

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

4:15 PM

Barton Memorial Building (Back Office)

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Vera LaPorte (Business Manager),  
Amy Braun (Lead Finance/HR), Crystal Carrier (VPPSA)

**Agenda**

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

Audio recording of this meeting can be found for 30 days following the official approval of these minutes at the next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on December 23, 2024 at <https://bartonvt.com/agenda-minutes/>

- A. Call to Order – Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:18pm.
- B. Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions – None.
- C. Privilege of the Floor – None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- D. 2025 Preliminary Budgets – Marilyn Prue opened discussion by asking whether it was more appropriate for the new salt/sand shed to be moved from the Highway Department to the Village Department and have the Highway Department pay rent for the use, since that was the arrangement for all the other Village-owned properties. Crystal Carrier agreed that it made sense to do so. Marilyn Prue asked if it would then make sense to use the Village Reserve or Garage funds to help pay for the remaining portion of the salt/sand shed project. Crystal Carrier agreed that it was a good idea since the Village Department was currently under budgeted. She had put \$30,000 in the Barton Memorial Building fund for the MERP grant match, but since there is no match, the \$30,000 can be used on the salt/sand shed, reducing the financed amount from \$78,000 to \$48,000.

Highlights:

Highway Department

- Equipment – May need to consider purchasing a new plow truck in 2025. The 2019 Ram currently used by the Wastewater Department and the skid steer may also need replacement within the next few years.
- Plowing – The Village will be plowing all its own roads now instead of utilizing the Town and the State. Marilyn Prue would like the tax increase to be less than

10%, but the cost of plowing the additional roads is not completely known. She also suggested putting the matter of paving in voters' hands.

- VPPSA – Crystal Currier's services will be moved to the Electric Department.

#### Electric Department

- The service contract with Orleans Electric will increase slightly.
- Debt service for the hydroelectric facility likely won't begin until 2026. A small rate increase will be necessary to prevent falling behind.
- Gina Lyon would like to explore more grant options.

#### Water Department

- Equipment/Capital Expenses – Refurbishment of filters is estimated to cost \$83,475. A grant has been applied for to pay for this, but the results won't be known until late January. A backup generator is also budgeted at \$40,000.
- Payroll – Underbudgeted for 2024. May need to restructure.
- A small rate increase may need to be implemented.

#### Wastewater Department

- Inter-departmental Loan – Tax and rate increases will help to repay the \$200,000 loan from the Village Department. Amortization schedule is currently budgeted for 5 years. Marilyn Prue requested it be changed to 7.5 years to reduce the annual cost.
- Glover Agreement – Revenue collected in 2024 was from the 2022 true-up (always trails by 1.5-2 years based on the audit). Revenue for 2023 (collected in 2025) is expected to be less.
- Wastewater Facility Upgrade – Construction likely wouldn't begin until 2026 and neither would bond payments.

Marilyn Prue asked to talk about the \$20,000 the Village had received from the State as part of the Budget Adjustment Act that was currently sitting unused in the Village Reserve fund. She stated that it had to be used on something unrelated to flooding or reimbursable by FEMA and that she would like a plan for its use. Gina Lyon suggested dividing it equally between the departments since every department is in need. Vera LaPorte suggested using it toward the backup generator at the water plant.

The Board will resume budget discussions at the Regular Trustees Meeting on 12/23/2024.

- E. Adjourn – Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Prue seconded. All approved and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: 12/23/2024**

**Regular Board Meeting: 01/13/2025**