

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
6 pm

Barton Village Memorial Building – Back Office

If anyone has trouble accessing the back-office meeting room, the meeting can be moved downstairs. To request this change before the meeting date and time, please call the office at 802-525-4747, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair-Village Business Manager), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), Meghan Wayland (NEKO) Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express)

Agenda

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** Gina Lyon added Action item J. and Action item K.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting June 10, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/10/2025 Trustees meeting as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion passed.
- E. **Minutes from the Special Board of Trustees Meeting June 12, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Board of Trustees meeting with the Village of Glover. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- F. **Bills and Warrants:** Marilyn Prue reviewed the Bills and Warrants and made a motion to approve as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- G. **N.E.K.O. Rental Agreement and Barton Celebrates** - Meghan Wayland of NEKO attended to speak with the Trustees and inquired about adding Trash removal to the contract that NEKO currently has in place with the Village of Barton to rent the hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Gina Lyon asked clarifying questions and determined that it is just trash and recycling, and that there is no food compost as they have an arrangement with the Barton Community Garden folks. The Trustees presented to Meghan that NEKO could bring the trash to the Village of Barton DPW site by 3:30 pm and recycling can go to the Barton recycling center to avoid them needing to travel to Casella and paying to dispose of it themselves. Meghan agreed and was appreciative. Gina Lyon made a motion to include trash removal as part of the rental agreement. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed. In addition, Meghan Wayland spoke about Barton Celebrates and requested the use of the ballfield for 8/8 for a community kickball game and then reserve the ballfield for 8/9 for the concert and use the Memorial Building Theater as a backup for a rain location. The Village will also have the banner hung for NEKO. Gina Lyon made a motion to allow the usage of the ballfield for the Village games and Concerts pending receipt of NEKO insurance, citing The Village as part of being insured and the ampage is adequate for the performer's needs. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed. To add, Meghan gave the Trustees an updated map of current NEKO hubs. Inquired with the Trustees if they are willing to collaborate with other Towns & Villages when natural disasters take place to assist and

support as needed. Gina Lyon advised that we are currently connected with Vermont Emergency Management, and the hall is a Red Cross-certified center open to all.

- H. **Bid Selection for Salt – Sand Shed:** Two bids were submitted, one from H. Morse and Son Excavating and the second bid from J.P. Sicard. H. Morse came in with a bid for \$229,327.50 while J.P. Sicard came in at \$259,500.00. Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the bid from H. Morse & Sons Excavating. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- I. **Financial Reports for Period ending May 2025:** Of note, the former report style was reports that Crystal Currier had personally created herself. This new format is directly out of the accounting system. In addition, the Village DPW is short on funds, but this lack of funding is due to the numerous FEMA projects outstanding, and the two checks received from FEMA are not accounted for but will be next month. Electric is also in the negative, and the Village is awaiting payment from NEK Broadband. Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the financial reports for the period ending May 2025. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion passed.
- J. **Lien:** The Trustees discussed the property located at 640 Maple Hill Road, Barton, which has experienced a significant increase in electric utility charges. Although a lien is already in place, it was recommended that a second lien for \$6,098.53 be applied due to the continued accumulation of unpaid charges. Marilyn Prue made a motion to place a 2nd lien. Gina Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- K. **VPPSA Board Appointment:** Marilyn Prue made a motion to appoint Gina Lyon as a VPPSA board member to represent the Village of Barton Electric Department. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gina Lyon recused herself from the vote. She will replace the former Barton Village Business Manager and Denis Fortin; Hydro Manager will remain an alternate.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- L. **VHB/High Street Update:** Gina Lyon reached out to Kurt Muller, site investigation and remediations director from VHB, and is leading the review of the High Street property, formerly used by the Barton Village Electric Department. Most of the site review has been completed, but due to a few areas that raised concern, an additional review of those specific areas needs to take place. Mr. Muller will be sending their findings to EPA and DEC, and a future call will take place to review the second phase of work that is needed. Gina Lyon will be part of that phone conversation.
- M. **FEMA Update:** Gina Lyon reported that two projects needing to be completed by the end of June have been completed in full. Gina Lyon will now complete the necessary paperwork for FEMA. The culvert on Pageant Park Road that was replaced due to the July 2024 flooding has been reviewed with the documents and photos submitted to FEMA, and this will be allowed by FEMA so the Village can receive reimbursement for that project.
- N. **MERP Update:** No update to report. Still in RFP stages.
- O. **Department Operations Updates:**
 - a) **Wastewater Plant:** No update to report.
 - b) **Water Treatment Plant:** Gina Lyon reported that the dredging FEMA project at Doyle Lane has been completed. She also reported that a Hydrogeologist with VT Agency of Natural Resources and Dept. of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water Groundwater Protection Division/Water Resources Section has sent information to Lucas DiMauro, Water Manager, advising next steps for obtaining permits for using the existing groundwater well with the current structure of the Water Facility. It was

recommended that an engineer be hired to assist, and Gina will be working with Lucas regarding this. Lucas and Gina are working with Aldridge and Elliott on creating an Asset Management Plan for the Water Treatment Facility.

- c) **Electric Department:** The Village of Barton Office Staff will be meeting with the Village of Orleans Office Staff to review the ins and outs of the El Dorado accounting system regarding delinquent accounts for both Utility Departments to ensure late fees are still being incurred and billing statements sent.
- d) **Department of Public Works:** The Village will be extending an offer to an applicant for the temporary worker this week. Two flashing lights have been ordered and received. They will be installed in area of Barton Academy and Graded School this week.
- e) **Village Office:** See above under the Electric Department.

OTHER ITEMS:

- P. **Other Business:** None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- Q. **Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E):** Not needed.
- R. **Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3).** Gina Lyon made a motion at 7:34PM to go into executive session. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed. At 8:29pm Gina Lyon made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed. Gina Lyon made a motion to extend the offer to hire Shelia Martin for the Finance/Human Resources Manager. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- S. **Adjourn:** Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: 07/08/2025

Regular Board Meeting: 07/22/2025

Regina Lyon, Trustee, Board Chair