

## **Barton Village, Inc.**

### **Regular Trustees Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

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 relocation prior to the scheduled date and time, please call 802-525-4747, Monday–Friday, 7:30 AM–4:00 PM.*

#### **Attendance:**

Gina Lyon (Chair, BV Office Manager)

Marilyn Prue (Trustee)

Ellis Merchant (Trustee)

Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk)

Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express)

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#### **A. Call to Order**

Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

#### **B. Changes to the Agenda**

Gina Lyon added:

- **Action Item H:** Hydro Vermont Bond Documents for Signature
- **Action Item I:** Percentage of Charges to Village Departments for Office Staff

#### **C. Privilege of the Floor**

Ed Barber asked questions during Operational Updates regarding current open positions in Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, and the Hydro Plant.

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### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **D. Minutes – Wastewater Informational Meeting (February 10, 2026)**

Motion by Gina Lyon to approve the minutes as presented.

Seconded by Ellis Merchant.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **E. Minutes – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting (February 10, 2026)**

Motion by Gina Lyon to approve the minutes as presented.

Seconded by Ellis Merchant.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **F. Bills and Warrants**

Motion by Marilyn Prue to approve Bills and Warrants as presented.

Seconded by Ellis Merchant.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **G. Lien – 76 Water Street, Barton, VT**

Gina Lyon presented a new lien for 76 Water Street, which is currently in foreclosure.

Updated total due to the Village (Electric and Water/Sewer): **\$3,667.89**

Motion by Marilyn Prue to approve the lien.

Seconded by Ellis Merchant.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **H. Hydro Vermont Bond Documents**

Bond documents required signatures to be returned to the Bond Bank by March 10. Closing scheduled for March 18.

Motion by Marilyn Prue to approve the bond documents.

Seconded by Gina Lyon.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **I. Office Staff Allocation**

Discussion regarding percentage allocation of office staff costs to Village departments.

Decision tabled until development of the 2027 budget.

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### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **J. Department Operations Updates**

##### **Office**

- Second, in-house water and electric billing will take place this week.
- The 2025 Village Annual Report is being printed and will be posted to the Village website, social media, and available at the Village Office and Town of Barton by week's end.

## DPW (Public Works)

- International truck is back in service.
- Second salt delivery received from Cargill.

## Water Treatment

The Village received another Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) for elevated **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)**.

- The standard for TTHM is 80 UG/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TTHM was **95 UG/L.**
- Because compliance is based on the running annual average, the notice will reflect a higher figure based on the entire previous quarter's testing. The 01/15/26 Total Trihalomethanes test result was 83.8 UG/L. The 11/18/25 Total Trihalomethanes test result was 91.1 UG/L.
- The Village is scheduling a meeting with the State.
- Tailwater Engineering Services will be engaged to explore blending well water with surface water to reduce TTHM levels.

## Overview of TTHMs

In small community systems, raw water (river, lake, or well) is treated through:

1. **Screening & Filtration** – Removes debris and organic material.
2. **Disinfection** – Chlorine added to eliminate harmful microorganisms.
3. **Distribution** – Treated water delivered to homes and businesses.

TTHMs form when chlorine reacts with natural organic matter, particularly in surface water sources.

More organic matter + chlorine = higher TTHM potential

To balance public health protection and regulatory compliance, systems may:

- Monitor levels regularly.
- Adjust chlorine application.
- Add treatment steps.
- Explore blending options.

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## **Wastewater**

- Bond vote was successful.
- USDA application materials submitted to Mike Mainer and then to USDA last week.

## **Electric**

- Village is working with the El Dorado accounting system to issue credits for the 1.49% overcollection surcharge.
- The Vermont Public Utility Commission approved a 4.12% rate increase (from a requested 5.61%).
- Updated rates will be reflected in this week's billing cycle.
- A 5-month credit will be issued.

## **Hydro Plant**

- Cement work is progressing due to improved weather.
- Fairbanks Mill anticipates full functionality by end of March.
- Vermont Public Power Supply Authority is aware of progress.
- River levels remain low; limited generation would occur even if fully operational.

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## **K. Hydro Fuel Storage Tank Removal**

Fairbanks Mill submitted a proposal of \$170,000 to remove the defunct fuel storage tank at the Hydro Plant.

The Village will pause this initiative at this time pending final approval from the State of VT Historical Preservation.

## **L. Other Business**

None.

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **Legal Action – 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E):** None

- **Personnel – 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3):** Motion by Gina Lyon to enter Executive Session at 6:56 PM. Seconded by Ellis Merchant. Motion carried. At 8:24pm Gina Lyon made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Ellis Merchant seconded. Motion carried. Discussion was had regarding the 2026 Union Agreement and no changes regarding the winter stipend. There was also discussion regarding the Wastewater Chief Operator position and opening. No action was taken.
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**M. Adjourn** - Gina Lyon made a motion at 8:25pm to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ellis Merchant. Motion carried.

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### **Upcoming Meetings**

- **Barton Village Annual Meeting:** March 10, 2026 – 7:00 PM
  - **Regular Board of Trustees Meeting:** March 24, 2026 – 6:00 PM
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Regina L. Lyon, Trustee, Board Chair