

VILLAGE OF BARTON ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

In accordance with the foregoing notice, the legal voters of the Village of Barton, Vermont convened at the time and location specified in the warning. Moderator Jacqueline Laurion called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Article 1. Elect a Moderator for one year.

Regina Lyon nominated Jacqueline Laurion as moderator. Leonidas Zenonos made a motion nominations cease, and the clerk be instructed to cast one ballot for Jacqueline Laurion for Moderator, seconded by Randy Poginy. The motion carried and Jacqueline Laurion was elected moderator for a one-year term.

Article 2. Elect the following Officers:

Clerk for a one-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a one-year term
Treasurer for a one-year term
Trustee for a three-year term

Regina Lyon nominated Shelia Martin for the office of Clerk. A motion was made by Leonidas Zenonos that nominations cease.

Discussion: Regina Lyon asked about making the term of clerk to 3 years and Nathan Sicard stated he believed it was in the charter it has to be a one-year term. Regina Lyon withdrew her motion.

There was no further discussion, and Shelia Martin was elected as Clerk, for a one-year term.

Leonidas Zenonos nominated Shelia Martin for the office of Collector of Delinquent Taxes. A motion was made by Nathan Sicard that nominations cease. There was no discussion, and the motion carried, and Shelia Martin was duly elected Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the ensuing year.

Regina Lyon nominated Shelia Martin for the office of Treasurer. A motion was made by Nathan Sicard that nominations cease. There was no discussion, and the motion carried, and Shelia Martin was duly elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Regina Lyon nominated Marilyn Prue for the office of Trustee for a three-year term. Nathan Sicard made motion that nominations cease. There was no discussion, and the motion carried, and Marilyn Prue was duly elected Trustee for a three-year term (March 2028).

Article 3: Shall the Village compensate the following elected officers for 2024? (these funds will be raised through operating budgets from the Village Departments as allowed)

Clerk -- \$210.00

Collector of Delinquent Taxes – 8% of taxes collected

Treasurer – 1% of taxes collected

Trustee -- \$1500.00

Susan Penharlow made a motion the Clerk to be paid \$210.00 for the ensuing year, seconded by Leonidas Zenonos. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion the Collector of Delinquent Taxes be paid 8% of the delinquent taxes collected.

Discussion: Jessica Torrence asked what the amount was. She was advised that the amount varies depending on how many taxes are delinquent, but it is approximately \$3,000.00 - \$3,500.00.

There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion the Treasurer be paid 1% of taxes collected, this was seconded by Regina Lyon. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Leonidas Zenonos made a motion the Trustees be paid \$1,500.00, seconded by Susan Penharlow. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Article 4: Shall the Village raise \$76,193.91 through taxes upon the grand list for the funds requested in the 2025 Annual Village Budget and the ensuing year and direct the Trustees to assess a tax on the grand list sufficient to meet the same? (See Village Department Budget for assessment request by the Trustees)

Regina Lyon motioned to accept the article as proposed, Jessica Torrence seconded.

Discussion: Jessica Torrence asked why there was a 5% increase in the budget. Trustee Marilyn Prue explained the accounting system needs to be updated and the report is difficult to read but went on to explain the report on page 11.

Article 4. (Ctd.):

Nathan Sicard stated the increase also looked like \$8,000.00 was being added to the Capital Fund also.

Crystal Currier stated the salt shed is also a new line item in the budget and that added to the increase.

Regina Lyon stated the Trustees received additional grant funding for the salt shed.

Marilyn Prue stated that the 5% increase should increase taxes approximately \$8.37/per 100,000.00 value of a home.

There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

Article 5: Shall the Village raise \$375,041.32 through taxes upon the grand list for the funds requested in the 2025 Annual Highway Budget and the ensuing year and direct the Trustees to assess a tax on the grand list sufficient to meet the same? (See Highway Department Budget for assessment request by the Trustees)

Regina Lyon made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Randy Poginy seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Article 6: Shall the Village raise \$70,413.52 through taxes and user fees for water department capital debt retirement and water capital reserve funds, such funds will be used for major repairs, replacement, and upgrades to the structural components of the Village water system? (See Water Department Budget for assessment request by the Trustees)

Regina Lyon made a motion to accept the article as proposed, Marilyn Prue seconded.

Discussion: Jessica Torrence asked about the issues with the water. John Morley advised that the water treatment plant is safe. There is a plan in place to hopefully help with the issue.

Regina Lyon stated there is FEMA pending due to the flooding this past summer. The Village had to have water hauled in and provided cases of water to residents. This expense was approximately \$7,329.12.

Article 6 (Ctd.):

Jessica Torrence asked about the infrastructure. She was advised it does require some upgrades, and the trustees are looking for funding options. She further praised the trustees for looking for extra funding sources.

Majorie Brown stated she has had recent water issues and was advised it is due to sediment in the lines and the hydrants need to be flushed and will be as soon as the weather allows.

John Morley followed up that the water is tested on a daily basis.

Nathan Sicard advised that the minerals in the water are what settle on the bottom of the pipes and the filter system was installed in the 1980's. He agreed with John Morley flushing needs to happen and maybe the frequency needs to be increased.

There was no further discussion, the motion passed.

Article 7: Shall the Village raise \$69,894.56 through taxes and user fees for wastewater department capital debt retirement and wastewater capital reserve funds, such funds will be used for major replacements and upgrades to the structural components of the Village Wastewater System? (See Wastewater Department Budget for assessment request by the Trustees)

Regina Lyon made a motion to accept the article as proposed and Rebecca Lanoue seconded.

There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Article 8: Shall the Village appropriate the sum of \$5,000 in funds to be used as matching funds for grant applications that demonstrate direct benefit to the Village of Barton community and/or its residents with requirements for said appropriation to be a report of income and expense and instruct the Trustees to assess a tax sufficient to meet the same?

Regina Lyon made a motion to accept the article as proposed, seconded by Ellis Merchant. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Article 9: Shall the Village collect its taxes due and payable within 60 days without discount. Interest to accrue on delinquent taxes at the maximum rate allowed by law and an 8% penalty assessed on all delinquent taxes and postmarks are not acceptable as payment dates.

Article 9 (Ctd.):

Susan Penharlow made a motion to accept the article as proposed, seconded by Randy Poginy.

Discussion: Sarah Bailey stated there are very few places that she is aware of, including the IRS, which do accept postmarks and wanted it explained why the Village doesn't accept postmarks.

Shelia Martin stated that she was unaware of any municipality that accepted postmarks. There is concern about monies the village was anticipating and would not receive in a timely manner.

Jessica Torrence asked about the interest and why it had to be the maximum rate? Sarah Bailey made a motion to amend the interest rate and the penalty.

Nathan Sicard advised the taxpayers approved in Article 3 to pay the 8% and this amount is paid by the taxpayer and not the village. If the amount is changed the village would have to make up the percentage rate somehow.

There was no second to the amended and Leonidas Zenonos called the question, which was seconded by Sarah Bailey.

The motion carried and the article passed as written.

Article 10: To see if the voters will authorize an appropriation of \$25,000.00 to the Paving restricted account, such funds to be used for the village municipal roads and direct the Trustees to assess a tax sufficient to raise the same?

Regina Lyon made a motion to accept the article as proposed, seconded by Jessica Torrence.

Discussion: Susan Penharlow was asked why this wasn't included in the highway budget. Marilyn Prue explained it was denied in the highway budget last year and this year the amount was separated out to see if the voters would approve.

Leonidas Zenonos asked if the monies would be restricted to just paving, and he was advised it would be.

Leonidas Zenonos made an amendment to the motion to increase the appropriation to \$50,000.00.

Article 10 (Ctd.):

Marilyn Prue advised the anticipated impact to taxpayers on the \$25,000.00 was \$57.00/100,000 value of a home and would be approximately \$115.00/100,000 value of a home. Leonidas Zenonos advised it will be money well spent.

There was more discussion about grants and class 2 and 3 roads.

There was no further discussion, and Randy Poginy seconded the motion to amend the amount to \$50,000.00. The motion carried to amend the amount.

Article 11. To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

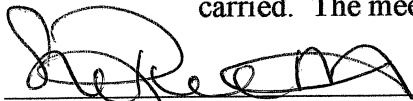
David Snedecker asked about the increase in the electric department fund. He was advised this increased due to the expanded broadband. He was also advised these funds will be reimbursed by NEK Broadband and Comcast.

There were no further discussions.

Nathan Sicard motioned to accept the article as proposed and Ellis Merchant seconded. The motion carried.

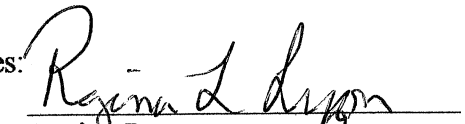


Article 15: To Adjourn.

Leonidas Zenonos motioned to adjourn, seconded by Regina Lyon. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

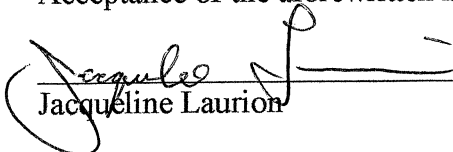


Shelia Martin
Village Clerk

Acceptance of aforewritten minutes by the Trustees:


Regina Lyon

Marilyn Prue

Ellis Merchant

Acceptance of the aforewritten minutes by the Moderator:


Jacqueline Laurion