

Barton Village, Inc.

Regular Trustees Meeting

Tuesday February 11, 2025

6:00 PM

Barton Village Memorial Building – Back Office

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), John Morley (Business Manager), Amy Braun (Finance Specialist) Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express)
Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk)

Agenda

- **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:07pm
- **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** A few items moving from action to discussion and from discussion to action items. Adding under action item E. Moving Action I to Discussion. Moving Discussion item K to Action items. Adding NEKO to as action item K
- **Privilege of the Floor:** None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting January 27, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried.
- **Minutes from the Special Board of Trustees Meeting January 30th, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.
- **Bills and Warrants:** Gina Lyon made a motion to work on Bills and Warrants during the meeting. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Hydro Facility Generator/Excitor – Unit 2:** Crystal Currier brought to the attention of John Morley and Gina Lyon an email from Dennis Fortin RE: Invoices regarding repair of old generators from the Hydro Plant. The cost would be around \$25,000. With the generator being down there is a loss of revenue. Gina Lyon made a motion to move forward with the repairs on Unit 2 Excitor. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **MERP Project:** Grant funded project to enhance the Memorial Building. With changes to the Barton Village personnel and no one to oversee the project management, Gina feels it is not something that can be acted on at this time. There is a chance down the road for the Village to apply for the grant in the future. Marilyn inquired about what can be updated to the Memorial Building while preserving the historical aspects. Gina Lyon made a motion to withdraw from the MERP Project. Gina will make the appropriate outreach. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Highway Certificate:** John Morley advised that there are items of concern regarding the highway certificate. Cincotta family (Lincoln Ave) property is currently on Village map for Village responsibility and adding Sunrise Ave to the Village map. Redfield Acres is on hold until further review. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the 2025 Highway Certificate with the addition of Sunrise Ave with John Morley investigating the amount to be added. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Annual Report:** Review of annual report, review of warnings, and printing deadline. Marilyn Prue will work with the printing service to finish the printing. Gina Lyon made a motion to

approve the Annual Report ending 12/31/2024. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried

- **NEKO 2025 Rental Agreement.** A request was made by NEKO for the Trustees to approve the rental agreement prior to NEKO signing the agreement. This rental agreement will have to be tabled and reviewed once again. The rental agreement asks for Tuesdays & Thursdays with use of Kitchen, Hall & Office /Closet. Gina Lyon will reach out to Meghan Whalen of NEKO to review and get further clarification. No action will be taken at tonight's 2/11/2025 meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Salt Sand Shed Act 250 Permit:** This project will be moving forward after a significant amount of research and development. The Act 250 permit has been filed.
- **Water Street/Rockwell Lane/ Garbage Cans:** Water Street appears to be on Google Maps as a truck route. During Winter months larger box trucks tend to get stuck at the top and slide back down. John Morley is going to reach out to District 9 to request assistance with addressing how Water Street could have signs noting that Water Street is not open for oversized truck traffic. Rockwell Lane is up for discussion regarding if it is the responsibility of the Village to maintain and plow during winter months. This will be reviewed further by John Morley. Andy Sicard would like the Village to address homes leaving the garbage cans out on the roads making it difficult for the Village Road crew to plow without hitting the cans. They remain on the roads days after the scheduled service for pick up. John Morely will address this with Andy Sicard.
- **Finance Manager Job Posting:** The email used for this job posting was updated to reflect an active email for the Village. There are six current applications that need to be reviewed in-house. John Morley will be meeting with Amy Braun and Crystal Currier to review the current applications and will meet with another (seventh) potential applicant. John will narrow the seven down to 2 or 3 for the Trustees who can then meet and decide.
- **Bond Bank Small System Capacity and Resiliency Program Award:** This is regarding the Water Treatment facility project to replace the Re-Epoxy filters. A grant was awarded for \$93,150 to the Village of Barton.
- **Ethics Policy:** Gina questioned if there is a Municipal Code of Ethics policy in place that covers the Village of Barton. The shared drive will be searched to locate a policy if there is one in existence. John Morley will work with VLCT to ensure we have one in place. It will then have to be approved by the board and posted online and in the office.
- **FEMA Update:** The flood damage inventory sheet was due today 2/11/2025 and has been submitted. Gina Lyon must fill out a summary sheet for each individual project that was done in 2024 due to the flooding. She is on the FEMA portal now and the FEMA contacts that Gina has connected with have been incredibly supportive of the Village of Barton.
- **Department Operations Updates:** Wastewater Plant: Engineer Mike Mainer dropped off engineering plans to John Morley to review and John will set up a meeting to speak with Mr. Mainer in the future regarding the plans and the future project for the Wastewater plant. John Morley is working with Andy Sicard to determine which roads are the worst in the Village in regards of paving, but also sewer and water pipes that need repair. The Electric Department is doing well. Broadband (NEK) is 70% completed at this time. Cutting vegetation and tree trimming is going well in the Barton Electric corridors. The electric outages have dropped significantly. The Village office is now moving away from the accounting platform NEMRIC over

to El Dorado accounting systems. The office staff is going through training, and it is a heavy lift as they are making corrections along the way for the conversion. With this move to the El Dorado accounting /billing system it will advance the technology open to all members of the Barton Electric and Water/Sewer service areas. Online payments, automated billing and so much more. It is welcomed not only for the Village office staff but Barton as a whole. While the status of the Barton Electric company is stable and in great shape, in 5 years, the BTV electric will be very strong+.

- **Other Business:** Gina Lyon addressed the move of the location of the Village Trustee meetings from the Memorial Hall to the back office. Formally it was a concern having the meetings in the back hall due to not having wheelchair accessibility, as such the meetings were moved downstairs. The Trustees are committed to ensuring all individuals have access to the meetings and will make every accommodation to ensure that happens when necessary. In the event there is a topic on the agenda that will bring in more folks to the meeting, the meeting will be moved to the hall since the back room is small.

It was decided that the Village will post on agendas and social media that if there is a person using a wheelchair that wishes to attend a meeting that the meeting will be moved to the hall. If an individual arrives on the night of the meeting, the meeting will be moved to the hall immediately to accommodate any individual in a wheelchair or any other disabilities that hinder their attendance at the Village Trustee meeting being held in the back room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E)-None
- **Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)-** Gina Lyon made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:53pm. At 8:45pm the Board came out of Executive Session and Gina Lyon made a motion to approve Lucas DiMauro's request to change the last digit of his hourly wage to end in a zero. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Adjourn – At 8:46pm Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: 02/25/2025

Regular Board Meeting: 03/11/2025


Regina Lyon, Board Trustee Chair