

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Monday, June 10, 2024
6:00pm
Barton Village Memorial Hall

Agenda

- A. Call to Order
- B. Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions
- C. Privilege of the Floor

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting May 29, 2024
- E. Bills and Warrants
- F. Resolution for Wastewater – Internal Borrowing from Village Reserve Fund

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- G. Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) Project – NVDA
- H. Barton Motors Site – Coe + Coe Architecture
- I. Coin Drop Letter from BASSI
- J. Abatement Request for Sewer Charges
- K. Department Operations Updates
- L. Management/Staff Report

OTHER ITEMS:

- M. Other Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- N. Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E)
- O. Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)
- P. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: June 24, 2024

Regular Board Meeting: July 8, 2024

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024
6:00pm
Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Regina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Allyson Howell, Art LaPlante, Lori Wells, Adrien Helm, Stephanie Bickford, Ed Barber

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 6:00pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – None.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – Allyson Howell from NEKO informed the Board that they had been awarded the \$15,000 grant that they had applied for to use as a “post-flood resiliency celebration” and presented their plans for use of the funds. They intend to host a week-long event in August 2024 that will culminate with a “block party” at the ball field, with live music, art demonstrations, food sampling from area restaurants/businesses, and other family friendly activities. Allyson Howell asked for advice on how to manage such an event, and Marilyn Prue commented that in her experience with similar events in Orleans Village, many activities would be necessary to keep folks interested and engaged. Gina Lyon suggested adding face painting and asking the Orleans Fire Department and Emergency Unit to participate by displaying their trucks and equipment. Allyson Howell also mentioned the possibility of serving a giant birthday cake to commemorate Barton Village’s 150th anniversary of incorporation. The next planning session for this celebration will be at the Barton Public Library on June 7, 2024.

Adrien Helm from Greater Barton Arts informed the Board that they would also be participating in the celebration via storytelling and spoken word performances. She had spoken to the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation at the Board’s request regarding the mural she proposed painting on the block retaining wall at the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 05/13/2024, and stated that while the DHP had no qualms about the historic nature of the wall, they felt that it would be an inappropriate surface for her project. Adrien Helm hopes that they will have a solid plan by the time of the August celebration.

Allyson Howell informed the Board that the Barton Community Giving Garden and the Westmore Association would be serving lunch in the Barton Memorial Hall on BASSI’s behalf the next day and invited everyone to attend.

Gina Lyon made a motion to move **Discussion Item K - The Orleans County Fair Association** to the beginning of the meeting, ahead of Action Items. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. **Orleans County Fair Association** – Art LaPlante and Lori Wells from the Orleans County Fair Association (OCFA) presented the Board with their concerns about the fairgrounds electric rate increase. Art LaPlante began the presentation by reading the OCFA's mission statement and listing some of the various events that they host at the fairgrounds. Lori Wells explained that under the new electric rate the fairgrounds' electric bills have increased from an average of \$10,600 annually to \$8,844 in just the first quarter of 2024 alone, during months when the fairgrounds are typically not in use. She stated that having no income to offset these bills could be detrimental to the organization and asked the Board of Trustees if there was a way to either lessen the cost or "grandfather in" the OCFA to their old rate.

For background, Business Manager Vera LaPorte explained that the rate change came about in July 2023 when it was discovered that, according to Barton Electric's tariff, the OCFA had not been billed at the correct electric rate for many years. The rate that the OCFA should have been on was called Large Commercial Demand, and she explained that this rate is much higher because the customers billed under this rate consume enough electricity to force Barton Electric to purchase additional power. She explained that while OCFA experienced an enormous increase in their electric bills, these tariffs are heavily regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Marilyn Prue gave Lori Wells a copy of the Large Commercial Demand tariff that OCFA falls under and further explained that it applies to customers whose usage exceeds 2,000 kWh per month for at least two consecutive months and that the OCFA fits this criterion despite not being active in the winter. According to the tariff, the OCFA is billed throughout the winter because they cannot be billed for less than 70% of peak usage for twelve consecutive months following being placed on demand. Lori Wells asked if it was correct to assume that the OCFA's bills during their inactive months would never go down. Marilyn Prue told her that that was correct according to the tariff, which is why the Board was looking into adding a rider (sub-tariff) that would apply to the OCFA's situation. Gina Lyon then explained that obtaining the rider would have to involve the PUC and that it would take time.

Marilyn Prue assured the OCFA that the Board was eager to help and that they would work as quickly as possible, and that Vera LaPorte was already in discussions with a member of Vermont Public Power Supply Authority's (VPPSA) regulatory team to make it happen. Marilyn Prue advised that in the meantime, the OCFA could receive a little relief by submitting a tax-exempt form to the Village to remove the 6% sales tax that they are currently paying.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting May 13, 2024** – After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on May 13, 2024 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- E. **Minutes from the Special Water Hearing May 13, 2024** – After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Special Water Hearing May 13, 2024 as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- F. **Bills and Warrants** – Gina Lyon made a motion to continue working on the Bills and Warrants throughout the meeting. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- G. **Junky Yard Violations** – Gina Lyon asked Vera LaPorte how she determined who should receive a violation letter, and if the decision was based entirely on information reported by the public. Vera LaPorte stated that she drove around the Village to verify the state of the reported properties and in doing so discovered more. After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to send Junky Yard Ordinance Violation letters to the indicated property owners as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- H. **Coin Drop Applications** – After discussion, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the coin drop applications for BASSI and Lake Region High School provided that, due to safety concerns, they move their locations close to JP Sicard's on Glover Road instead of in front of C&C Supermarket on Church Street. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- I. **Property Liens** – After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve placing liens for past due electric accounts on the indicated properties as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. All approved and the motion carried.
- J. **Warrant to the Delinquent Tax Collector for Electric Accounts** – After review, Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Warrant to the Delinquent Tax Collector for past due electric accounts. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- K. **Department Operations Updates** – Vera LaPorte updated the Board on the activities of the Village departments, most notably in Electric and Highway.

Electric – Vera LaPorte asked the Board to consider possible dates for a bond vote for the repairs at the hydro plant as previously discussed at the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 04/22/2024. The Board directed Vera LaPorte to contact Village Clerk Shelia Martin for information regarding the bond vote process and will consider meeting dates afterward. Stephanie Bickford asked the Board why a bond vote would be necessary. Gina Lyon explained that the penstock (the large steel pipe that funnels water from the Clyde River to the generators at the hydro plant) was badly in need of replacement and that this plus other repairs were estimated to cost approximately \$3 million. Though the Village had applied for a \$1 million

grant, the rest of the money would have to be borrowed, thus necessitating a bond vote. There was some discussion about the size of Barton Electric's service territory, location of the plant, and how much power the hydro plant generates (between 25% and 40% of power consumed).

Highway – Vera LaPorte informed the Board that Bridge 55 (Elm Street) was budgeted for full replacement by the State in 2029, but until then some repairs to the decking needed to be made and that DPW Foreman Andy Sicard would be tackling that soon. She also informed the Board that the water leak on Church Street would be repaired that week and that the parts and equipment necessary to repair the water leak on Main Street near Davis Court were on order. The search for a deep enough trench box to do that work safely was ongoing. Ellis Merchant suggested contacting local earthmoving companies to ask about the possibility of borrowing or renting one.

Gina Lyon asked about paving on Glover Road. Vera LaPorte informed her that paving with hot mix asphalt required drier and warmer weather than they had been experiencing and that Andy Sicard would start paving as soon as weather permitted. Gina Lyon then asked if they could investigate a reported possible tripping hazard in the sidewalk in front of Barton Chambers Apartments.

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

OTHER ITEMS:

Other Business – Gina Lyon asked to revisit several ongoing topics:

- ATV Ordinance – Scheduled for Regular Board Meeting 06/10/2024.
- Meeting with VHB – Scheduled for Regular Board Meeting 06/24/2024.
- Glover wastewater agreement – Mike Mainer from Aldritch & Elliott finally took a look at the agreement and has initial thoughts, mostly regarding BOD/TSS loading and cost structure. Vera LaPorte sent him several years' worth of flow data and he will return with more questions/information once he has analyzed the data.
- Water/sewer overtime disconnection/reconnection fee – The current fee is \$25 and will be updated to reflect current cost.
- Mark Bean – Mark Bean has not paid the full amount of the bill incurred by his actions in January 2024 and has asked that the Board abate the cost of his wastewater usage during that period. Vera LaPorte sent him a copy of the Village's Request for Abatement application several weeks ago and has had no response. Gina Lyon asked Vera LaPorte to pursue the final amount of the invoice and Vera LaPorte assured the Board that after recently speaking to the State Environmental Officer again, she was sure that they were in the right to collect.
- School crossing signs – Ellis Merchant stated that he thought that they should wait to install the signs until after school let out for the year. Vera LaPorte will obtain an estimate for the wiring of the signs (with lights) from Orleans Electric.
- State Budget Adjustment Act – Gina Lyon inquired about the status of the \$80,000 promised to the Village from the State Budget Adjustment Act that was signed by the

Governor in March 2024. Vera LaPorte informed her that the Village had not yet received this money and that she had not been able to determine a date that it would be paid, and she would continue to look into it.

- Facility site visits – Gina Lyon asked the Board to submit possible dates to Vera LaPorte to schedule site visits of the Village’s several facilities. Once the date is determined it will be warned as a Special Board of Trustees Meeting. Members of the community will be welcome to attend.
- Inter-department loan from Village to Wastewater – Gina Lyon asked about the status of the \$200,000 loan the Village department gave to the Wastewater department. Vera LaPorte suggested drafting a loan agreement and amortization schedule in keeping with the terms of the loan that the Board agreed on at the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 04/08/2024 and will have it ready by the next Board meeting.
- July 4th parade – Gina Lyon stated that she had not yet started planning the event but will reach out to Anne Marie MacEachern to begin the process. She stated that she would like to create a float celebrating the Village’s 150th anniversary of incorporation.
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting 06/10/2024 – Gina Lyon briefly went over some additional agenda items for the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 06/10/2024. Bruce Melendy with the NVDA will be present to discuss the RIVER Project (<https://riverprojectsvt.org/>) and architects from Coe & Coe will be present to discuss future development plans for the old Barton Motors site owned by Jason Sicard.
- After hours on-call service – Gina Lyon asked Vera LaPorte for an update on the search for a new after hours on-call service. Vera LaPorte stated that she had a demo scheduled the next day with Specialty Answering Service and that she was considering two others.
- 357 Main Street – Gina Lyon informed the Board that she had been contacted by a Village property owner with complaints about how his electric service was handled several years ago. She stated that she planned on inviting the property owner, Barton Electric Lineman Steve Cutler, Orleans Electric Manager John Morley, and Vera LaPorte to a meeting to discuss his issues and hopefully find resolution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

M. **Executive Session** - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – None.

N. **Executive Session** - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) – None.

O. **Adjourn** – Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: June 10, 2024

Regular Board Meeting: June 24, 2024

Regina Lyon, Board of Trustees Chair

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Resolution for Wastewater – Internal Borrowing from Village Reserve Fund
Agenda: Agenda Item “F”

As the Board is aware, the Wastewater Department needed a heavy injection of cash due to running a deficit since April 2022. At the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 04/08/2024 the Board voted to approve a short-term internal loan from the Village reserve fund to the Wastewater Department.

The Board is presented with a resolution (with amortization schedule) to ratify this loan.

Proposed Motion: Motion to approve the Resolution for Wastewater – Internal Borrowing from Village Reserve Fund as presented.

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822

RESOLUTION

WASTEWATER - INTERNAL BORROWING FROM VILLAGE RESERVE FUND

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Trustees of Barton Village, Inc. at which at least a majority of the Trustees were present and voting, which meeting was duly noticed and called, it was unanimously found and determined that the Barton Village, Inc. Wastewater Department borrow funds from the Barton Village, Inc. Village Reserve Fund to address deficits within the Wastewater Department and to pay interest for the same as was approved by the Trustees of Barton Village, Inc. at a meeting called and held on April 8, 2024, and it was so ordered, all of which action is hereby ratified and confirmed.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing action, the Barton Village, Inc. issued a warning for a meeting of the Trustees to be held April 8, 2024, to consider a certain financing proposal, which Warning is duly recorded in the records of the Barton Village, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, said Warning was duly recorded, published and posted; and

WHEREAS, said meeting was duly held on the date at the place and time appointed, and a certain proposal to finance funds was voted in the affirmative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees completed said transaction and this RESOLUTION hereby ratifies the Board's action to authorize the Barton Village, Inc. Wastewater Department to borrow \$200,000 from the Barton Village, Inc. Village Reserve Fund for a period not to exceed one year, with payments of interest at 3.5% annually, paid to the Village Reserve Fund on a quarterly basis per the attached amortization schedule.

Date this ____ day of June, 2024
Barton Village, Inc.
By:

Regina Lyon

Marilyn Prue

Ellis Merchant

Barton Village Inc.
Internal Loan Between BVI Wastewater Dept and BVI Village Reserve Fund
Amortization Schedule

Amt Financed \$ 200,000
Interest Rate 3.50%
Quarterly Interest Rate 0.88%

Amortization Period
(Quarters)

4

Amount Borrowed	Total Repaid	Total Principal	Total Interest
\$200,000.00	\$7,097.22	\$0.00	\$7,097.22

	Amortization Period	# of Days	Principal Borrowed	Payments	Principal	Interest	Principal Balance
Jun-24	1	83	\$ 200,000.00	(\$1,613.89)	\$0.00	(\$1,613.89)	\$200,000.00
Sep-24	2	92	\$200,000.00	(\$1,788.89)	\$0.00	(\$1,788.89)	\$200,000.00
Dec-24	3	92	\$200,000.00	(\$1,788.89)	\$0.00	(\$1,788.89)	\$200,000.00
Mar-24	4	90	\$200,000.00	(\$1,750.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,750.00)	\$200,000.00
Apr-24	5	8	\$200,000.00	(\$155.56)	\$0.00	(\$155.56)	\$200,000.00
				<u>(\$7,097.22)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>(\$7,097.22)</u>	

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER)
Project – NVDA
Agenda: Agenda Item “G”

Bruce Melendy and/or David Snedeker with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) will address the Board regarding the Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) project.

From the project website (<https://riverprojectsvt.org/>):

What is RIVER?

RIVER is a project dedicated to developing locally supported ideas for reducing flood damage. RIVER is focusing on several municipalities hit hard in 2023. Community discussions for this project are being led by the respective regional planning commissions in concert with the affected towns and other groups.

Real problems require real solutions, and municipalities will be provided with engineering support. The culmination of RIVER will be a set of applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for projects in 2025 and beyond. Other locally led projects may also be developed. This project is funded by the [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board](#) and [Vermont Emergency Management](#), and managed by the [Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission](#).

Proposed Motion: None.

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Barton Motors Site – Coe + Coe Architecture
Agenda: Agenda Item “H”

Architects with Coe + Coe Architecture will present to the Board possible development and remediation plans for the Old Barton Motors site at 476 Main Street.

From their website (<https://www.coeandcoearchitecture.com/>):

Coe + Coe Architecture is a small responsive firm providing creative design solutions and practical construction experience for each project. Coe + Coe Architecture provides complete architectural services, including as-built documentation, site assessments, feasibility, master planning, design, construction documents, permitting, and construction administration.

Proposed Motion: None.

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Coin Drop Letter from Barton Area Senior Services, Inc. (BASSI)
Agenda: Agenda Item "I"

As the Board is aware, Barton Area Senior Services, Inc. (BASSI) submitted an application for a coin drop to be held on 06/29/2024. The Board approved the application at the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 05/29/2024 with the stipulation that the coin drop location be moved from Church Street (in front of C&C Supermarket) to Glover Road (in front of JP Sicard's) because of safety concerns.

The Board of Trustees has received a letter from BASSI asking the Board to reconsider the location for the coin drop and allow them to hold it at the original location on Church Street.

Proposed Motion: None.

5/31/2024

Barton Village Trustees

Thoughts on coin drop.

I appreciate your approval of the coin drop during the village wide yard sale.

The coin drop is especially important this year as costs are up and meal contributions are low for the Senior Meals program. Last year we took in almost \$1100.

Your concerns regarding traffic and safety are very important! However your suggested location is both ineffective and dangerous. Drivers are still at speed traveling into town, and accelerating briskly leaving town. There is great risk of a donator getting rear ended or a worker getting hit! Yes, people constantly text and drive!

Ray Sweeney welcomed the drop station in front of the C&C, and suggested setting up in his across the street lot. Traffic moves slowly in this area on sale day as people are driving by sales, or looking for a parking place.

At no time were there more than two cars stopped in either direction. All coin operations went smoothly during the day. No traffic complaints were received by our workers.

Please reconsider your location restriction to make this a successful and safe event.

Cordially,

Mary Ann Royer
Sr. Meals board member
marbvt@gmail.com

Rich Royer
Village Wide Yard Sale event producer
richroyer@gmail.com

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Abatement Request for Sewer Charges
Agenda: Agenda Item "J"

The Board has received an abatement request for sewer charges from Arthur and Evelyn Corda related their property located at 121 Lakefront Lane. Their issue began in October 2019 when they purchased the property and had been informed that it was on the Village wastewater system but discovered that it was not. As it is a seasonal home, they were unable to correct the issue until July 2020 and paid the base sewer charges throughout that period, totaling \$373.25. They are requesting abatement of these charges due to their property not being on the Barton Village wastewater system during that time.

Although Barton Village's Water and Wastewater Abatement Ordinance (passed in 2015) states "historically, the Barton Village Trustees followed an informal, case-by-case process for addressing abatement requests which may have not been consistent," the Ordinance does not describe any process that the Board must follow. Because of this, Business Manager Vera LaPorte has been offering The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) model taxes/water/sewer abatement application to those seeking abatement, and it reads as follows:

"Following receipt of your abatement request, the Board of Trustees will notify you of the date, time, and place of your hearing. At the hearing, you will be responsible for supplying evidence to support your abatement request. If you or your representative fail to appear at the hearing, the Board's decision will be based solely on the information provided by you in this form and any accompanying documentation. The Board may choose to abate all or part of the taxes, water charges, sewer charges, interest, and/or penalties for which you have requested abatement, but is under no obligation to grant any abatement request. You will be notified in writing of the Board's decision. If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Trustees you may appeal the decision to Superior Court in accordance with Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure."

Proposed Motion: None.

VILLAGE OF BARTON
REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT OF TAXES OR WATER/SEWER CHARGES

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:

- **The filing of this application does not prevent or defer the collection of your property tax or water/sewer charges. To avoid imposition of interest and penalties, the tax or water/sewer charges should be paid when due.**
- A decision of the Board of Trustees does not affect the tax assessment (valuation) for the property. If you disagree with the tax assessment for the property, you must file a grievance with the Board of Listers within the timeframe provided by 32 V.S.A. § 4111.
- Following receipt of your abatement request, the Board of Trustees will notify you of the date, time, and place of your hearing. At the hearing, you will be responsible for supplying evidence to support your abatement request. If you or your representative fail to appear at the hearing, the Board's decision will be based solely on the information provided by you in this form and any accompanying documentation. The Board may choose to abate all or part of the taxes, water charges, sewer charges, interest, and/or penalties for which you have requested abatement, but is under no obligation to grant any abatement request. You will be notified in writing of the Board's decision. If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Trustees you may appeal the decision to Superior Court in accordance with Rule 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.
- **A copy of your property tax bill should be submitted with this form to the Town Clerk.**
- If Applicant is other than Listed Owner, please provide a copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of the Listed Owner.

Name of property owner listed on Grand List: ARTHUR + EVELYN CORDA

Applicant name, if different from listed owner: _____

Relationship of Applicant to Listed Owner (if other than Listed Owner): _____

If new owner since April 1 of this year, provide purchase date: _____

If relevant, provide name of Executor/ Administrator of Estate: _____

Mailing address of Applicant: 185 WRIGHTS POND RD, WESTBROOK, CT 06498

Telephone number of Applicant: 860-304-6736 Email address of Applicant: ARTCUNOAE@HOTMAIL.COM
Location of property: 121 LAKEFRONT LANE BARTON, VT 05822
Parcel ID (SPAN) Number: 042-013-10697

Property Type: ☒ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐ Agricultural ☐ Forest Land
Assessed Value: \$ _____

This application for abatement falls under the following statutory criteria:

- N/A
VML
- ☐ Taxes or charges of persons who have died insolvent. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(1).
 - ☐ Taxes or charges of persons who have removed from the state. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(2).
 - ☐ Taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and / or collection fees. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(3).
 - ☐ Taxes in which there is manifest error. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(4).
 - ☐ Taxes in which there is or a mistake of the listers. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(4).
 - ☐ Taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5).
 - ☐ The exemption amount available to certain veterans and their family members under 32 V.S.A. § 3802(11) otherwise eligible for exemption who file a claim on or after May 1 but before October 1 due to the claimant's sickness or disability or other good cause as determined by the board of abatement; but that exemption amount shall be reduced by 20 percent of the total exemption for each month or portion of a month the claim is late filed. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(6).
 - ☐ Taxes or charges upon a mobile home moved from the town during the tax year as a result of a change in use of the mobile home park land or parts thereof, or closure of the mobile home park in which the mobile home was sited, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6237. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(9).

Provide a brief description of the basis for the abatement request. Attach a separate sheet if

necessary: MY WIFE AND I PURCHASED THE PROPERTY AT 121 LAKEFRONT
LANE IN SEPT. 2019. WHEN WE PURCHASED THE PROPERTY, WE WERE
UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOUSE WAS HOOKED UP TO THE

SEWER SYSTEM. WE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCOVERED THAT THE HOUSE WAS NOT CONNECTED TO THE SYSTEM. IN THE MEANTIME, WE DILIGENTLY PAID ALL OF OUR SEWER BILLS. WE CONNECTED TO THE SYSTEM ON JULY 28, 2020. WE ARE REQUESTING THE RETURN OF FEES PAID WHILE NOT HOOKED UP, A TOTAL OF \$373.25.

Signature of Applicant: CC

Date: 6/6/24

Date received by Barton Village: 6/07/2024

Draft Ordinance for Water and Wastewater Abatement

WHEREAS, The Barton Village Wastewater Ordinance has not been reviewed or updated since 1981 and the Barton Village Water Ordinance has not been reviewed or updated since 1995; and,

WHEREAS, The Barton Village Trustees have received requests for abatements of charges under both ordinance for a variety of reasons; and,

WHEREAS, The Water and Wastewater Ordinances do not provide for a systematic process by which the Trustees might determine whether or not to consider abating certain water or wastewater charges; and,

WHEREAS, Barton Village operates a surface water treatment facility constructed in 1990. The system has a design capacity of 252,000 gallons per day. Currently the Village uses between 55,000 gallons and 120,000 gallons per day between the summer season and winter frost periods with blow offs in operation. The cost of production is not proportional to the increase use of water.

WHEREAS, Barton Village operates an aerated lagoon wastewater treatment system. The facility was constructed in 1979 and has an average day design capacity of 265,000 gallons. Currently the facility will see a range of flows from 100,000 to 500,000 depending on precipitation. Daily fluctuations can be in the 10's of thousands of gallons. The lagoon system is designed for large fluctuations between days. The Village needs to continue to address non-sewer connections. The current cost of treatment is not proportional to the increase in customer use.

WHEREAS, Barton Village contracts with a private company to operate the water and wastewater facilities. The Village pays a fixed fee for operation labor. The Village also pays electrical and utility costs associated with the facilities.

WHEREAS, Barton Village currently does not break out the fixed cost of providing the 1st gallon of service to the last gallon of service. The costs associated with leaks or breaks thus create a disproportional burden to a customer that don't reflect the Villages costs to operate.

WHEREAS, other uses of water that do not discharge to the sewer system result in unnecessary fees for wastewater. The administrative time necessary to read meters, etc. for these uses results in a burden to the Village operation. This is a case to move to a base fee system to water and wastewater customers.

WHEREAS, Historically, the Barton Village Trustees followed an informal, case-by-case, process for addressing abatement requests which may not have been consistent; and,

WHEREAS, the Barton Village Trustees have, on this date conducted a duly warned and posted public hearing on this matter and deem it in the best interest of the Village of Barton to have a consistent and clear policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, the Barton Village Trustees do hereby enact the following as amendments to the Water and Wastewater Ordinances:

1. Abatements may only be made by the Village Trustees.
2. Only management staff may discuss abatements with citizens prior to Trustees' consideration. Other staff may inform customers of their right to request an abatement but must otherwise refrain from discussing abatement details with customers and must refer customers to management staff. Requests for abatement shall be in writing by the customer.
3. Sewer charges shall be abated for usage associated with running water to avoid freezing of buried pipes or when a catastrophic break occurs within a structure. The system was designed to handle these changing flows and these events are not detrimental to the operation of the system or proportional to the budgets necessary to provide the service.
3. The water ordinance indicates customers are responsible for charges incurred to run water in order to avoid freezing pipes on their property. This will be the case for customers who are connected to a private waterline beyond the limits of the Village ROW. This will also be the case for customers that are connected to water mains that have been replaced and engineered for frost protection. Customers will have 5 years after this date or the date of future construction to replace their water service to a bury depth of six (6) feet when connected to water mains that have been replaced. Customers that are connected to antiquated cast iron water mains will not be responsible for charges incurred to run water to avoid the freezing of buried pipes. If customers choose not to run water or choose not to use blow-offs they are responsible for all costs associated with pipes freezing on their property.
4. Village may request specific residents to run water to avoid freezing water mains. In these situations, the Trustees shall authorize an adjustment of water usage fees. The adjustment shall be made so that the customer is billed an estimated monthly charge based on an the customer's average monthly usage in the past year.
5. Water costs incurred as a result of frozen/burst pipes are the responsibility of the customer. If the customer informs the Village of a water pipe in a timely manner (within 48 hours of the break), the Trustees may abate as follows:
 - a. The Village will, in its sole discretion, determine the amount of water associated with the burst pipes.
 - b. The Village may make arrangements for payment plans associated with the cost of water in the case of burst pipes at no (0%) interest to the customer. Such plans shall not exceed 18 months.
6. It is the policy of the Village to provide monthly meter readings except in such cases where weather or snow or ice prevents access to a property. In the event of a failure to read a meter for water, sewer or electric use for a period of three (3) or more purposes the customer may request an adjustment of not greater than 10% of the water, sewer or electric charges - except in the case where the Village can document that it has no access to the meter either as a result of weather related events or through an action by the customer (gates locked, etc.), in which case no abatement is permitted under any circumstances.

7. Any frozen pipe or leaking pipe between the main and the curb stop is the responsibility of the Village to restore service. 8. Per the current water ordinance, customers may request meter testing. All requests and abatements will be made per the current ordinance.

9. Per the current water ordinance, no abatement shall be issued due to disuse, diminished use, or vacancy of premises. The customer is still responsible for the minimum charge.

10. Typical requests that are un-allowable under this abatement policy are as follows:

Leaking Toilets

Dripping Faucets

Excess Use By Tenants

Outdoor Use (e.g. car washing / lawn watering, etc.)

Vacancy / Disuse

11. Users with private water mains will be abated sewer charges for leaks found to be associated with the buried mains, however no abatement will be allowed for water charges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, by passage of this Ordinance the Barton Village Trustees do hereby amend sections of the Water and Wastewater Ordinances corresponding to the processes and clauses contained herein and all other sections of the existing Water and Wastewater Ordinance shall remain unchanged.

Approved this 24th day of August, 2015 by the Village Trustees of Barton Village, Inc.

Attest:



Ryan Longe, Chair

VERMONT **GENERAL ASSEMBLY****The Vermont Statutes Online****Title 24 : Municipal And County Government****Chapter 059 : Adoption And Enforcement Of Ordinances And Rules****§ 1973. Permissive referendum**

(a) An ordinance or rule adopted by a municipality may be disapproved by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the municipality voting on the question at an annual or special meeting duly warned for the purpose, pursuant to a petition signed and submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. ✓

(b) A petition for a vote on the question of disapproving an ordinance or rule shall be signed by not less than five per cent of the qualified voters of the municipality, and presented to the legislative body or the clerk of the municipality within 44 days following the date of adoption of the ordinance or rule by the legislative body.

(c) When a petition is submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the legislative body shall call a special meeting within 60 days from the date of receipt of the petition, or include an article in the warning for the next annual meeting of the municipality if the annual meeting falls within the 60-day period, to determine whether the voters will disapprove the ordinance or rule. ✓

(d) Not less than two copies of the ordinance or rule shall be posted at each polling place during the hours of voting, and copies thereof made available to voters at the polls on request. It shall be sufficient to refer to the ordinance or rule in the warning by title.

(e) If a petition for an annual or a special meeting is duly submitted in accordance with this section, to determine whether an ordinance or rule shall be disapproved by the voters of the municipality, the ordinance or rule shall take effect on the conclusion of the meeting, or at such later date as is specified in the ordinance or rule, unless a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question at the meeting vote to disapprove the ordinance or rule in which event it shall not take effect. (Added 1969, No. 170 (Adj. Sess.), § 8, eff. March 2, 1970; amended 1971, No. 14, § 12, eff. March 11, 1971.)

BARTON VILLAGE

Amendment to the Water and Wastewater Ordinance

WHEREAS, The Barton Village Wastewater Ordinance has not been reviewed or updated since 1981 and the Barton Village Water Ordinance has not been reviewed or updated since 1995; and,

WHEREAS, The Barton Village Trustees have received requests for abatements of charges under both ordinances for a variety of reasons; and,

WHEREAS, The Water and Wastewater Ordinances do not provide for a systematic process by which the Trustees might determine whether or not to consider abating certain water or wastewater charges; and,

WHEREAS, Barton Village operates a surface water treatment facility constructed in 1990. The system has a design capacity of 252,000 gallons per day. Currently the Village uses between 55,000 gallons and 120,000 gallons per day between the summer season and winter frost periods with blow offs in operation. The cost of production is not proportional to the increase use of water.

WHEREAS, Barton Village operates an aerated lagoon wastewater treatment system. The facility was constructed in 1979 and has an average day design capacity of 265,000 gallons. Currently the facility will see a range of flows from 100,000 to 500,000 depending on precipitation. Daily fluctuations can be in the 10's of thousands of gallons. The lagoon system is designed for large fluctuations between days. The Village needs to continue to address non-sewer connections. The current cost of treatment is not proportional to the increase in customer use.

WHEREAS, Barton Village contracts with a private company to operate the water and wastewater facilities. The Village pays a fixed fee for operation labor. The Village also pays electrical and utility costs associated with the facilities.

WHEREAS, Barton Village currently does not break out the fixed cost of providing the 1st gallon of service to the last gallon of service. The costs associated with leaks or breaks thus create a disproportional burden to a customer that don't reflect the Villages costs to operate.

WHEREAS, other uses of water that do not discharge to the sewer system result in unnecessary fees for wastewater. The administrative time necessary to read meters, etc. for these uses results in a burden to the Village operation. This is a case to move to a base fee system to water and wastewater customers.

WHEREAS, Historically, the Barton Village Trustees followed an informal, case-by-case, process for addressing abatement requests which may not have been consistent; and,

WHEREAS, the Barton Village Trustees have, on this date conducted a duly warned and posted public hearing on this matter and deem it in the best interest of the Village of Barton to have a consistent and clear policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, the Barton Village Trustees do hereby enact the following as amendments to the Water and Wastewater Ordinances:

1. Abatements may only be made by the Village Trustees.
2. Only management staff may discuss abatements with citizens prior to Trustees' consideration. Other staff may inform customers of their right to request an abatement but must otherwise refrain from discussing abatement details with customers and must refer customers to management staff. Requests for abatement shall be in writing by the customer.
3. Sewer charges shall be abated for usage associated with running water to avoid freezing of buried pipes or when a catastrophic break occurs within a structure. The system was designed to handle these changing flows and these events are not detrimental to the operation of the system or proportional to the budgets necessary to provide the service.
4. The water ordinance indicates customers are responsible for charges incurred to run water in order to avoid freezing pipes on their property. This will be the case for customers who are connected to a private waterline beyond the limits of the Village ROW. This will also be the case for customers that are connected to water mains that have been replaced and engineered for frost protection. Customers will have 5 years after this date or the date of future construction to replace their water service to a bury depth of six (6) feet when connected to water mains that have been replaced. Customers that are connected to antiquated cast iron water mains will not be responsible for charges incurred to run water to avoid the freezing of buried pipes. If customers choose not to run water or choose not to use blow-offs they are responsible for all costs associated with pipes freezing on their property.
5. Village may request specific residents to run water to avoid freezing water mains. In these situations, the Trustees shall authorize an adjustment of water usage fees. The adjustment shall be made so that the customer is billed an estimated monthly charge based on an the customer's average monthly usage in the past year.
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 - a. The Village will, in its sole discretion, determine the amount of water associated with the burst pipes.
 - b. The Village may make arrangements for payment plans associated with the cost of water in the case of burst pipes at no (0%) interest to the customer. Such

plans shall not exceed 18 months.

7. It is the policy of the Village to provide monthly meter readings except in such cases where weather or snow or ice prevents access to a property. In the event of a failure to read a meter for water, sewer or electric use for a period of three (3) or more purposes the customer may request an adjustment of not greater than 10% of the water, sewer or electric charges - except in the case where the Village can document that it has no access to the meter either as a result of weather related events or through an action by the customer (gates locked, etc.), in which case no abatement is permitted under any circumstances.

8. Any frozen pipe or leaking pipe between the main and the curb stop is the responsibility of the Village to restore service.

9. Per the current water ordinance, customers may request meter testing. All requests and abatements will be made per the current ordinance.

10. Per the current water ordinance, no abatement shall be issued due to disuse, diminished use, or vacancy of premises. The customer is still responsible for the minimum charge.

11. Typical requests that are un-allowable under this abatement policy are as follows:

Leaking Toilets
Dripping Faucets
Excess Use By Tenants
Outdoor Use (e.g. car washing / lawn watering, etc.)
Vacancy / Disuse

11. Users with private water mains will be abated sewer charges for leaks found to be associated with the buried mains, however no abatement will be allowed for water charges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, by passage of this Ordinance the Barton Village Trustees do hereby amend sections of the Water and Wastewater Ordinances corresponding to the processes and clauses contained herein and all other sections of the existing Water and Wastewater Ordinance shall remain unchanged.

Approved this 24th day of August, 2015 by the Village Trustees of Barton Village, Inc.

Attest:

Ryan Longe, Chair

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Citizens Right To Petition Pursuant To 24 V.S.A. §1973 For A Vote On The Ordinance/Amendment/Spec.

§1973. Permissive referendum

(a) An ordinance or rule adopted by a municipality may be disapproved by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the municipality voting on the question at an annual or special meeting duly warned for the purpose, pursuant to a petition signed and submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(b) A petition for a vote on the question of disapproving an ordinance or rule shall be signed by not less than five percent of the qualified voters of the municipality, and presented to the legislative body or the clerk of the municipality within 44 days following the date of adoption of the ordinance or rule by the legislative body.

(c) When a petition is submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the legislative body shall call a special meeting within 60 days from the date of receipt of the petition, or include an article in the warning for the next annual meeting of the municipality if the annual meeting falls within the 60-day period, to determine whether the voters will disapprove the ordinance or rule.

(d) Not less than two copies of the ordinance or rule shall be posted at each polling place during the hours of voting, and copies thereof made available to voters at the polls on request. It shall be sufficient to refer to the ordinance or rule in the warning by title.

(e) If a petition for an annual or a special meeting is duly submitted in accordance with the section, to determine whether an ordinance or rule shall be disapproved by the voters of the municipality, the ordinance or rule shall take effect on the conclusion of the meeting, or at such later date as is specified in the ordinance or rule, unless a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question at the meeting vote to disapprove the ordinance or rule in which event it shall not take effect. (Added 1969, No. 170 (Adj. Sess.) §8, eff. March 2, 1970; amended 1971, No. 14, §12, eff. March 11, 1971.)

Questions or comments may be directed to:
David Ormiston, Finance Coordinator, 802-525-4747,
17 Village Square, Barton, VT 05822.

Copies of the amendments may also be obtained at the village offices at the same address.

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Department Operations Updates
Agenda: Agenda Item "K"

Electric Department

- After-hours on-call answering service – Business Manager Vera LaPorte has demoed two potential after-hours answering services (Specialty Answering Service and AnswerForce). So far Specialty Answering Service is in the lead but Vera LaPorte would like to demo a third company before making a decision.
- OCFA tariff rider – Steve Farman with VPPSA is currently analyzing the OCFA's usage data/history and in the meantime Vera LaPorte has asked the Board to assist in providing reasons why they believe the OCFA is "deserving" of a tariff rider catered to their situation in order to shore up their petition to the PUC.
- Hydro facility bond vote – According to Eli Emerson at Primmer & Piper (the attorney working on the Section 108 filing on behalf of the Village to the PUC) that any financing for the hydro facility repair project must be voted on by Australian ballot. Village Clerk Shelia Martin has asked that the Board choose a date for the bond vote soon as she and Town Clerk Kristin Atwood are required to participate and have several other obligations this summer.

Wastewater Department

- Water/sewer overtime reconnection fee – According to 129 VSA § 5151, "a municipality providing water and sewer services may charge fees for collection of overdue accounts and reconnection of service disconnected because of nonpayment. Fees charged shall not exceed the following schedule:
 - Collection Trips – \$25.00 maximum, regardless of number
 - Reconnection – Normal Hours \$25.00, **Overtime \$37.50**"
- Glover agreement – Mike Mainer from Aldritch & Elliott is currently analyzing Glover's flow data and will return to the Board with his thoughts and conclusions when he is through.
- Water/sewer disconnections continue to go well.

- The wastewater treatment facility continues to operate well and all reporting deadlines are being met.

Water Department

- Water/sewer overtime reconnection fee – See Wastewater Department.
- Fairview Estates – Vera LaPorte has sent Mark Bean a copy of the Village Water Ordinance and a letter requesting the balance of his service bill be paid for the costs he incurred by his actions in January 2024.
- Water/sewer disconnections continue to go well.
- The water treatment facility continues to operate well and all reporting deadlines are being met.

Highway Department

- DPW Foreman Andrew Sicard is now a grandfather. Congrats, Andy and family!
- Paving – Damage to the decking on Bridge 55 (Elm Street) has been repaired and DPW Utility Workers Garrett Heath and Jeremiah Borsoi have begun various paving projects around the Village.
- Water leaks – The water leak on Elm Street was repaired on 05/30/2024 and the water leak on Main Street near Davis Court is scheduled for repair on 06/11/2024.
- Salt/sand shed – Barton Village was unfortunately not selected by Senator Welch’s office for funding through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) program.

Village Department

- ATV Ordinance – Due to the potential of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on 06/10/2024 running very long, Trustee Chair Gina Lyon asked Vera LaPorte to move the topic to the 06/24/2024 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting agenda.
- State Budget Adjustment Act (Act No. 87 – H.839) – No exact date yet for when the Village will receive “flood recovery money” in the amount of \$80,000, but the act is meant to balance the State’s 2024 budget and their fiscal year ends 06/30/2024. Funds will likely be disbursed around then.
- School crossing signs – Vera LaPorte is working with John Morley from Orleans Electric on the best placement for the signs based on ease of electrification.

Proposed Motion: None.

Barton Village, Inc.
PO Box 519
Barton, Vermont 05822
(802) 525-4747

Memorandum

To: Barton Village Board of Trustees
From: Vera LaPorte
Date: June 10, 2024
Subject: Management/Staff Reports
Agenda: Item "L"

Office Equipment/Computers:

- *Mailing Machine/Postage* – The lease on the mailing/postage machine expired in 2020. Since that time, the village has paid the lease on a month-to-month basis. The current machine will soon become noncompliant in June with US postal requirements. I will be bringing options for replacing this machine to the Board in the near future
- The new WWTF computer has been successfully installed

Village

- Sidewalks
- LHMP – BRIC grant has been awarded to the Town in the amount of \$11,835 to update the LHMP
- LEMP – Local Emergency Management Plan adopted at Regular BOT Meeting on 04/22/2024 and submitted to NVDA
- Pageant Park is open and electric meters have been installed at seasonal camping sites

Highway Department

Current Projects:

- Andy to obtain paving estimate for West Street North – On hold due to budget constraints
- Spring cleanup has begun and spot paving will begin as soon as weather and time permits
- Vera LaPorte submitted the Subrecipient Certification for road damage sustained in the July 2023 flood in the amount of \$101,982.75. Funds will be received soon but no exact date yet
- Employees attended training on 05/06/2024 with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), which covered topics necessary to safely enter quarries to pick up materials, as well as VOSHA and OSHA guidelines

- New FEMA claim for December 2023 storm (DR4762) opened and meetings have already taken place. Recovery Scoping Meeting (RSM) with full staff and VT State was on 05/02/2024 and follow-up with Program Delivery Manager (PDMG) was on 05/10/2024. Meetings will continued weekly for the time being
- Bridge 55 (Elm Street) is budgeted by the State for full replacement in FY 2029
- Salt/Sand Shed Project
 - Project Engineer, Tyler Billingsley East Engineering working with Crystal and USDA
 - Construction/Funding Options – Some USDA grant money awarded (see Salt/Sand Shed Update memo from BOT meeting 03/11/2024), Town possibly has funds available through Miscellaneous Grant Fund

Wastewater Department

Pending Projects:

- Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements
 - Aldrich & Elliot – Agreement approved 06/12/2023. 30% progress meeting with Michael Mainer/VT State on 10/30/2023, 60% progress meeting on 02/13/2024. Mike Mainer presented the BOT at the Regular Meeting on 04/22/2024 with the project as it currently stands and several options to pursue
 - VT Dept of Environmental Conservation State Revolving Loan Programs funding application completed and approved June 12, loan documents received 10/04/2023 and approved by BOT on 10/16/2023. Two payments received so far in the amount of \$11,450
 - DRAFT sewer ordinance and surcharge procedure complete and currently under BOT review, will readdress in future meetings
- VT Department of Environmental Conservation Inspection Report Response
 - Initial response provided by Tim
 - NOAV letter received 10/02/2023. NOAV response is complete and VT State is happy for now
- Insurance/FEMA recovery for flood damage – Two projects from the July 2023 have been paid by FEMA for a total of \$10,428.08 (75%) currently reimbursed, FEMA has now announced that they will cover the remaining 25% for these two projects (\$3,476.02)
- Glover Agreement – Mike Mainer from Aldrich & Elliott to research in tandem with the Village's rates, will perform a holistic rate study of Barton Village and Glover rates
- New wastewater rates implemented 04/15/2024 (\$44.23 base and \$833/1000 gallons used) and disconnection procedure for nonpayment will begin 04/22/2024 with the mailing of disconnection notices
- Employees attended training on 05/06/2024 with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), which covered topics necessary to safely enter quarries to pick up materials, as well as VOSHA and OSHA guidelines

- Water/Sewer disconnections went well: 88 customers were sent letters, and 10 customers ended up facing disconnection. In the end only 2 customers were disconnected and only 1 remains disconnected. \$14,837.01 out of a possible \$22,173.76 of past due was collected, with the remaining \$7,336.75 either enrolled in repayment agreements or other arrangements. Still working out the kinks, but otherwise a great start

Water Department

- May Pond Land Research
- Lucas working with Crystal on State of Vermont Revolving Loan Application for capital projects
- 01/31/2024 Do Not Drink Order/Event went as smoothly as could be anticipated, State involvement was immediate and decisive
- Lucas in process of obtaining second estimate for carbon filter rehab project
- Disconnection procedure began 04/22/2024 with the mailing of notices
- 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 if they are approved – Approved May 13, 2024 and implemented May 14, 2024
- DPW Utility Workers Garrett Heath and Jeremiah Borsoi are currently being cross-trained for water testing

Hydro Plant

Pending Projects:

- Removal of Fuel Tank
- Penstock – Major upgrade will require financing (village vote and PUC approval). The BOT approved the application for a grant through the Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) Catalyst Program at Special Trustees Meeting on 04/30/2024
 - The petition to finance improvements to the hydro plant was filed with the PUC on 05/23/2024 (Section 108 filing)

Electric:

Rate Case

- Rate increase approved at 10.82% on 11/16/2023

IRP (Integrated Resource Plan)

- IRP approved by the PUC 11/16/2023, next filing due no later than 03/06/2026

High Street Site Investigation & Remediation

- Contract balance amount is \$169,445, paid to date is \$156,112.29, balance is \$13,332.71
- Sampling completed 10/29/2023 and VHB currently compiling data as it comes in. The Supplemental Site Investigation Report is complete as of 04/10/2024 and submitted to DEC and EPA on 04/12/2024. Recommendation from VHB is that

more testing is needed in specific areas, but pending comment from DEC and EPA. VHB to present to the Board their recommendations at Regular Trustees Meeting on 06/24/2024

- Outages on 11/27/2023, 12/04/2023, 12/18/2023, 04/03/2024-04/04/2024 proved challenging but response and organization is getting better as it is fine-tuned, Orleans Electric and Barton Village employees did an excellent job
- Working on vegetation management plan with Dave DiSimone to reduce outages by identifying and cutting problem trees/brush, particularly along main trunk line
- Planned outage on 01/12/2024 went well, but local businesses unhappy with loss of business during that time – will add businesses to Critical Care list for outage alerts

GIS Project

- Vera/Andy/Garrett attended training in Orleans on 02/08/2024 to complete the GIS inventory project for the distribution system started by summer help in 2023

Misc Items:

- Website – Vera working on it when she can