

VILLAGE OF BARKER WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 3, 2021

6:00pm

@ Barker Fire Hall



Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Trustee Aaron Davis
Trustee Jordan Gow
Trustee Melanie Hirschman

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Kathie Smith and Lisa Thompson. Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley arrived at 6:18pm after the chicken discussion.

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

- Chickens -Trustee Aaron Davis

Trustee Davis stated that he would like to explore the idea of allowing chickens in the Village limits, this proposal would require a change in the Village's current local law regarding farm animals. Trustee Davis explained that 6 hen chickens could be allowed through a permitting process. He explained that he choose hen chickens because they are significantly less noisy than Roosters, the permitting process would ensure the stringent rules would be followed. In order to submit an application the homeowner must appear before the Board of Trustees so they could answer questions. The permit would be a yearly process. Chickens would not be free roaming and homeowners would not be able to sell chickens or eggs. Trustee Davis stated COVID changed his perspective about renewable food resource. Mayor Nellist inquired about the Code Enforcement Officer having to confiscate free roaming chickens. Trustee Davis stated the Code Enforcement Officer would have to deal with farm animals if found in the Village currently. If a chicken was confiscated the permit could be revoked and fined \$250.00, to make so the rules must be followed. Allowing chickens in the Village limits could bring in predators such as coyotes & fox and could also increase the population possums & rats. Mayor Nellist stated that public interest would need to be gauged, so a public forum will be scheduled soon. Trustee Hirschman inquired about not being able to sell eggs, a sign could not be placed to the road and a stand set up, but you could share with your neighbors. Mayor Nellist stated some parcels are larger than other parcels, so setbacks would need to be adhered to. The coop maximum size would be 20 square feet and the run maximum size would be 50 square feet according to NYS standards. Kathie Smith stated the smell maybe unpleasant. Trustee Hirschman stated we could put together a Google form to gauge the Village resident interest in various issues, as well. Trustee Gow stated that he thought this proposal was through and well planned.

- Color by number mural

Mike Weber contacted the Village about placing 1 of the 12 color by number murals in the Barker community. The mural would represent Somerset and Barker. The Village would have to build the 6x8 structure out of plywood and supply the chalk. Most likely the mural will be cleaned off daily in the AM to give more people the opportunity to enjoy it. Permission will be granted at the May 10, 2021 meeting. Having the mural in the Main Street park would allow access to bathrooms and maybe frequent the restaurant for dining. Some ideas of things to represent our community was a light house and a train.

Public Comment was offered by:

Kathie Smith: Inquired about updates on the Village Hall/ Library building. Mayor Nellist stated that the insurance claim is very close to being settled, of course the Village is seeking a larger number. Currently the Village has applied for two grants to complete the funding gap, Chris Jacobs FY 22 Community Project Funding and Norther Border Regional Commission. The Village found out that Chris Jacobs did not submitted our project to the subcommittee for approval for funding, therefore it looks like this grant will not be an option moving forward. The Village was very disappointed in this decision.

Lisa Thompson: Stated the grant funding the library has received is coming due and they are going to have to ask for an extension. If they do not begin to use the money in the near future, it could be rescinded. Permission was requested to install a permanent story walk in our park. Mayor Nellist asked for more details on how they would be anchored, what they would be made of and locations in the park. Trustee Hirschman stated she would work with Lisa to get these details.

Board Comment was offered by:

Trustee Gow: Stated he is concerned about the Police Department. Mayor Nellist stated that unfortunately an Officer that was terminated handled things in a public manner. The article released May 1, 2021 contained many misrepresentations and untruths. Over time the Officer showed several red flags, but when you looked at them cumulatively the offenses were detrimental to the Village. The Village choose to keep names out of the paper, but when it came down to it, the Officer took it upon himself to notify the media with his inaccurate portrayal of the events that transpired. Basic research from the Union Sun & Journal would have prevented these untruths from smearing the Village publicly. The Union Sun & Journal should have submitted a FOIL request if they were looking to print and article that represented the story accurately.

Trustee Davis: Stated we should do a budget transfer to allow the needed stone for the DPW lot. Mark Remington stated he was trying to let it dry out before placing stone down that will sink into the mud. Trustee Davis also mentioned putting a solar switch on the gazebo interior lights because the switch gets turned on and left on. Mayor Nellist suggested a switch lock box. There is a sign on the south corner of Church Street and East Avenue that used to state no parking but is blank from the weather. It was the consensus that Mr. Remington should yank the sign all together.

Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley: Chief Miller would like to meet with the Board to discuss consolidation grant and opportunities between the Town and the Village. The Town has also asked if Mayor Nellist and Deputy Mayor Corwin-

Bradley would be willing to sit in on the interview process then they hire another Officer. This communication was before the suspension of our department and anything that has happened could have been researched to find answers.

Trustee Hirschman: Inquired about putting another garbage can over by the playground area, so more people are likely to use it and not throw their trash on the ground. The LED light installed over by the fire scene makes a loud noise, Mr. Remington will call the electrician to come take a look.

Mayor Nellist: Stated a couple of landlords in the Village need to better communicate with their tenants about refuse pickup and how to do it properly. It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure compliance. It is unsanitary and another letter will be sent before an appearance ticket is issued for non-compliance.

At 6:49pm Trustee Davis motioned to enter executive session on the grounds of matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation inviting the Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley. The previous as ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Gow, Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

In attendance at the Executive Session: Mayor Aaron Nellist, Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley, Trustee Aaron Davis, Trustee Jordan Gow, Trustee Melanie Hirschman and Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner

A motion to adjourn Executive Session was made at 8:03pm by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley.

The previous as ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Gow, Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried

A motion to adjourn the work session was made at 8:04pm by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Gow.

The previous as ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Gow, Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried

Next meeting is the **Monthly Board Meeting, Monday, May 10, 2021 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

May 10, 2021 7:00PM
@ Barker Fire Hall



Mayor Aaron Nellist
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Trustee Aaron Davis
Trustee Jordan Gow
Trustee Melanie Hirschman

In **Attendance:** DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Mike Weber & Chief Jon Miller arrived at 7:17pm.

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

The **Sales tax** received for April 2021 was \$14,879.52 a \$1,963.54 increase from April 2020.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the Annual Organizational Meeting held April 5, 2021 was motioned for approval by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Gow.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

NC Mural Project Authorization

Authorization to place a 6x8 freestanding plywood mural in David Barker Park (Main Street) that is part of the Niagara County by The Numbers: An Interactive Mural Trail being overseen by Mike Weber was motioned for approval by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Gow.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Mike Weber asked the Board if they had any questions and showed a picture of what posts the Village will need to install to attach the plywood to, as well as addressed the need for a custodian for the chalk. Examples of the murals for Lockport and Newfane were shared. We will speak to PWT about being the custodian of the chalk, which would bring people into the restaurant as well. The entire Board felt this is a great idea and is excited to host in our Village.

Resolution # 27-2021 General/Water percentage split

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker budget splits a percentage of personal services, medical coverage, retirement and workers compensation insurance expenditures between the general fund and the water fund; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of split has been 75% general and 25% water; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker Board of Trustees will modify the percentage split beginning FY 2021-2022 indefinitely to 85% General Fund and 15% Water Fund expenditures; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution take effect beginning June 1, 2021.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #27-2021** was made by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Resolution #28-2021

Negative Declaration Resolution-Village of Barker Municipal Building Facility Replacement Project

Proposed Action: Village of Barker Municipal Building Facility Replacement Project

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED VILLAGE OF BARKER MUNICIPAL BUILDING FACILITY REPLACEMENT PROJECT IS A TYPE 1 ACTION AND WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker (Village) is proposing the Village of Barker Municipal Building Facility Replacement Project (Project), located in the Village of Barker, Niagara County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been classified as a "Type I Action" as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker Village Board sent a letter and Part 1 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) to other potentially "Interested Agencies" and "Involved Agencies" (as these terms are defined in the SEQRA Regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617.2), indicating the Village's desire to serve as the "Lead Agency" (as this quoted term is defined in the SEQRA Regulations) and to complete a coordinated review of the Project (in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6); and

WHEREAS, responses from Interested and Involved Agencies were requested, and each of the potentially Interested and Involved Agencies has agreed to, or raised no objections to, the Village of Barker Village Board serving as Lead Agency for the Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the SEQRA Regulations, the Village of Barker Village Board has considered the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the Project by (a) using the criteria specified in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA Regulations, and (b) examining the FEAF for the Project, including the facts and conclusions in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the FEAF, together with other available supporting information, to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Village of Barker Village Board hereby establishes itself as Lead Agency for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that based upon an examination of the FEAF and other available supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each relevant area of environmental concern, and based further upon the Village’s knowledge of the area surrounding the Project, the Village of Barker Village Board makes the determination that the Project will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and that the Project will not require the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a consequence of such findings and declaration, and in compliance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Village of Barker Village Board, as Lead Agency, hereby directs the Village of Barker Mayor to sign the FEAF Part 3 – Determination of Significance indicating that a Negative Declaration has been issued for the Project; this Resolution shall take effect immediately and will be properly noticed.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #28-2021** was made by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Aaron Nellist, Mayor	AYE
Seanna Corwin-Bradley, Deputy Mayor	AYE
Melanie Hirschman, Trustee	AYE
Jordan Gow, Trustee	AYE
Aaron Davis, Trustee	AYE

Motion Carried and Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #29-2021 Northern Border Regional Commission Grant- Authorized Signer
WHEREAS, the Village of Barker is applying for a Northern Border Regional Commission Grant (NBRC); and

WHEREAS, an NBRC requires an authorized signer to execute NBRC grant submittal, as well as NBRC forms and investment documents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Barker Board of Trustees authorizes the Village of Barker Mayor to sign and submit a NBRC grant application, as well as NBRC forms and investment documents that bind the Village.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #29-2021** was made by Trustee Gow and was seconded by Trustee Davis.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Tax Warrant 2021- A motion to Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect taxable levy of \$151,215.37, plus \$8,505.42 in unpaid water rents for a total of \$159,720.79 was made by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Gow.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Due to the circumstances of pending legislation that could prohibit the levying of unpaid water rents onto the tax roll, the Village needs to pass both Tax Warrants to be able to process bills and mail them on or before June 1, 2021. The legislation has been awaiting the Governor’s signature for several months.

Tax Warrant 2021 Alternate- A motion to Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect taxable levy of \$151,215.37 without levying unpaid water rents for a total of \$151,215.37 was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Gow.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.
A notice of the 2021 taxes levied shall be published in the Union Sun & Journal once per week for two consecutive weeks.

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

- Tax Bills will be mailed on May 28, 2021 and are due between June 1st and June 30th without penalty
- Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to make necessary budget transfers to close out the FY 2020-2021 books; the budget transfers made will be presented at the following board meeting for approval.

A **motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to make necessary budget transfers to close out FY 2020-2021 books** was made by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

- The NYALGRO conference is scheduled for June 7-9th, I will be presenting a presentation on Disaster Recovery focusing on Records on June 7th in Geneva

Town of Somerset Police Department Chief Miller spoke about Police coverage and grant opportunities. Chief Miller introduced himself and his law enforcement background to the Board. As well as, background on the Somerset Police Department, its members and how the force operates. Perfect time to engage and serve the community and make things better. Some scenarios about the force and what the Police Advisory board could look like were discussed. Chief Milled stated Somerset PD does not target anyone. Mayor Nellist stated the public has opinions regarding both departments and the outcome of each, the public has the perception to not go to or drive through Barker due to Police harassment, which has also hindered business growth. Chief Miller stated that he does community policing with a proactive approach. Chief Miller explained how he investigates complaints about his officers and the checks he has in place to investigate each complaint, if warranted a permanent disciplinary action is placed in their personnel file. Has a need to fill several Officer positions currently and would like the Village to have representation when the interview process. The Village Board thanked Chief Miller for coming and sharing with us.

The **Public Works Report** was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.
The Board felt it was okay to proceed with a porta potty at the Lake Park this year, pricing will be obtained, and the lowest price will be purchased for Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

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

Police Report- No report submitted
✓ Accept the resignation of Jeremy Blair effective April 30, 2021
A **motion to accept the resignation of Jeremy Blair** was made by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Gow.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.
A **motion to cancel one air card for the Crown Victoria police vehicle** was made by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.
Police Report Continued:
A lengthy discussion ensued about the information provided by Chief Miller and how to proceed with the Village’s department.

Correspondence: Team EJP Flyer-Affordable Water Meter Reading by Radio for Smaller Water Systems
NYS Department of Labor-Unemployment Notice of Reimbursable billing
Niagara County Sherriff-NC Public Safety Radio Expansion Project-Negative Declaration SEQRA
NYCOM Annual Dues Membership Notice
Town of Somerset Notice of Public Hearing-Zoning Board of Appeals-8666 Huntington Beach Road-May 10-7:30pm
ARGO Insurance Group-April 9, 2021
ARGO Insurance Group-April 22, 2021
ARGO Insurance Group-Notice of Non-Renewal
Charter Communications-Notice of Programming Changes-April 30, 2021
Charter Communications-Notice of Price Increase-May 2, 2021
Charter Communications-Notice of Programming Changes-May 4, 2021
NC Gallonage Report- April 2021

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 012 Voucher #’s 361-399H3 Voucher #’s 45-46
General Fund-\$14,891.96 Water Fund-\$1.313.82 T&A Fund-\$2,100.00 H3-Fund-\$8,994.00
TOTAL \$27,299.78
A **motion to approve the above audited claims by the Board of Trustees** was made by Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley and was seconded by Trustee Gow.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Budget Transfer: A3120.42 Police Gasoline \$400.00 to A3120.45 Police Supplies
A1990.4 Contingency \$500.00 to A3120.1 Personal Services Chief
F8320.4 Source of Supply \$200.00 to A8310.4 Water Admin-Contractual
A **motion to approve the above budget transfers** was made by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

No **Public Comment** was offered.

Board Comment was offered by:
Trustee Gow: installed a wood stove in his garage, a permit is needed.
Trustee Davis: The fire hydrant at Main Street and East Ave is close to the road, should a protective barrier be installed to keep snowplows and tractor trailers from damaging it.

A **motion for Adjournment was made at 8:57pm** by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Corwin-Bradley.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Nellist,Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Gow,Hirschman NAY-0/None Motioned Carried.

Next work session will be Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall
Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

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