

**Barton Village, Inc.**  
**Regular Trustees Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 10, 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 that the meeting be moved to downstairs prior to the scheduled date and time, please call the office at 802-525-4747,  
Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 4 pm.\*\*

**Attendance:** Gina Lyon (Chair), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee), Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk), John Morley (Interim Barton Village Manager), Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express) Norman Patenaude (Pike Industries)

**Agenda/Minutes**

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions:** John Morley wanted to add a discussion item regarding the Barton Electric Rates. Gina Lyon also added a discussion item regarding the Village Treasure/Clerk/Delinquent Tax Collector post for Barton Village.
- C. **Privilege of the Floor:** None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- D. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting May 27, 2025:** Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes from 5/27/2025 as presented. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion carried.
- E. **Bills and Warrants:** Marilyn Prue reviewed and made a motion to approve as presented. Gina Lyon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. **Bid Selection for Paving Lincoln Street:** The Village received three bids for the paving project for Lincoln Street. Discussion was had regarding the requested bid and received bids. Upon discussion, Gina Lyon made a motion to accept and approve the bid from Pike Industries for \$100,815.00. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- G. **Ordinance Enforcer:** Gina Lyon advised that she had a conversation with Renee Falconer, who is the Ordinance Enforcer for the Town of Barton and the Village of Orleans. When asked if she would also be the Ordinance Enforcer for the Village of Barton, she was pleased to accept the offer. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the position of Ordinance Enforcer to Renee Falconer. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- H. **Line of Credit for B.E.D.:** Currently, the Barton Electric Department is short of cash, and until a rate increase goes into effect later in the year, a line of credit needs to take place. John Morley requested a fixed interest rate from Community National Bank and Passumpsic Bank. Community Nation Bank came in at a fixed interest rate of 5.51% while Passumpsic Bank came in at a fixed rate of 5.19%. The line of credit is up to \$300,000. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve the line of credit and go with the Passumpsic Bank fixed interest rate. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried.
- I. **Electric Department Rate Increase:** John Morley reported that VPPSA plans to file a rate increase on behalf of the Village of Barton by the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. The rate increase will be close to 5.61%. The cost of power has continued to increase, and small increases are better for the users

of Barton Electric than larger ones. The positive aspect is the amount of power the hydroelectric plant in Charleston generates, which is owned by Barton Electric. The plant is close to running at 100%. Gina Lyon made a motion to approve VPPSA filing a rate increase of 5.61%. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- J. **Glover Select Board Meeting re: Wastewater Treatment Facility:** The Village Trustees will be attending the Glover Select Board meeting on 6/12/2025. This is to discuss the contract on the Wastewater Treatment Facility that Glover shares a portion of. The current method of calculating Glover's fees/responsibility of their usage through a "True-Up" is not working for either Glover or the Village of Barton. Marilyn Prue reviewed a proposed plan to present to the Glover Select Board that she feels will make sense for both parties by using usage averages.
- K. **FEMA Update:** Gina Lyon reported that the Village of Barton has received two VT VEM/FEMA checks for repairs made from the flood of July 2024 in the amount of \$91,500 and \$76,000. The Village has received most of the VT VEM/FEMA funds from the 2023 flooding.
- L. **MERP Update:** Gina Lyon reported that she had a status Google meeting with John Turner Consultants and Carter Finegan regarding the approved RFP and advertising for contractor bids. The project is moving along, and she will be available to meet with potential contractors requesting a tour of the Memorial Building.
- M. **Department Operations Updates:**
  - a. **Water Treatment Facility** – Gina Lyon reported that Lucas and Andrew were dredging the water way on Doyle Lane this week.
  - b. **Hydro** – Gina Lyon reported that she met with Denis Fortin, Operator, on June 09, 2025, to review and sign the Fairbanks Mill agreement that was due the next day. The Board previously approved the bid from Fairbanks Mill. Denis Fortin drove the agreement to Fairbanks Mill in St. Johnsbury, VT that day. Gina had asked Denis when he believed he would have to shut the hydro down and he thought mid-July through November, with the possibility he may be able to come back up in between certain steps of the project. During the shutdown there will be no power being made and John Morley advised we let VPPSA know when this is happening so that they are aware.
  - c. **DPW:** – Gina Lyon reported that she and Andrew conducted two interviews for the Summer temporary position(s) and per Andrew, he wished to revisit this in another week.
  - d. **Office:** Gina Lyon reported that she and Marilyn conducted two interviews for the Finance/HR Manager position and would have a third on Wednesday. They hope to move forward with offering the position to one of the candidates soon.
  - e. **Electric:** John Morley reported that they were moving conductors on Hinton Hill. Marilyn Prue asked if there would need to be an outage to do this to which John replied, there would not.
  - f. **Wastewater Facility:** - Nothing to report.
- N. **Village Treasure/Clerk/Delinquent Tax Collector:** About a month ago Shelia Martin had submitted her resignation for the positions that she held as Village of Barton's Treasurer/ Clerk & Delinquent Tax Collector. Her reasons were personal as stated in her letter. The Village Trustees never accepted the resignation of Mrs. Martin and left it that they would be researching what needed to take place. As such, when a second notice was received from Sheila Martin stating her circumstances had changed and wished to withdraw from her previous

resignation, the Trustees were incredibly pleased to have her continue in her role as it is with no changes.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- O. **Other Business:** Ed Barber with the Newport Daily Express asked Gina Lyon if she was acting as Village Business Manager or what her role was exactly. Gina Lyon announced that after outreach to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office, she was given the clarity that she can indeed hold the Trustee position and the full-time Village Business Manager position with the understanding that she thoughtfully manages issues at hand to avoid potential conflict of interests. Of course, there will be times she has to recuse herself from voting on assorted topics such as benefits, pay increase, etc. She was asked to be the Full-time Village Business Manager a while back and after speaking with her family, the State of Vermont, and making a personal decision to leave her 26-year employment at North Country Hospital, she was very happy to step into this new role. Marilyn Prue and Ellis Merchant made the final decision and motion, which Gina recused herself from and the motion passed, and Gina was hired.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- P. Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) – Gina Lyon made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:40pm. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. The motion passed. No action taken.
- Q. Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) – Not needed.
- R. Adjourn - Gina Lyon made a motion to adjourn at 8:41pm. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Special Board Meeting: 06/12/2025**

**Regular Board Meeting: 06/24/2025**



Regina Lyon, Trustee, Board Chair