

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2024
6:00pm
Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gin Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), Crystal Currier (VPPSA), Arthur Corda, David Billado, Lee Curtis

Agenda

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

Audio recording of the meeting can be found for 30 days following the official approval of these minutes at the next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on July 22, 2024 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** – Members of NEKO did not attend. Item K will be tabled for a future meeting.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor** – None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting June 24, 2024** – Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Minutes from regular Board of Trustees Meeting June 24, 2024 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.
- E. **Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting June 26, 2024** – Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the Minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting June 26, 2024 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.
- F. **Bills and Warrants** – Gina Lyon made a motion to continue to review and approve the Bills and Warrants as presented by the end of the meeting. Marilyn Prue seconded. The motion carried.
- G. **Wastewater Abatement Hearing** – The Board received a wastewater abatement request from Athur and Evelyn Corda regarding 121 Lakefront Lane. They purchased the home with the understanding that it was connected to the Village wastewater system but learned after a backup that it was not. The Cordas requested the abatement of the base sewer fees that they had paid between the time they purchased the home and the time at which they finally attached to the wastewater system in the amount of \$373.25.

Mr. Corda attended tonight’s meeting to discuss this issue with the Trustees. The Trustees were perplexed by this request since the homeowner was not aware they were not hooked up as they originally were advised of from former homeowner. This was not something that the Trustees had ever come across. Mr. Corda stated they did hook up to the Village sewer as soon as they found out they were not actually connected to the sewer.

The current ordinance needs to be reviewed and revamped and Marilyn Prue stated she was not ready to decide at this time. Ellis Merchant is for the homeowner and for the Village repaying the \$373.25 based on his feeling that the homeowner was not hooked up correctly at the time of the purchase. Ellis Merchant feels this was a Village issue and not the responsibility of the homeowner. Vera LaPorte was not able to locate any documents on this home to support the case if the Village was in error. Ellis Merchant would like to do more research into this situation.

Gina Lyon made a motion to table this issue until Vera LaPorte can research historic billing on the property and the Village wastewater line maps on that road. Marilyn Prue 2nd motion. Motion carried. This topic will be discussed at the next Trustee meeting dated on 7/22/2024 and a motion will be made at the 8/12/2024 meeting.

- H. **Wastewater Department Financing Options** – Per the Board’s request, quotes from two local financial lenders were requested for the purpose of refinancing the short-term note between the Wastewater Department and the Village Department. Crystal Currier of VPPSA spoke with the board to review. The two quotes are attached and a summary is below:

Options	Community National	Passumpsic
Option 1 – 1 yr note	NA	5.15%
Option 2 – 3 yr note	5.66% \$92,932.47	NA
Option 3 – 5 yr note	5.91% \$59,199.89	5.32% \$58,258.41
Option 3 – 10 yr note	NA	5.61% \$33,346.46

As noted above, Passumpsic Bank is willing to extend the note beyond 5 yrs. Since this note is paying back O&M expenses, it will be considered a “revenue” note, meaning it will be paid from revenues of the wastewater department realized from user fees NOT taxpayers. Therefore, a Village vote is not required. Obviously, it will require an increase in rates but both quotes are based on annual payments that don’t begin until 2025, so this could be included in the CY2025 budget and rates adjusted starting in January, 2025.

In addition, the quotes are based on a borrowing of \$250K, however, the need is only \$200K so the payments will be slightly less than the amounts noted above. A discussion has to take place with the Glover Trustee Boards to settle on accurate billing from the Glover users end. The agreement needs to be updated and fast-tracked to be accurate and current.

This is listed as an “action” item; however, there is no urgency in acting if the Board

would like to pursue other options and/or wait until a later date the note with the Village is for one year so there is ample time before that is due.

No motion was made at tonight's meeting on this agenda item.

- I. **Community National Bank Loan Payment** – The payment for the Electric Department's Refunding Loan with Community National Bank is due the 1st of every month, and to prevent late payment Holly Pepin at Community National Bank has suggested to enroll the loan in their Automatic Funds Transfer (AFT) program.

If approved, the payment amount of \$5,072.83 (currently according to the amortization schedule) will be automatically deducted from the Village's checking account on the 1st of the month every month until terminated with written notice by either party.

Gina Lyon made a motion to approve enrollment in Community National Bank's Automatic Funds Transfer (AFT) program for the purpose of repaying the Electric Department's Refunding Loan. Marilyn Prue 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- J. **ATV Ordinance** – Previously tabled for further discussion at the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting 06/24/2024: Mr. Lee Curtis attended tonight's Village Trustee meeting to discuss adding and expanding the ATV travel roads. At the Special Board of Trustees Meeting on 04/01/2024 (joint meeting with the Town), members of the Borderline Ridge Riders (BLRR) expressed interest in opening more of the Village's roads to ATV travel. The Village's ATV Ordinance currently restricts ATV access to the following roads from 7am-9pm beginning the second Saturday in May and ending October 1st.

1. Roaring Brook Road
2. Part of Glover Road from Roaring Brook Road Bridge, north to 290 Glover Road
3. Main Street from Northern Village Line southerly to Duck Pond Road
4. Church Street from Elm Street to Main Street
5. Elm Street in its entirety
6. Eastern Avenue in its entirety
7. Pageant Park Road in its entirety

A discussion took place with the Trustees about what roads were open, and what roads were not. The current road allowance is very small and hard to legally connect to open roads and it would be easier to open all the Village roads. This will also allow law enforcement to stop riders/drivers to enforce ATV laws. A revision to the current ordinance would need to be required to make the changes. 340 miles are available currently for all Borderline Ridge ATV riders in the NEK. Conversation also was had to have all roads open 7am to 10pm. This will be voted on at a later meeting.

- K. **NEKO Presentation** – Tabled for a future meeting per NEKO request.

Department Operations Updates – 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 – unfortunately, the Village was not awarded the grant.

The petition to finance improvements to the hydro plant was filed with the PUC on 05/23/2024 (Section 108 filing). Informational Village meeting about the project will be held before the regular BOT meeting on 08/26/2024. Bond vote for Village Voters to be held 08/28/2024.

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

OTHER ITEMS:

- M. Other Business – Gina Lyon delivered an email received from David Snedeker regarding the State of VT recent road stripping on Eastern Ave and his concern with the double yellow line continuing in front of Sunrise Ave where as it should have been a space in the road. Vera LaPorte will be reaching out to the State to see if corrections can be made. In addition, there has been an uptick in cars passing other cars on Eastern Ave. His request was regarding speeding cars passing and potentially adding additional signage. The Trustees will be reaching out to the Sheriff’s department to have more of a presence on that road.

Gina Lyon thanked the board for their participation in the Village 4th of July parade. Fun was had by all.

R.I.V.E.R.S project: They have had a meeting with Barton Town, Barton Village & Orleans Village. Next step is setting up a coordinated special meeting between all three to host a public meeting to answer questions from all impacted and Town & Village elected officials.

Email from Patrick Healey: They are ready to move forward with the underground treatment catch basin. They requested use of Village Backhoe and that will be available for them end of July / first of August.

Job Description for PT financial office worker for the Village is in the hands of Crystal Currier to review and update as needed.

A discussion of Hydro Plant scrap metal removal that Ellis Merchant can help facilitate to save money for the Village.

Gina Lyon made a motion to go into executive session at 7:56pm. Marilyn Prue 2nd motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- N. Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – Discontinuance of Washington Terrace: The Board instructed Vera LaPorte to schedule a site visit for the week of August 18 depending upon the property owner’s availability.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:03PM.

The Board briefly readdressed Item G – Wastewater Abatement Hearing. After discussion, Gina Lyon made a motion to decline Mr. Corda’s abatement request. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried.

- P. Adjourn – Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: July 22, 2024

Regular Board Meeting: August 12, 2024

Regina Lyon, Board of Trustees Chair