

BARTON VILLAGE INC.  
MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION – BARTON ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT  
DRAFT MINUTES  
September 25, 2021 3:30 PM

PRESENT: Nate Sicard, Tin Barton-Caplin, Jacqueline Laurion and 31 people

Call to Order: Called to order by NS at 3:30 p.m.

- A. Changes to Agenda / Additions or Deletions
  - a. None
- B. Privilege of the Floor
  - a. None
- C. Old Business
  - a. None
- D. New Business
  - a. Public Informational Meeting: Electric Department
    - i. NS asked for show of hands of BED customers: Most people
    - ii. NS asked for show of hands for Barton Village residents: About 2/3-3/4 of people
    - iii. NS provided an overview of BED Activity
      - 1. BED Operations has relied on contract services for approximately 2.5 years without an Electric Department Manager or lineman—VEC & VPPSA providing a bulk of operations and business management services
      - 2. Current staff include billing clerks, hydro manager, utility worker, and a part time line man
      - 3. Customer services such as line extensions have been covered by VEC or by other providers at the discretion of the customer
      - 4. Trustees have been working towards moving to a model that is more sustainable
        - a. VEC expressed interest in purchasing BED
        - b. Discussions picked up in late winter/early spring 2021
        - c. BED engaged counsel to assist the Trustees consider a purchase and sales agreement & due diligence required
        - d. BED has approximately 2200 customers, only 300 or so are Village Residents
        - e. BED is owned by all the Village Residents
        - f. NS outlined the intention of the Trustees to sell BED with a competitive bidding process
        - g. NS shared how a sale of BED affects other departments & how the Trustees have hired a Water Chief Operator to run our

water treatment plant and that the contract with Utilities Partners will not be renewed. This allows the Village to have a more critical mass of staff to keep the Village Public Works functioning post sale of BED.

b. Questions:

- i. Are there evaluation criteria for the final bids?
  1. Yes—the evaluation tool has not been developed but there is a list of criteria that the Trustees will have in place prior to receiving the bids:
    - a. Sustainability, Impact on Rate Payers, Impact on Village, Impact on Employees, etc.
- ii. Has VEC seen the Electric Department Valuation?
  1. No
- iii. Would the sale of the utility leave Barton residents with debt?
  1. The proceeds of any sale would cover all debt or the bid/proposal would not advance.
- iv. Are there any issues looming for the hydro plant?
  1. Most of the major issues with the hydro plant have been addressed. There is a stretch of the penstock that could be upgraded.
  2. NS provided some details on the diesel generator that was non-compliant and how that has been addressed and the Phase II process.
- v. As you receive bids what is the process for the Department Public Service to provide input?
  1. Once there's a tentative purchase and sales agreement, there will be a series of public hearings where rate payers, village residents, Dept Public Service representatives will be present to share comments/input; there would be some negotiations with DPS, and then ultimately the voters will vote and the purchase and sale would then need to be approved by the Public Utility Commission.
- vi. If the bids are not advantageous to the Village, is there an option to not sell the utility?
  1. Yes: the Village has seen net positive gains each year in its financial position and with its assets, the Trustees would not move forward with a sale if the bids are not advantageous to the Village and reflects this net financial position.

E. Adjourn: JBC motioned to adjourn at 4:45 p.m., JL seconded. Unanimous approval.

Date of Next Meetings: Sept 27, 2021

Submitted by Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin | Board Clerk

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Attested by Shelia Martin | Village Clerk