

VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



November 13, 2023 7:00PM
@ Barker Fire Hall

Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Deputy Mayor Aaron Davis
Trustee Val Ditommaso
Trustee Melanie Hirschman
Trustee David Quiett- *Absent*

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laurel Cantella, Judy Remington, Kathie Smith, Lisa Thompson, Samantha Murphy. Trustee Quiett was absent from the meeting.

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

The **Sales tax** received for October 2023 was \$21,050.52 an increase of \$1,139.91 from October 2022.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the monthly board meeting held October 2, 2023 were motioned for approval by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Ditommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Resolution #30-2023 Designation of Offices to be filled in the next General Election

WHEREAS, the next general election will be held on March 19, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees must designate by resolution and to the public the offices which are to be filled in such election and the term thereof;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

Section 1: That the Board of Trustees designated the following offices as vacant on March 31, 2024, to filled at the Village Election to be held March 19, 2024 for the following terms:

Trustee- Two (2)-year term

Trustee-Two (2)-year term

Section 2: The Village is hereby directed to publish this resolution in the Lockport Union Sun & Journal as official public notice.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #30-2023** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Davis. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Unpaid Village Tax to the Niagara County Treasurer- 2023-2024

A motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to re-levy 7 parcels that remain unpaid in the amount of \$4,900.68 plus \$147.04 in penalty for a total amount of \$5,047.72 was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Ditommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Resolution #31-2023 Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund To Pay For Repairs To The Village of Barker Water System Improvements

RESOLVED, that the Village of Barker does hereby establish a reserve fund pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law for the purpose of paying for repairs to the Village of Barker Water System.

The chief fiscal officer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of the Reserve Fund in the manner provided by Section 11 of the General Municipal Law, and consistent with the investment policy of the Village. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall accrue and become part of the Reserve Fund. The chief fiscal officer shall account for the Reserve Fund in a manner which maintains the separate identity of the Reserve Fund and shows the date and amount of each sum paid into the fund, interest earned by the fund, capital gains or losses resulting from the sale of investments of the fund, the amount and date of each withdrawal from the fund and the total assets of the fund, showing cash balance and a schedule of investments, and shall, at the end of each fiscal year, render to the Board a detailed report of the operation and condition of the Reserve Fund.

Except as otherwise provided by law, expenditures from this Reserve Fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the Reserve Fund is established. No expenditures shall be made from this Reserve Fund without the approval of this governing board and such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law and any other law, including a public hearing upon five days' notice prior to such expenditure.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #31-2023** was made by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Ditommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Health Insurance Renewal

	Highmark BCBS Platinum Apex	Univera Platinum 5	Highmark BCBS Platinum Classic
Single	720.00	812.32	774.62
Employee +Child(ren)	1224.00	1380.94	1316.85
Employee + Spouse	1440.00	1624.64	1549.24
Family	2052.00	2315.11	2259.58
Village Cost	2880.00/month	3249.29/month	3098.48/month
2x Employee + Spouse	34,560.00 annual	38991.36 annual	37181.76 annual
Difference from 2023	+111.18/month	+295.82/month	+220.42/month
2xEmployee+Spouse=\$2657.64	+1334.16 annual	+3549.84 annual	+2645.04 annual
*Budgeted 10% increase	CURRENT PLAN		

A motion to approve the renewal of the health insurance plan from Highmark BCBS Platinum Apex for December 1, 2023- November 30, 2024 was made by Trustee Hirshman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Davis. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

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

- ✓ Village Hall will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th, 2023 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

Authorization to purchase shelving for the new Village Hall fireproof storage room in the amount of \$1,597.00 for 5 shelving units and 2 cases of document storage boxes from Uline products. Freight will be an additional fee not to exceed \$300.00. Total authorization for \$1,897.00.

A motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to purchase shelving for the Village Hall fireproof room not to exceed \$1897.00 from Uline products was made by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

A motion to authorize the transfer of funds from General Fund unappropriated fund balance to the H3 Capital project fund in the amount of \$50,000 for the new Village Hall/Library building until the first installment from the Barker Public Library is received was made by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman. A motion for Adjournment was made at 7:56pm by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

The Public Works Report was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.
3rd QTR 2023- Water loss 20.30%

The water loss is creeping up, Mark has been keeping a close eye out and the only system failure found was the damaged hydrant at the back of Mayer Bros property.

DPW Superintendent Mark Remington inquired about the tree at 1695 Quaker Road that Deputy Mayor Davis asked about quoting removal, the quote was \$2200. The \$2200 quote included take down, clean up and stump removal. Another tree is in dire need of removal at 1699 East Avenue, the quote for that tree was \$1250.00, for taking down and cleaning up the debris. A motion to remove the tree at 1699 East Avenue for \$1250.00 was made by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

The Code Enforcement Report was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.
6 permits issued: 2 sheds, an accessory building, a remodel, 2- roofs

Correspondence: NYS DOT CHIPS Letter- Oct.19, 2023
Charter Communications- Programming changes- October 27, 2023
CDBG Program Grant Award- Stormwater drainage infrastructure study- November 9, 2023
NYS LIHWAP program letter- One time payment of \$415.00 payments being made 11/22/2023
NC Gallonage Report

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 006 Voucher #'s 149-195 H3 Fund Voucher #61
General Fund-\$28,792.05 Water Fund-\$7,812.19 T&A Fund-\$2,800.00 H3 Fund-\$34,200.00 TOTAL
\$73,604.24
A motion to approve the above claims and bill payment audited by the entire Board of Trustees was made by Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-3-Corwin-Bradley,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-1-Davis Motion Carried.

Budget Transfer: A7110.43 Parks Misc. \$50.00 to A7110.42 Parks-Portable Toilet
A5182.4 Street Lighting Contractual \$2500.00 to A1620.44 Village Hall-Contractual
A motion to approve the above budget transfers was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Public Comment was offered by:
Kathie Smith: As President of the Barker Public Library, a letter has been approved that lays out the payment schedule from the Library to the Village for Phase II of the new building. The only addition will be the increased cost owed for the LVT flooring instead of the carpet specified in the bid specs. That amount will be added to the second invoice. The library also inquired about the items the Village Board discussed at the work session, the placement of a new shed, using the mechanical room for document storage for the library and starting a community garden with a seed library sometime in the future.

Board Comment was offered by:

Deputy Mayor Davis: Thanked the community for the support of non-perishable food items for the Barker Food Pantry collected Saturday, November 11th. A total of 476 items were collected.

Mayor Corwin-Bradley: Stated she had a resident reach out about dead trees along Quaker Road, specifically across from the Fire Hall. She contacted Niagara County Legislator Shawn Foti and he asked for picture and addresses for the county crew to remove. NC Legislator Foti also stated he would give Light Up Barker a grant of \$1075.00. Mayor Corwin-Bradley stated she will have the chicken BBQ tickets ready shortly for the Light Up Barker event.

A motion to enter into **Executive Session to discuss pending/current litigation** was made by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

Executive Session was entered into at 7:27pm.

Executive Session Attendance: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner and all 4 Board members present at the meeting.

Executive Session was motioned for adjournment at 7:54pm by Deputy Mayor Davis and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

A motion for **Adjournment was made at 7:56pm** by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

A motion for **Adjournment was made at 7:56pm** by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Ditomasso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Corwin-Bradley,Davis,Ditomasso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Next work session will be Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall, 1660 Quaker Road

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Barker Fire Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

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