

**VILLAGE OF BARTON SECOND ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024**

In accordance with the foregoing notice, the legal voters of the Village of Barton, Vermont convened at the time and location specified in the warning. Moderator Jacqueline Laurion called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Jaqueline Laurion made a motion to allow Crystal Currier and Vera Laporte to speak at the meeting if there were questions, they needed to answer. Gina Lyon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Article 1:** Shall the Village raise \$358,180 through taxes upon the grand list for the funds requested in the revised 2024 Annual Highway Budget and the ensuing year, and direct the Trustees to assess a tax on the grand list sufficient to meet the same?

Regina Lyon made a motion to raise \$358,180.00 and to authorize the Trustees to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same, seconded by George Komendat.

Discussion:

Paul Sicard inquired if the meeting was warned properly as it was stated this was a Second Annual Meeting and the Notice stated this was a Special Meeting. He inquired how it was advertised and what is the legality if it wasn't warned properly.

Regina Lyon asked for clarification if Paul Sicard was asking that the meeting be adjourned, and it be re-warned? Regina advised there were two warnings, one for a hydro plant meeting, which was following the current meeting.

Jacqueline Laurion asked if voters if there was an issue on the floor with moving forward or did, they want to postpone it to a later date?

Robert Ferlazo inquired if there were two different warnings and how this meeting was warned.

Regina Lyon advised there were two warnings one for a hydro plant meeting, which was following the current meeting.

Robert Ferlazo stated if there is documentation proving the two separate meetings being warned there should be no issue.

It was determined that the meeting would continue.

Discussion on the budget:

Nathan Sicard stated this budget was more appropriate and within reason, but did not anything less would be difficult with the highway budget.

He stated he expected the 2025 budget would be higher and to think of the community members when making the budget. Maybe form a committee between the Town and Orleans Village and see if they could combine their highway departments.

Regina Lyon advised the Town residents will be paying an increased highway budget themselves already with the increase of a new garage and then an additional 800,000.00 bond that passed at the Annual Meeting in March. She stated the Trustees do communicate with the Town. The Town previously had funds available for grants but no longer has that program. Regina Lyon stated the Trustees would investigate the legality of the suggestions from Nathan Sicard.

Susan Penharlow asked for the highlights of the budget cuts.

Marilyn Prue stated the salt shed will be financed versus paying the entire amount of \$77,000.00. The paving fund was previously funded for \$55,000.00 and that has been reduced to \$17,000.00. There was also a \$5,000.00 reduction in paving this summer. The cost on a \$100,000.00 home should be approximately \$39.33.

Nathan Sicard asked if there would be another meeting for a vote on the salt shed and he was advised the Trustees are waiting to hear back from the grant they have applied for.

Ellis Merchant stated they are working on keeping the Highway Department moving forward and will review equipment and something may have to be upgraded at some time in the new future.

Paul Sicard asked about the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation and the letter sent stated it was open to negotiation.

Regina Lyon stated they have had discussions but there are a lot of upgrades that need to happen, and the estimated cost of paving is 1.2 million dollars and that doesn't include storm water drainage, sidewalks and other items that would need to be upgraded.

Paul and Nathan Sicard stated there are grants and the Trustees should investigate this.

Ellis Merchant advised if there were grants available, they would be applying for these grants.

Paul Sicard asked questions about the electric department and funds, which were answered by the Trustees but were off topic at this meeting.

There was also some discussion about the Glover wastewater funding.

Stephanie Bickford made a motion for the discussion to end and to vote on the article. Jacqueline Laurion asked if the voters wanted a paper ballot or voice vote. Leonidas Zenonos stated a voice vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

Justin Barton-Caplin thanked the Trustees for all their hard work, and he stated he did the job for seven years and felt like he was always treading water. He stated a new vision of Barton Village would be great of where do we want the village in 5 to 10 years?

Ellis Merchant asked how to do this and Justin Barton-Caplin suggested contacting the Vermont Council on Rural Development may be able to help, but they need to have the Town and Orleans Village involved in the process.

**Article 2 :** Adjourn.

Regina Lyon motioned to adjourn, seconded by Justin Barton-Caplin. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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Shelia Martin  
Village Clerk

Acceptance of aforewritten minutes by the Trustees:

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Gina Lyon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn Prue

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellis Merchant

Acceptance of the aforewritten minutes by the Moderator:

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Jacqueline Laurion