

# VILLAGE OF BARKER BUDGET SESSION MINUTES



March 8, 2021

6:00pm

@ Barker Fire Hall

Mayor Aaron Nellist  
Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley *via telephone*  
Trustee R. James Baker  
Trustee Aaron Davis  
Trustee Jordan Gow

At **6:02pm** the budget session was opened with Mayor Nellist administering the Pledge of Allegiance.

The overall expenditures for the General and Water funds were agreed upon with changing the General/Water fund split from 75/25 to 85/15 for FY 2021-2022.

The Board of Trustees moved onto the tax rate chart provided that compares the taxable levy, the tax rate, percentage of change from the prior year, fund balance that needs to be appropriated using the tax rate and left-over fund balance per the Village's fund balance policy. The board unanimously agreed on the tax rate of \$7.70 per thousand.

Mayor Nellist briefly reviewed several emails he received during the week.

- The CDBG grant for the stormwater study was submitted on 3/5/2021
- A recap of the Argo insurance meeting held today (3/8/2021) was given by Mayor Nellist.

Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley discussed the American Rescue Plan funding for local governments.

A brief discussion about how the budget could be modified to accommodate the relief money received.

A motion for **adjournment was made at 6:32pm** by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Gow. The previous was ADOPTED. AYE – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

# VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA



March 8, 2021 7:00PM

@ Barker Fire Hall

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

In **Attendance:** Superintendent of Public Works Mark Remington, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Mason, Melanie Hirschman, Kurt Lutz, Neal Gordon, Kent Wakefield and Juli Wilson, Deputy Mayor Corwin-Bradley was in attendance via Zoom.

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

**The Sales tax** received \$10,257.45 a decrease \$1,505.78 from February 2020. A year to date decrease of \$543.00 from 2020.

**The Approval of Minutes** for the Monthly board meeting held February 15, 2021, Budget session meeting held February 24, 2021, and the Work session/Budget session held March 1, 2021 was motioned for approval by Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Baker.

The previous was ADOPTED. Ayes – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None Motion Carried.

A **motion was made to set the public hearing for the FY 2021-2022 budget for April 5, 2021 at 7:00pm** was made by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Gow.

The previous was ADOPTED. Ayes – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None Motion Carried.

The **Village Election will take place Tuesday, March 16, 2021** from Noon until 9:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall, 1660 Quaker Road.

**Resolution # 11-2021 Village of Barker Police Department Reform & Reinvention of Policing Policy**

WHEREAS: The Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative was directed by Governor Cuomo's Executive Order of June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS: All municipalities in New York State that have police forces are required to participate and submit a written plan by April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS: This process was structured, according to the guidelines provided in the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, requiring community input and participation, along with an assessment of policing policies; and

WHEREAS: The Village of Barker understands that maintaining public safety is extremely important and is one of the essential roles of government. To achieve that goal, there must be mutual trust and respect between police and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: The Village of Barker has followed the guidelines of the Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative in the following ways:

- Reviewed the needs of the community served by the Village of Barker Police Department and evaluated the Department's current policies and practices.
- Established and evaluated policies that allow police to safely perform their duties.
- Involved the entire community in the discussion by way of a hosting a community-wide conversation on October 27, 2020 where comments and recommendations were received from the public; and

WHEREAS: The Village of Barker Board of Trustees has read, reviewed, and agreed with the information presented in the Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Village of Barker accepts and adopts the Village of Barker Police Department's Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Village of Barker, upon adoption of this resolution, will send the Village of Barker Police Department's Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Plan to the New York State Department of Budget by the established deadline for full compliance.

Mayor Nellist gave a brief overview of the policy submitted by Chief Braughler and the NYS Executive order mandating the policy.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #11-2021** was made by Trustee Davis and a second was offered by Trustee Gow. The previous was ADOPTED. Ayes – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None Motion Carried.

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

- ✓ Any unpaid water accounts as of April 1, 2021 will be re-levied onto the Village tax roll for collection June. Final notices were mailed to each unpaid account on February 26, 2021.
- ✓ Please begin to think about the Spring newsletter and any articles that you would like to submit. This newsletter must be kept to 4 pages because of the annual drinking water quality report.

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

Mayor Nellist inquired about the sign that was run over on Quaker Road, the post needed to be reset. A copy of the Police Report was submitted to the Village Hall in case restitution needs to be made by the individual. There has also been several more residents who requested another garbage cart.

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

Mayor Nellist inquired as to the status of several property violations that were being handled by Town of Somerset court before COVID.

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

Mayor Nellist gave a brief overview of the Police Report submitted for the public in attendance.

**Correspondence:**

ARGO Insurance- Letter regarding Fire Loss -February 9, 2021  
NYSEG- Natural Gas Safety Notice- February 9, 2021  
NC Sheriff letter and program flyer  
NC Treasurer- 2021 Sales Tax Distribution & Equalization & Census Figures Letter  
\*\*This figure may change depending on the release of the Census data in April 2021.  
NC Treasurer 2021- Sales Tax Distribution Formula breakdown  
NYSEG/RG&E regarding Notice of Deficient Utility Tax Filings  
NYS Dept. of Labor Unemployment Notice-February 19, 2021  
NYS Dept. of Labor Unemployment Notice-March 1, 2021  
NYSEG/RG&E Raise Awareness of Utility Scams during National Consumer Protection Week  
Charter Communications-Programing changes- February 21, 2021  
Charter Communications-Programming changes-March 1, 2021  
NYSLTAP Center-Cornell Local Roads programming flyer & registration  
NC Gallonage Report

**Approval of Claims and Bill Payment:** Abstract 010 Voucher #'s 293-328 H3-Fund Voucher #43  
General Fund-\$14,624.44 Water Fund-\$1,612.32 T&A Fund-\$1,400.00 H3-Fund-\$15,558.00 TOTAL  
\$33,194.76

A motion to approve the above audited claims by the entire Board of Trustees was made by Trustee Baker and was seconded by Trustee Gow.

The previous was ADOPTED. Ayes – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None Motion Carried.

**Public Comment** was offered by:

Kent Wakefield: Inquired about the streetlights that are out around the Village. Kent noticed 8 lights out, one that has been out since October 2020 when he called National Grid to report it. Mr. Wakefield was concerned about the safety of trick or treaters with the lights out.

Mayor Nellist referred this question to Trustee Davis who commented our contract to switch to LEDs should be finalized soon. He also gave a brief overview of what the Village is doing with the lights. Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner stated that she had again reported 11 streetlights out to National Grid. Amanda has begun to track the outages in a database, to ensure repair of lights and see patterns of repeat light outages.

Kurt Lutz: Spoke with Chief Braugher regarding some vandalism on his vacant lot on Church Street. Mr. Lutz also stated that Chief Braugher was condescending, rude and belittled him. Mr. Lutz also inquired about the quality of life regarding a loud muffler on a truck owned by the Village resident performing burn outs at the intersection of Townline and Quaker Road. Mr. Lutz inquired about police budget vs man hours and the benefit to the Village. Lutz also commented that all the small businesses have been chased out of the Village over the years and pointed out that other towns/villages around have businesses with nice sidewalks. Mr. Lutz stated the Village and the Town of Somerset should share more services or consolidate services.

Mayor Nellist stated this is the first time he has received a complaint against Chief Braugher. Mayor Nellist also stated that we are not here to make money. Our police are here to do community policing. Mayor Nellist read the Budget from 2015/16 to present to show the decrease in the Police budget to reflect the current level of staffing and patrol. Mayor Nellist also commented that he suggested that we work together with the Town, where we would plan our police schedules around each other so we have more protection daily rather than overlapping. Mayor Nellist also informed the public present that the Village did propose a Police Contract to the Town of Somerset in 2017, the former Supervisor never shared the proposal with the council or respond to the proposal. This may be worth attempting again. Mayor Nellist replied by stating two willing parties must work together to enter into shared service agreements for services.

**Board Comment** was offered by:

Trustee Davis: Stated he likes when the public show up to meetings and thanked those in attendance.

Mayor Nellist: CBDG Drainage Grant was submitted on Friday, 3/5/2021. The Grant is to study the storm water infrastructure's current state throughout the Village. Mayor Nellist also touched on police training and the insurance meeting today.

Trustee Gow: Would like to revisit the language in the Police Reform Plan. This will be modified at the next meeting.

**A motion for Adjournment was made at 7:37pm** by Trustee Davis and was seconded by Trustee Baker.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES – 5 – Nellist, Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Baker, Gow NAYS – 0/None  
Motion Carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting (**Annual Organizational Meeting**) will be **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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