

VILLAGE OF BARKER WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 3, 2020

6:00pm

@ Village Hall/Police Station



Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Trustee R. James Baker
Trustee Aaron Davis

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Jessica Monaco arrived at 6:04pm.

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

- **A discussion about the water rate increase ensued from 6:02pm until 6:53pm.**

Mayor Nellist began by breaking down what the water budget consists of, which is employee compensation, administration costs, purchasing of water from NC, contractual costs, employee benefits, USDA short lived asset reserve account and the water bond principal & interest payment. Many scenarios were discussed as to why water rates need to be raised at this point and how to raise rates prudently, as well as redistribute costs between the general and water fund for the future. The current fund balance was evaluated, as well as past years budgets to which expenditures have been reduced and the current balance of the water checking account. A careful analysis of the current water reserve accounts was taken into consideration. After input from all Board members on what they thought was necessary for the increase, a consensus was made but will be discussed further at the Board Meeting on Monday, August 10th.

- **Review of current FY 2020-2021 budget due to lack of revenues from COVID**

A review of the current adopted budget was had by all Board members and department heads Mark Remington and Amanda Detschner. Budget accounts A1620.44 repairing the basement stairs at Village Hall/Police Station, A1640.45 new pitched roof on the block building of the DPW & A5130.2 purchasing a new dump truck were discussed. The consensus was to forego the stairs & dump truck for now, but move forward with the roof.

- **Barton & Loguidice's final preliminary draft plan**, discussion on moving forward was not received by the time we had this meeting, but the Board felt that they should move forward with the rebuilding process when the plan does become available
- **Library has concerns about the how much money the Village is going to receive from the insurance company and the feasibility of the project.**

A discussion ensued about what depth of information to give regarding how much money the Village is receiving, as of right now the Village does not know the final tally. Mayor Nellist felt that the Village should share the information to foster good will. Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley stated she thought that public perception is huge, so transparency should be maintained. Trustee Baker thought that since it was a tenant relationship, why would we share that information as the landowner. A consensus was made that a ball park figure would be given when we have it available.

- **Refuse Bid results from the bid opening held July 28, 2020 for the Niagara County Solid Waste Consortium**

The results were favorable for the Village with a 1.75% increase, bringing the price per parcel to \$206.59 from \$204.84. This favorable result was because of the Village joining the consortium and moving to cart based refuse pick up. The Village will have to purchase the 96gallon carts on their own for around \$45.00 per cart. This will approximately cost \$12,500 and the Village will have to bid separately for the dumpster service.

- **American Legion in conjunction with the Town of Somerset and the Village would like to pursue banners that recognize our veterans.** The board was in favor of the idea and would like to purchase one set of the hardware to see if they could be reverse engineered. More will to come.

No **Public Comment** was offered.

Board Comment was offered by:

Mayor Nellist: Stated he had a phone call from regarding someone living in an RV and noise from the generator. Mayor Nellist called Mark and it was taken care of. Also, Mayor Nellist had a conversation with the owner at the end of Woodward Avenue about the ROW and the tree clearing. Afterwards, Mayor Nellist thought it was constructive.

Trustee Davis: NYPA smart street lighting project design kick off meeting July 23, 2020 where NYPA requested more input and information. Next step is design the LED street lighting. Trustee Davis has contacted John Syracuse to see the possibility of getting a decommissioned NC sheriff vehicle in the future. Also, the washed out signs at 1725 Quaker Road that are completely blank. It was the consensus to yank them because they don't serve a purpose anymore.

Next meeting is the **Monthly Board Meeting, Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00pm @ Barker Fire Hall**

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

VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



August 10, 2020 7:00PM
@ Barker Fire Hall Parking Lot/Pavilion

Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Trustee R. James Baker
Trustee Aaron Davis

In Attendance: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Mason
From the public: Kurt Lutz (left 7:26), Pat Fuller, Martin Padilla, and Kathie Smith.

At 7:00pm meeting was called to order by Mayor Nellist by administering the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **Sales tax** received for July 2020 was \$14,603.72 an increase of \$350.57 from July 2019

The **Approval of Minutes** for the monthly board meeting held July 13, 2020 was made by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Davis.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Baker, Davis, NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

Resolution #17-2020 **Water Rates Increase**

The minimum charge shall be \$85.00 charged per three month period and shall cover the cost of providing the first 5,000 gallons of water.

The next 30,000 gallons per three month period shall be charged at \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed.

The next 65,000 gallons per three month period shall be charged at \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed.

All water consumed over 100,000 gallons per three month period shall be charged at a rate of \$1.80 per 1,000 water consumed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby sets forth these rates.

Mayor Nellist opened the water rate discussion to the public at 7:04pm

Patricia Fuller: Inquired what the water rates are going up to and that when she was on the Board of Trustees they were increased to \$71.00 due to the new water lines. Martin Padilla: Inquired about the water reserve and the cost of water loss. Kurt Lutz: Commented that our water bills were never high enough to begin with.

Kathie Smith: Commented that \$14 every 3 months is not a lot of money

Mayor Nellist: stated that an increase to \$80 was conversed. However, we will then be having this conversation again in the next few years. He also advised the public attendees to attend the Village Board Work Sessions as that is where the meat and potatoes of these conversations take place prior to the Monthly Board Meetings where motions are then made.

Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley: stated that we have one of the best water infrastructures in the County.

Mayor Nellist closed the water rate discussion to the public at 7:18pm. Motion to close the water rates public comment made by Trustee Baker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley.

A motion to **ADOPT Resolution #17-2020 to Increase Water Rates** was made by Trustee Baker and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Baker, Davis, NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

Resolution #18-2020 **Adoption of the NYS Archives new LG-1 Retention Schedule**

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the Village of Barker that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A: (a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein; (b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

A motion to ADOPT the above Resolution #18-2020 was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Baker.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Baker, Davis, NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

An audit of the Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Records for the FY 2019-2020 took place on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 2:05pm in the Village Hall/Police Station. Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley and Aaron Davis were present to audit the books. The month of January 2020 was chosen at random. The audit concluded at 2:45pm with all financial records found to be in order.

The **Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports** were reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.

- ✓ Annual Update Document (AUD) 2020 has been submitted to the Office of the NYS Comptroller and the legal notice was published August 7, 2020
- ✓ Tax Collection remains open. Penalty is now 6% and unpaid tax notices will be mailed August 31, 2020. Any unpaid taxes outstanding as of October 31, 2020 will be turned over to Niagara County to be placed on the Town/County taxes for collection in January
- ✓ The Board will revisit when they will hold the September work session due to Labor Day.
- ✓ The October Board meeting will be held on October 5th due to Columbus Day.

The **Public Works Report** was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.

The **Code Enforcement Report** was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.

The **Police Report** was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.

Correspondence: Brown & Company, LLP – Village's Annual Report Update, year ended May 31, 2020
Charter Communications- Upcoming changes- August 11, 2020
Charter Communications- Upcoming changes- July 27, 2020
Charter Communications- Upcoming changes- September 1, 2020
ARGO Insurance notification about status update
Linde – Informational Packet
NC Gallonage Report

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 003 Voucher #'s 57-85

General Fund-\$28,559.72 Water Fund-\$3,228.18 T&A Fund-\$700.00 TOTAL \$32,487.90

A **motion to approve the above audited claims by the entire Board of Trustees** was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin Bradley.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Baker, Davis, NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

Public Comment was offered by:

Patricia Fuller expressed the opinion that she would like to see the library and the Town contribute to the new Village Hall/Library building.

Martin Padilla expressed concerns regarding the building next to his on Main St and what was being done with it.

Library President Kathie Smith stated that the library has a grant and donations to assist with the new Village Hall/Library building.

Board Comment was offered by:

Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley: has been asked to speak on September 2, 2020 at the Lions Club in regards to the Village Hall/Library fire and the process we have all gone through. They will also be asking the Library President Kathie Smith to attend as they have a donation to present to the Library.

Trustee Davis: is looking into flag posts for the American Legion Honor Vets Project.

A motion for **Adjournment was made at 7:43pm** by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley, seconded by Trustee Baker.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Baker, Davis, NAYS-0/None Motioned Carried.

Next work session will be Monday, September 7th, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall/Police Station

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, September 14th, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall Pavilion

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Mason
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer