

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:00pm

Barton Village Memorial Hall

Attendance: Gina Lyon (Chair) Marilyn Prue, Ellis Merchant, Vera LaPorte (Business Manager), Crystal Currier (VPPSA) Jeremiah Borsoi (Village DPW) David Billido, Jacqueline Laurion (Clerk)

Agenda

- A. Call to Order -Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:05pm
- B. Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions - None
- C. Privilege of the Floor: Jacqueline Laurion requested the use of 2 tables for a private function. Approved by the trustees.

ACTION ITEMS:

- D. **Minutes from Regular Board of Trustees Meeting August 28, 2023** - After review, Gina Lyon made a motion and 2nd by Marilyn to accept the minutes as presented.

 - E. **Tax Sale Warrant for Delinquent Water/Sewer and Electric Accounts** - At the Board of Trustees meeting on 08/28/2023, the Board approved a motion to send delinquent electric accounts to the tax collector. Because no warrant was included and since then several delinquent water/sewer accounts have also been identified and sent over to Shelia Martin for collection. This has now been warned and the list has been extended.
- Marilyn made a motion & Ellis seconded to send delinquent electric and water/sewer accounts to the tax collector via Warrant to the Delinquent Tax Collector Shelia Martin as presented. The motion was approved.
- F. **Pageant Park Seasonal Rate and Electric Metering:** -In 2018, the seasonal camping fee for Pageant Park increased from \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00 to include water, sewer, and electricity. An average of 885 KW was allotted per site instead of individual site metering (16 sites).

All electric usage was to be billed as one account through a master meter. This has not happened. It was confirmed on 09/06/2023 by Scott Morley that the master meter does not function as intended and that Barton Village has not been correctly billed for the seasonal campers' electric usage at Pageant Park, likely for several years.

Returning to individual site metering would allow us to correctly bill for individual site usage. Each of the 16 campsites currently have installed meters.

It is unclear at this time if the fee increase, irrespective of the electric consumption, is adequate for water and sewer costs.

The board decided that more research pertaining to water and sewer usage information needs to be obtained prior to making any decisions.

The office will hold off on sending out 2024 contracts until this is sorted out.

- G. **Letter to the Board** - A 2nd letter from The Barton United Church regarding the increase in utility bills was received because of the 7/10/2023 flooding they experienced. – Vera LaPorte was able to work with them and FEMA to help regarding the higher bill. No action by the Board was needed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- H. **Wastewater Operations**- Jeremiah Borsio has stepped up to assist with the operations at the Wastewater treatment facility. He came in to give an update to the board on his progress and review of pumps that are still in need of repair. An estimate will be needed for replacement, and Vera will check in with Aldrich & Elliot to see if the pump replacement jobs are part of the overall engineering project currently being developed. A job advertisement will be sent out to various industry sources for replacement of the former WW manager position.
- I. **Village Streets Right-of-Way Permit Policy** - The current road standards that the Village is using is out-of-date. Vera has worked with VLCT to obtain the most up to date permit policies and applications. She also obtained a similar packet from the VT Agency of Transportation for review and will select a policy after comparing what will be the fit best for the Village.
- J. **Spare Components for Water Plant System:** An additional quote for spare components for the Water Treatment Plant were presented. These are back up parts and not currently required or in need at this time. Vera stated that the current components are working well, still being used in the industry and replacement parts are easy to come by. Discussions took place around waiting until 2024 since all components are currently in good working.
- K. **Access Road to Reservoir:** The Water Treatment Manager, Lucas DiMauro, would like an access road off of May Pond Road, to the Dam for easy dredging. This project would not take place until Sept of 2024. Permits would be required and Vera will work with Lucas and the Town of Barton to obtain them when the time arrives.
- L. **Winter Maintenance Update** - The State has initially agreed to assist the Village of Barton for the 2023/2024 road maintenance plowing. Still waiting for a formal contract with the State. Gina did go to the Town of Barton Select Board meeting and the Select Board agreed to assist the Village with Winter plowing as they have done in the past. The Town is gathering the appropriate contracts for this to take place.
- M. **Trucks Update:** The hunt for a replacement of the Village ¾ ton truck continues and Vera will be assisting Andy Sicard with this search.
- N. **Salt/Sand Shed Update:** The building for a temporary structure continues, time to get a zoning permit and Vera will work with Kristin Atwood to obtain one.
- O. **Flood Updates:** FEMA contacted Gina Lyon and just wanted to check in and requested that FEMA stays in Barton until 10/12/2023. Gina reports that the Barton location is still very active with people coming in for assistance. The Village of Barton has also worked with FEMA regarding the flooding impact on the Village infrastructure. The State of VT has indicated to

Gina that there may be a Village resident interested in the Buy-Out Program. If the property owner moves forward with the buy-out, the home is removed and turned into a green space.

- P. Management/Staff Report:** Progress has been made regarding the Junk Yard ordinance notices that were sent out in August. Also, most Village residents responded to the Smoke Testing notices that were issued earlier in the summer and a follow up will be done to those who received notices (Junk or Smoke) to ensure compliance with each ordinance.

The Barton electric rate case is moving forward and the Village is still awaiting the final percentage that the increase will be. This is expected to come out very soon. This is the 3rd week that Orleans electric has been handling Barton Village maintenance. There is a 3-man crew dedicated to Barton Electric Service area.

OTHER ITEMS:

- Q. Other Business:** Vera wanted to follow up on the Thank you messages to City of Newport and Lyndonville Electric that was discussed at the last Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- R. Executive Session - Legal Action:** 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)(E)
S. Executive Session - Personnel: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3)

Gina Lyon made a motion that due to the nature of agenda item R (pending litigation), the premature general public knowledge of the discussion would place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Gina Lyon made a motion to enter executive session at 8:17 pm for the purpose of discussing potential litigation as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) and to further discuss personnel as allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Marilyn Prue. The motion was approved.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Marilyn Prue made a motion directing the Business Manager (Vera LaPorte) to work with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to retain legal representation related to the claim previously filed with the VLCT [Sunrise Ave], to inform legal counsel at Primmer to work with the VLCT counsel related their efforts to date, place legal counsel at Primmer on hold and directed the Board Chair to execute the letter from VLCT dated 08/30/2023 accepting the VLCT defense as described. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Gina Lyon made a motion to accept the Client Authorization from VHB amending the contract [Amendment #2] dated September 7, 2023 subject to the terms and conditions in the original contract dated September 10, 2021. This amendment increases the contract cost by \$44,150 to a total contract cost of \$169,445. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Prue. The motion was approved.

No action was taken related to the personnel discussion allowed under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3).

T. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Board Meeting: September 25, 2023