

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), Mike Mainer (Aldrich & Elliott), Crystal Currier (VPPSA), Nate Therrien (Wastewater Operations Manager), Denis Fortin (Hydro Plant Manager)

Agenda

Please go to <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/> for full agenda with complete details.

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions;** Gina Lyon requested to add an item under discussion pertaining to her attendance at the Barton Town Select Board meeting; Marilyn Prue requested to add an item under discussion regarding the move of TD bank from the Village. Vera LaPorte requested to add Mike Mainer of Aldrich & Elliotts presentation under Discussion Items.

- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** None

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting April 8, 2024 :** Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented and Marilyn Prue 2nd the motion: Motion passed.

- E. **Bills and Warrants:** Gina Lyon made a motion to review and approve by the end of the meeting. Marilyn Prue 2nd motion. The motion passed.

- F. **Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP):** The Village’s Local Emergency Management Plan is ready for approval and adoption. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve and adopt the LEMP as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion passed.

- G. **BVI Hydro Project - Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Application:** A detailed and comprehensive proposal has been presented to the Trustees from DuBois & King, Inc. regarding the Hydro Plant and the greatly needed improvements/repairs to the Hydro plant. If the repairs are deferred again, the Hydro plant will have to be shut down due to it being in such disrepair. This is now a major safety issue. There is an opportunity for a grant given the cost of the repairs being close to 4 million. If awarded the grant would give the Village up to 1 million in grant funding. The repairs won’t be done until June of 2025 for various reasons not controlled by the Village. In order to move the NBRC application and this project forward, Crystal Currier is requesting the following from the Board:

- 1) Authorization for submission of Barton's application in the NBRC's Catalyst Program
- 2) A letter of support from the Board of Trustees in support of the project
- 3) Authorization for staff (including VPPSA staff) to move forward with obtaining quotes/terms from local financing institutions for the short-term financing used for the NBRC application process and the 108 (c) financing approval process

Gina Lyon made a motion to provide authorization and support for the NBRC's Catalyst Program Grant application and to authorize staff to move forward with the related financial efforts as needed. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- H. **Pageant Park Caretaker Agreement 2024:** Business Manager Vera LaPorte and DPW Foreman Andrew Sicard interviewed applicants for the Pageant Park Caretaker position for the 2024 season. It is their recommendation that the Board of Trustees hire Village residents Donald and Leona Farnsworth.

Gina Lyon Motion to hire Donald and Leona Farnsworth for the Pageant Park Caretaker position for the 2024 season. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion passed.

- I. **Financials for Period Ending March 31, 2024:** Crystal Currier presented the financials to the Trustees.

Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the unaudited financial reports for the period ending 03/31/2024 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion passed.

- J. **Letter of Intent – SFY25 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid:** The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) invites municipalities to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program, which provides funding for municipalities to implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).

Municipalities will submit reimbursement requests directly to AOT for work completed, and AOT will reimburse up to 80% of the municipality's documented construction expenses, including in-kind support, for BMPs on hydrologically connected roads. Barton Village has historically used this grant to fund ditching along Village roads.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Letter of Intent for participation in the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid program for CY2025. Ellis Merchant seconded it. Motion passed.

- K. **Property Lien for Electric Service:** The tenant of 99 Candle Lane in Brownington currently has a past due balance of \$7,558.58 for electric service (\$10,657.82 total account balance with next billing). This customer is on the disconnection list and has been offered several repayment plans of varying conditions, but has indicated that he would be unable to afford any of them.

We will continue to work with the customer to come to a mutually satisfactory repayment agreement, but until the balance is repaid it would be prudent to file a lien on the property to protect the utility's interests.

Gina Lyon made a motion to file a lien on 99 Candle Lane in Brownington for the past due electric balance of \$7,558.58. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- L. Department Operations Updates: Mike Mainer of Aldrich + Elliott presented a comprehensive packet of recommended upgrades and renovations to the Village Wastewater Treatment plan including the cost. Aldrich & Elliott is a full-service water resources engineering firm providing water, wastewater, and stormwater solutions to the Village of Barton.

Electric Department

- Collections update will be provided after disconnections begin (4/23/24, 4/24/24, 4/25/24, 4/30/24, 5/01/24).
- Tree trimmers continue to make headway in vegetation management.

Wastewater Department

- New rates for wastewater implemented 4/15/24.
- The wastewater treatment facility continues to operate well and all reporting deadlines are being met.

Water Department

- The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report is available on the Village website and posted in areas around the Village.
- New rates for water will be implemented with the May billing.
- The water treatment facility continues to operate well and all reporting deadlines are being met.

Highway Department

- Spring cleanup is underway and spot paving of winter damage will begin as weather permits.
- Crystal Carrier has applied for several grants to aid funding of the salt/sand shed.
- Vera LaPorte submitted the Subrecipient Certification for road damage sustained in the July 2023 flood to FEMA in the amount of \$101,982.75. Funds will be received soon but no exact date yet.

Gina Lyon went to the Town of Barton Select board meeting on 4/15/2024 to inquire about the 40K request of Grant funding to be granted to the Village of Barton. Gina was turned down since the grant is meant for non-profit organizations. Even though previous recipients had received it in the past, that were for profit.

Marilyn Prue advised the Trustees that TD Bank will be closing their doors at the Village location on July 12th.

- M. **Management/Staff Report:** See ongoing list of items in the Board packet at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

OTHER ITEMS:

- N. **Other Business:** Jacqueline Laurion brought up her concern of the increased presence of drug dealers and drug users around the Village. Talks of having a Village, Town and Orleans Village meeting with the Sherriff's Department was brought up to see what if anything can be done regarding this growing problem.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- O. **Executive Session** - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) Gina Lyon made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:18pm Marilyn seconded & motion passed. The board came out of Executive Session at 9:35pm with no action taken.
- P. **Executive Session** - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) - None
- Q. **Adjourn:** The board adjourned at 9:35pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

Second Annual Meeting: April 30, 2024

Regular Board Meeting: May 13, 2024