

Barton Village, Inc.
Regular Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
6pm

Barton Village Memorial Building – Back Office**Meeting to be moved downstairs in the event there is an access issue for any attendee or participant. To request meeting be moved downstairs prior to the scheduled date and time, please call the office at 802-525-4747, Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4pm.**

Attendance: Gina Lyon, (Chair, Village Business Manager), Marilyn Prue (Trustee), Ellis Merchant (Trustee) Marikate Kelley (via TEAMS online). Jacqueline Laurion, (Clerk) via TEAMS online. Entered as of 7:12 pm Derrik Poginy, (Village DPW Forman), Norman Patenaude (Pike Industries) Natalie Dalpe (Village Resident), Ed Barbar (Newport Daily Express)

Minutes

- A. **Call to Order:** Gina Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:03pm. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda/Additions or Deletions** – Prior to going into Executive Session Gina Lyon added ETS Proposal under action items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS: Entered at 6:03pm See agenda item A.

- C. **Executive Session - Legal Action: 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E) –**
 - i. Online Meeting with Attorney Marikate Kelley regarding High Street.
 - ii. Review Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. Retention Agreement for consideration.Gina Lyon made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 7:13pm. Marilyn Prue seconded. Motion Carried.
No action taken for item #i. Marilyn Prue made a motion for Gina Lyon to sign Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. Retention Agreement as presented and discussed. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- D. **Privilege of the Floor:** None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- E. **Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting August 11, 2026:** Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting 8/11/2026 as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- F. **Bills and Warrants:** Marilyn Prue made a motion to accept the bills and warrants as accepted. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- G. **Liens:** Gina Lyon made a motion to place a lien on 184 Glover Road in Barton, VT for Water, Electric & Sewer services. The sum owed of \$3,384.53 Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- H. **Harrison and Prospect Street Paving Estimates:** Norman Patenaude of Pike industries were in attendance as well as Derrick Poginy (Barton Village DPW Forman). It was decided that the Trustees would reach back out to the other bidders to submit a new bid, so each bid is comparable in scope across all bidders.

- I. **Coin Drop Application:** Saint Paul Catholic School submitted an application to host a coin drop on September 5th, 2026. Rain date will be October 10th, 2026. Marilyn Prue made a motion to accept the coin drop application from Saint Paul Catholic School as presented. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- J. **Office Redesign:** The Board discussed two recent incidents in which visitors to the Village Office became aggressive leaving some staff feeling threatened and on edge. These incidents raised concerns regarding employee safety and demonstrated the need for additional security measures.

The Board also discussed changing the front office layout to better protect residents' privacy and improve security surrounding the exchange and storage of money within the office.

Gina Lyon arranged for Portland Glass to inspect the office and provide a proposal for installing security glass and modifying the existing entrance layout. The proposed improvements are intended to address current economic and safety concerns within the area while providing greater protection for Village Office staff, residents, and Village funds.

Ellis Merchant raised questions regarding the proposal and requested that the Board have more than one bid available for review.

Marilyn Prue made a motion to authorize Gina Lyon to obtain an additional bid for the carpentry portion of the front office redesign. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- K. **Request for Charter Change:** Village resident Natalie Dalpe of Breezy Hill Road submitted a letter to the Trustees on March 17, 2026, requesting a Trustee-Initiated Charter Modernization proposal concerning the funding of the Village's Water and Wastewater systems. The purpose of the request was to modernize the Charter provisions governing utility funding specifically around general bond obligations.

Attorney Brian P. Monaghan, Esq., of Monaghan Safar Ducham PLLC, legal counsel for the Village of Barton, provided the Trustees with an eight-page written response addressing Mrs. Dalpe's request.

Mrs. Dalpe's property is not connected to the Barton Village Water or Wastewater systems. Her request asked the Trustees to consider a Charter amendment that would remove Village service-fee general bond obligations for property owners whose properties are not connected to either system.

After reviewing the attorney's response in detail and considering his legal guidance, the Trustees determined that they would not pursue a change to the current Charter.

The Trustees acknowledged Mrs. Dalpe's concerns and expressed that they understand and empathize with her situation, as well as with other Village property owners who are similarly situated. However, based on the advice provided by the Village attorney, the Trustees concluded that a Charter amendment would not be pursued.

Mrs. Dalpe expressed her disappointment with the Trustees' decision.

Gina Lyon made a motion to deny Mrs. Dalpe's request to change the Charter, based on the recommendation of the Village attorney, Marilyn Prue seconded it. Motion carried.

- L. **ETS Proposal -Electrical Technology Solutions.** The Board discussed ongoing software issues with the hydro plant's touchscreen control pad. The system has been experiencing glitches and errors during data entry and is due for an upgrade.

ETS submitted a proposal totaling \$12,100 for the OIT replacement and system upgrade. An additional \$3,500 was proposed for other necessary system repairs, bringing the total project cost to \$15,600.

Marilyn Prue made a motion to approve the ETS proposal of \$12,100, along with the additional \$3,500 in system repairs, for a total authorized amount of \$15,600. Ellis Merchant seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- M. **Department Operations Updates:**

August 25, 2026

Office/Village

- Painting of the gazebo and the office side of the building have been completed.
- KBS has been asked to complete the audit. Robyn planned to work on it over the weekend and provide an update on Monday.
- The Utility Billing Clerk position was posted on Friday, August 21, 2026.

Department of Public Works

- Derrick met with the adjoining property owners to discuss the Pageant Park culvert replacement project being completed through FEMA.
- Work is underway with an attorney preparing the necessary right-of-way easements and warranty deeds.
- Derrick and the Public Works crew will replace the springs on the F-550 this week.
- Ditching work will continue.
- Sidewalk needs and priorities will be discussed.

Water Treatment

- July testing results again showed elevated levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHMs).
- A Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) was received and requires a response.
- Cleaning of one of the water storage tanks is currently being scheduled.
- Work continues to replace old and broken water meters.

Wastewater

- USDA has issued an obligation of funds for the project. Funds awarded by grant of \$4,485,000 - a REAP loan of \$1,545,000. This results in the upgrade project being funded by 61% grant and 39% loan bond.
- The Village is awaiting a meeting with Mike Mainer to discuss the next steps.

Electric Department

- The utility pole located near the Pageant Park culvert will be moved toward the campground entrance to accommodate the culvert replacement.
- The Department of Public Service has filed its recommendation with the Public Utility Commission regarding the Barton rate case.
- The Department recommends that the Commission open an investigation and schedule an initial conference to establish the litigation timeline.

Hydro Plant

- The hydro plant was shut down on August 21, 2026.
- FairBanks Mill removed the two hatches, and the penstock was left to dry over the weekend.
- Preparation for coating began on Monday, August 24, with coating work scheduled to continue throughout the week.
- Depending on the weather, the hydro plant is expected to return to service on either Friday, August 28, or Monday, August 31, 2026.

Other Business – Special Meeting on Monday August 31, 2026, at 6pm at the Village back-office room pertaining to setting the Village Tax rate. The special meeting is to take place after the Abatement hearings taking place at Barton Town Office this week.

OTHER ITEMS: None.

N. Adjourn: Gina Lyon made a motion to Adjourn at 8:44pm. Marilyn Prue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

Special Board Meeting: 08/31/26

Regular Board Meeting: 09/08/26

Regular Board Meeting: 09/22/26

Regina L. Lyon

Trustee, Board Chair