

**Barton Village, Inc.**  
**Regular Trustees Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 08, 2025  
6pm

**Barton Village Memorial Building – Back Office\*\*Meeting to be moved downstairs in the event there is an access issue for any attendee or participant. To request meeting be moved to downstairs prior to the scheduled date and time, please call the office at 802-525-4747, Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4pm.\*\***

**Attendance:** Gina Lyon (Chair) Marilyn Prue (Trustee) Ellis Merchant (Trustee) John Morley (Interim Village Business Manager) Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk)

**Agenda**

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:06pm
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** None
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting March 25, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes as presented for 3/25/2025. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- E. **Bills and Warrants:** Marilyn Prue is reviewing as the meeting progresses; Gina Lyon made a motion review and approve by the end of the meeting. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. **Wastewater rate increase:** Marilyn Prue reviewed the current rates and feels we need a 10% increase on the base charge to assist with the reduction of revenue received from the Town of Glover for 2025 and due to the budget being passed at the Annual Meeting. There will not be any increase in fees on usage. Starting with the May billing for April's usage, the residential base fee will go from \$44.23 to \$48.65. Non-residential base fee will go from \$33.33 to \$36.66. Conversation continued to meet with the Village of Glover and advise them on the next steps for the Wastewater Treatment plants future overhaul. They also have concerns about the fees being charged to Glover. John Morley and Gina Lyon will set up a meeting to discuss with Glover. Gina Lyon made a motion to increase the Wastewater base fee to increase by 10% for billing in May for April rates. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- G. **LRUHS check:** The Board of Trustees received an email from Crystal Currier that the Lake Region Union HS sent a donation and thank you note for the use of the theater during the months of January and February with the performance that took place mid-February 2025. They sent a check for \$1,500 and a kind note of thanks. The note of thanks did mention that they hoped to use the theater for future productions. The Trustees agreed and will put the funds aside in a Barton Memorial Building Reserve Fund to be used for future projects pertaining to the theater.

- H. **Water increases:** A Public meeting will be set to discuss a water base rate increase at the regular Trustee boards meeting at 6pm on 05/13/2025. The proposed is a 3% base charge increase. The residential base rate currently sits at \$26.93 and would increase to \$27.73. Non-residential would go from \$17.41 to \$17.93. If passed this new rate would be billed in June for May usage.
- I. **FEMA Update:** Gina Lyon updated the board regarding a new PDMG assigned to the Village of Barton for former and future FEMA issues. Gina will need to coordinate with John Morley to review scopes on the cost of some pending projects.
- J. **MERP Update:** Gina Lyon signed and sent contracts back to Carter Finnigan (NVDA) and John Turner Consulting (JTC). Carter Finnigan will be the Administrative Manager of the grant and JTC will be the project manager that will facilitate the MERP project of the Memorial Building renovations. Gina is currently waiting to set up a site visit to the Memorial Building. MERP is a grant that was given to the Village of Barton for upkeep and renovations to the Memorial Building.
- K. **Department Operations Updates:** John Morley presented the following updates:
  - a. **Waste Water Treatment:** John attended a TEAMS meeting with USDA rural development, Mike Mainer with Aldrich & Elliott, and Gina Lyon to discuss funding for WW treatment facility project. There is a list of items that are still needed and those are being gathered to send back to Aldrich & Elliot. There is some more discussion about receiving state funding for this endeavor.
  - b. **Electric Department:** Denis Fortin (**Hydro Plant Manager**) addressed his desire to retire after all the heavy lifting is completed with the Hydro Plant overhaul. John would like to bring in an apprentice to work with Denis so that when the time comes for Denis to step down, the Village will have a person to step in to manage the Hydro Plant. John Morley has asked the Trustees if they will hire an apprentice. The Trustees are in full agreement with finding a replacement. John Morley will oversee that task to find a new Hydro Plant Manager. The current concern is the Headgate. It has been ordered, but there are some issues with the delivery date. Without the headgate being replaced it is stopping the progress of the replacement of the penstock, which is in dire need of replacement.
  - c. **Highway Department:** We did get approval of the Act 250 permit for the salt and sand shed project. A full-time worker will be leaving the DPW team next month. John Morley is requesting summer help for the department to assist with Andy Sicard. The Trustees are in full agreement and John will manage the hiring of summer help.
  - d. **Water Treatment:** Barton Village has applied for a \$50,000 grant for the Asset Management Plan that reviews everything regarding the Water treatment plant. Lucas DiMauro is managing this with the assistance of Gina Lyon.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- L. **Other Business:** Gina Lyon had a meeting on 04/4/2025 with Ken Nolan of VPPSA and they discussed tariffs along with PUC rate cases being months behind. Gina Lyon also wanted to get the Village of Barton in the queue for an electric rate increase. Ken advised that the Village of Barton was on the list for a rate increase review and stated VPPSA would be in touch when they were ready to proceed.

John Morley stated that the amount of work in the Village of Barton is too much for him to manage alone. With his responsibilities to the Village of Orleans and the added tasks for the Village of Barton, he proposed to the Trustees to hire Gina Lyon as a part-time employee for the

Village of Barton. The number of hours would be between 15hr to 20hrs. Gina Lyon would still hold her position as Chair on the Board of Trustees. Trustees Marilyn Prue and Ellis Merchant agreed with the proposal and John Morley will start the process for the next steps. There are two critical Village office positions open, and it has not been easy filling the spots. That search will continue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- M. **Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – if needed.** - None
- N. **Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) – if needed.** - None
- O. **Adjourn;** Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Regular Board Meeting: 04/22/2025**

**Regular Board Meeting: 05/13/2025**