

Meeting was posted at 4 locations around the Village, the Village website and submitted to the newspaper for notice on March 13, 2019.



VILLAGE OF BARKER SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES March 21, 2019 6:00pm

Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Gregory Kerth
Trustee R. James Baker
Trustee Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Trustee Benjamin Seward

In Attendance: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Aaron Davis, Sarah Cochrane, Cora Payne, Ray Paull, Ben Zakes

The **meeting was opened at 6:00pm** with Mayor Nellist administering the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Approval of the MRB Groups proposal to complete the programming phase of the new Village Hall & Library building

A brief discussion ensued about the agreement and all board members were in agreement on the scope of the work to be performed. A **motion to approve the MRB Group proposal for the programming phase of the new Village Hall and Library** was made by Trustee Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Seward.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Kerth, Baker, Corwin-Bradley, Seward NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

- National Grid Letter about concerns of the electrical grid in our community

The letter drafted was approved by the Village Attorney and Mayor Nellist offered a brief explanation that we've been experiencing various electrical situations and we are concerned for the safety of our community members as a result. A **motion to proceed with mailing the letter to National Grid** was made by Trustee Baker and was seconded by Trustee Seward.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Kerth, Baker, Corwin-Bradley, Seward NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

The letter reads as follows:

RE: Public Safety concern for community members of the Village of Barker and surrounding area

On January 20, 2019 the Village of Barker Village Hall and Barker Public Library building was burnt to the ground by a fire. The night of the fire residents experienced several power outages, as well as a brown out and what appears to be a power surge shortly before midnight. Many residents have stopped into the new Village Hall, which is operating out of our Police Station on East Avenue in Barker, to report what they experienced the night of January 20, 2019. These resident complaints have prompted us to be concerned about the electrical infrastructure in our area. Please consider this notice of our concern, as well as our plea for your company to complete a thorough investigation into the power grid and the power lines that run through our community. We are truly concerned about the safety and well being of our community members.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

- Mayor Nellist needs to execute the annual NYS Municipal Report of Special Franchise Activity

Mayor Nellist explained that it's an annual report required by NYS to show current Franchise activity in the municipality.

- Village's Fiscal stress score was received this week with no designation for fiscal stress or environmental stress from the NYS Office of the State Comptroller

Fiscal Stress score 3.3

Environmental Stress Score 26.7

Mayor Nellist stated that the score is good news, especially since last year's Environmental Stress Score was at 43.3 Moderate Environmental Stress. The Environmental Stress score are factors in the community that you cannot control.

- Authorization to put the deposit on the Document Reprocessors phase II quote in the amount of \$50,000

A **motion to authorize the payment of the deposit for Phase II of critical documents rescued from the aftermath of the fire to Document Reprocessors** was made by Trustee Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Seward.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Kerth, Baker, Corwin-Bradley, Seward NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

A brief update of the process required of Document Reprocessors was given by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Friday, March 15, 2019 Quintin from Document Reprocessors came to the Village Hall to present the documents they had dried and tagged. It is now the task of the Records Management Officer, Amanda Detschner to go through each document to identify the type, retention, keep/destroy and how the Village would need it back either digital or paper. A TV monitor and computer was needed to accomplish this task, which was provided by Document Reprocessors in order to help facilitate a faster turnaround time versus having to go out and procure the necessary items to get started. A call was placed to NYS Archives representative Sarah During to inquire about how specific documents needed to be retained.

- Fire Claim Update regarding neighbor complaint, demolition quotes and cause & origin investigation on March 25, 2019 @ 10:00am

A brief discussion about the insurance claim from the neighbor complaints was had, as well as an update on the demolition quotes. Dan Graff from the NFA was able to get the contractors to give updated quotes that identical in services provided. Mike Young from Empire also broke out the fencing for us, it is \$5,600/ 6 months or to purchase outright it would be \$17,300. A discussion ensued about the fencing and what is the best route. Currently we are just renting it for the 6 month period. Cause and Origin will be at the fire scene on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 10:30am for further investigation using heavy equipment provided by the Town of Somerset water sewer department.

- Water leak at the end of Main Street-Intersection of Main Street and East Avenue

NYS Rural Water was out to listen to the valve at the end of Main Street and East Avenue, a leak was detected that could have been caused by the Fire at the Village Hall & Library. If the hydrant was opened slowly a hammer could have been created making the bolts come loose or the valve to shift slightly causing the leak. If the Village was able to complete the project we discussed at the end of Main to abandon the old valve that was running wide open when we had large water loss it would resolve this leak as well. The prices obtained were greater than what was originally expected, we will continue to look into this option. Also Mark will check with the Town to see if they would be able to dig it for the Village and we could just repair what needs to be at the moment. The Board had a lengthy discussion about what avenue to pursue. Further investigation will continue until this is resolved.

Public Comment was offered by:

Sarah Cochran: Stated that she enjoyed listening to our meeting

Board Comment was offered by:

Trustee Corwin-Bradley: Stated that she was approached by a couple community members that would like to see a memorial walkway to the memorial in the David Barker Park. It would be consisted of bricks that would be purchased and donated in memory of loved ones. It would be open for anyone to purchase, but we will have to look into the legality of who would need to run it etc. She also stated that she would like to hold "Light up Baker" on December 14, 2019. Since it's hard on our budget she would like to form a committee to secure donations of supplies and so forth.

Deputy Mayor Kerth: Inquired to see if the election supplies had been picked up yet? It will be followed up on and get the items back to NC Board of Elections.

A motion to adjourn **was made at 7:02pm** by Trustee Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Baker.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Kerth, Baker, Corwin-Bradley, Seward NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

Next meeting is the **Annual Organizational Meeting Monday, April 1, 2019 @ 7:00pm at the Fire Hall**

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC, RMC, CMFO
Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUDGET SESSION MINTUES

March 21, 2019

Immediately Followed the Special Meeting



Mayor Aaron Nellist-
Deputy Mayor Gregory Kerth
Trustee R. James Baker
Trustee Seanna Bradley-Corwin
Trustee Benjamin Seward

In **Attendance:** DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Aaron Davis. All members of the Board of Trustees were present.

The **Budget session was opened** by Mayor Nellist at 7:05pm.

Mayor Nellist began the meeting by stating “don’t let a perfect budget get in the way of a good budget.” He began by expressing a community members fears of what Main Street will be like in a short while, with less businesses, empty buildings in disrepair and the overall future on the Village.

Trustee Corwin-Bradley stated that she would like to see business initiatives explored in the future. Also, stated that Cornerstone is looking to expand into eastern Niagara County, maybe even and ATM here would be beneficial. She also stated that the increase for the Clerk-Treasurer is fair and should be looked at in future long range planning to bring wages reasonably close to other Clerk-Treasurer’s.

Deputy Mayor Kerth stated that he didn’t agree with salary increases and wanted them brought down.

Trustee Baker stated he supported the budgeted amounts were appropriate for wages.

Mayor Nellist stated directly to the Clerk-Treasurer that she should continue to look for employment elsewhere because she has the potential to earn a higher salary. He also stated that drainage is an issue the Village will need to deal with in the near future. We have tried to obtain funding multiple times in the past and were unsuccessful. If the Boards in the past had the foresight to do a little at a time then it would eventually get done.

A brief discussion about the tax rate ensued and was set at \$7.60 per thousand for the FY 2019-2020. Deputy Mayor Kerth stated in our aging community an increase could take away from funds to pay for medicine and food.

A motion for **adjournment was made at 8:00pm** by Trustee Seward and was seconded by Trustee Corwin-Bradley. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Kerth, Baker, Corwin-Bradley, Seward NAYS-0/None Motioned carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda M. Detschner, CMC, RMC, CMFO