None.
- M. Executive Session** - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) – None.
- N. Adjourn** – Marilyn Prue made a motion to adjourn. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: April 22, 2024**

**Second Annual Meeting: April 30, 2024**

**Regular Board Meeting: May 13, 2024**

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**Regina Lyon, Board of Trustees Chair**