

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

Monday, May 13, 2024

6:15pm

Followed the Public Meeting held for Water Rate Increases  
Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair) Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), David Billado, Chris Skowron, Adrien Helm, Oz Henchel, Bethany Ford

**Agenda**

Full agenda with additional details can be found at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** Gina Lyon wanted to add the 4/30/2024 Special 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting minutes under Action Items, and Vera LaPorte added a lien to Action Item J.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** Oz Henchel gave the Trustees an update on Senior Meals and the Barton Memorial Hall location. Oz informed the board that it is not financially viable to have both Glover and Barton Memorial Hall open for senior meal food services. Since the Glover meal site just underwent a major renovation due to the July 2023 flooding and the rental is very little per month it made sense to cease food prep at the Barton Memorial Hall. The understanding is that meals will be delivered to the Barton Memorial Hall for sit-down service. The dishes and dishwasher would still be used, but the cooking and food storage aspect of what used to be for food prep, and meals on wheel delivery service will no longer take place out of the Barton Memorial Hall. The social scene will remain in Barton Memorial Hall and that is now spear headed by Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO) The meals on wheels service will take place out of Glover and Maple Lane nursing home. This becomes effective the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. The Barton Community Giving Garden will be in Barton Memorial Hall on May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> serving hot meals to assist BASSI during the transition.

Adrien Helm from Greater Barton Arts wanted to ask the Trustees about painting an eye-catching mural on the granite wall next to TD Bank. The Trustees are concerned with the safety of the painters due to no public sidewalk being in place. Some safety considerations will have to be put in place prior to giving approval. Ms. Helm will check in with the Historical Society and the Trustees will check in with Vermont City of Leagues and Towns on the best path forward outside of the safety concerns.

Adrien Helm would also like to bring back the Electric Car charging station. Jacqueline Laurion advised why the station was removed as she sat on the former Trustee Board that made the

decision to remove it. The agreement for the electric station was that Ed Helm would maintain the service and monthly fees that pertain to the electric station. After 3 or 5 months no further payments were made to the Village per the original agreement. Over time the station fell out of use due to it being outdated with the new electric car charging requirements. DPW Foreman Andy Sicard removed the unit at the Board's request and returned it to Mr. Helm. The current Trustees will do additional research and consider viable options to bring a charging station back to Barton. More to come.

Bethany Ford inquired about enforcement of junky homes pertaining to piles of trash/junk cars in the yards. As the Village has no health officer, the Village must be informed of junky yards by residents and at that point a letter will be sent by the Board directing the owner to clean up the property. Areas of concern are Water Street and the end of Glover Street across from Kingdom Kind.

Chris Skowron inquired about the grassy area across from their home and their desire to have that area cleaned up. They volunteered to have the work done, and asked if the Village would meet them halfway and pick up the cuttings. The Trustees will do some research to see who owns that property (Village or Private resident) and get back to Ms. Skowron.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting April 22, 2024** – Ellis Merchant made a motion to approve as presented and Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.
- E. **Minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Special Meeting held on 4/30/2024** – Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.
- F. **Bills and Warrants** – Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the Bills and Warrants as presented and Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.
- G. **Water Rate Increase** – Below is the proposed water rate increase chart:

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>			
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Base Charge</b>	\$24.75	\$26.93	\$2.18
<b>Use Charge/1,000</b>	\$6.00	\$6.53	\$.53
<b>NON-RESIDENTIAL</b>			
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Base Charge</b>	\$16.00	\$17.41	\$1.41
<b>Use Charge/1,000</b>	\$16.00	\$17.41	\$1.41

Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the water rate increase as presented and Marilyn Prue seconded. The motion carried.

- H. **BASSI Coin Drop Application** – The Village has received a coin drop application from BASSI for June 29, 2024. Discussion was held around the location of the coin drop and if insurance was previously available or sent in with the current application. Vera LaPorte will speak with Andy Sicard to determine the better location for the application. This will be tabled until the points noted above are rectified. No action taken on 5/13/2024.
- I. **Financial Reports for Period Ending 04/30/2024** – The comprehensive financial report for April with additional details can be found at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the 4/30/2024 financial reports as presented and Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.

**J. Property Liens for past due Electric Service:**

The following properties have past due electric balances totaling \$8,037.73. It would be prudent to apply a lien these properties to protect the utility's interest.

Norma Angelosanto c/o Philip Angelosanto – Outstanding \$1,040.54

David Bemis – Outstanding \$417.61

Craig McCormic – Outstanding \$191.51

Jennifer Glodgett - Outstanding \$357.54

Mark Gorham – Outstanding \$2,103.50

Cynthia DeGreenia - Outstanding \$1,119.12

David Murray - Outstanding \$2,807.91

Gina Lyon made motion to approve filing liens against the properties for overdue electric balances as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- K. **Department Operations Updates** - The comprehensive report with additional details can be found at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>.

**Management/Staff Report** - The comprehensive report with additional details can be found at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- L. **Other Business** – Gina Lyon made a motion to move the next regular Board meeting from 05/27/2024 to 5/29/2024 due to the regular scheduled meeting falling on Memorial Day. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- M. **Executive Session - Legal Action** – 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – Gina made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:43PM Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.

The board came out of Executive Session at 8:30pm with no action taken.

N. **Adjourn** – The board adjourned at 8:30pm.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: May 29, 2024**

**Regular Board Meeting: June 10, 2024**

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**Regina Lyon, Board of Trustees Chair**