

VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



October 7, 2024 7:00PM
@ Village Hall Meeting Room

Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley
Deputy Mayor Aaron Davis
Trustee Val DiTommaso
Trustee Melanie Hirschman
Trustee-Alexzander Detschner

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Historian Amy Dewart. Deputy Mayor Aaron Davis arrived at 7:34pm.

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

The **Sales tax** received for September 2024 was \$16,498.28 an increase of \$601.63 from September 2023.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the monthly board meeting held September 9, 2024 was motioned by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Davis Motion Carried.

Permission for the Barker Public Library to hold a "Trunk or Treat" event on Tuesday, October 29th from 5:00-6:30pm in the Village Hall/Library parking lot was motioned for approval by Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Trustee DiTommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Davis Motion Carried.

A **brief discussion of the trunk or treat event ensued** by the Board of Trustee members present. In the event of rain, the Library does have permission to utilize the vestibule, hallway and meeting room to accommodate the set up stations. The Village Hall office is not permissible, and the breakroom should not be used unless necessary.

A **motion to adopt the Meeting Room Use Policy** as written, effective October 8, 2024 was made by Trustee DiTommaso and seconded by Trustee Detschner.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Davis Motion Carried.

A **brief discussion regarding the policy specifics and the need for an application** that contains a hold harmless agreement ensued. Overall the Board felt that the policy outlines all the necessary scenarios and points needed, but would like Attorney Seamans approval of the application before its released.

Proclamation- Honoring "Kevin" the Peacock

WHEREAS, a peacock was seen wandering in the vicinity of Quaker Road on May 3, 2024 just outside the Village limits; and

WHEREAS, the peacock still wanders the Village of Barker and Town of Somerset to this day; and

WHEREAS, residents in the Village of Barker and Town of Somerset have embraced "Kevin" sightings for months through his own Facebook page named the Legend of Kevin; and

WHEREAS, over time "Kevin" has become a mascot for the Village of Barker and most people consider sightings an honor; and

WHEREAS, "Kevin" has appeared on WGRZ channel 2 and WIVB channel 4 news as Barker's famous roaming peacock; and

WHEREAS, "Kevin" was even included in the Barker Cornfest Scavenger hunt clues in July of 2024, requesting a selfie with "Kevin"; and

NOW, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF BARKER, I, Seanna Corwin-Bradley, do hereby deem it an honor to present this proclamation to "Kevin" in appreciation of its presence in our community.

Mayor Corwin-Bradley read the proclamation aloud for those present. An official copy of the proclamation will be delivered to Ms. Helen a community member who greatly enjoys following "Kevin".

Resolution #25-2024 Lowering the asking price of 1697 East Avenue, Barker, NY 14012

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker listed 1697 East Avenue, Barker, NY 1401, SBL #18.10-1-88 on July 9, 2024 for \$120,000.00; and

WHEREAS, to date no offers have been received; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees would like to drop the asking price of the above referenced parcel to \$55,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby grants permission to the realtor to lower the asking price of the above referenced parcel effective October 8, 2024.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #25-2024** was made by Trustee DiTommaso and seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Davis Motion Carried.

A **discussion ensued about the appropriate asking price since the property** is unique and the appraisal was quite high. Figures of \$45,000 to \$65,000 were discussed and the new asking price of \$55,000 was settled on.

A motion to authorize the DPW Superintendent to finish the end of Woodward Avenue by excavation of the soil, putting down fabric and finishing it off with millings and posting with no parking signage, not to exceed \$1500.00 was made by Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Davis Motion Carried.

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

- ✓ Fall 2024 newsletter will be ready to mail by October 15th, please submit any articles you wish to be included by Oct.10th
- ✓ Water bills for 3rd QTR 2024 will be mailed on October 8th and will be due by November 12th, 2024 without penalty
- ✓ During the next couple of weeks, the Village will be moving from UBMax water software to the new gWorks water software. Changes will occur, to what extent is unknown until we are fully trained. I would like to put information regarding this change in the Fall newsletter and a label was placed on the water bill indicating a change will occur shortly.
- ✓ Any remaining unpaid property taxes as of October 31, 2024 will be re-levied onto the Town/County Tax Roll for collection in January 2025
- ✓ The Village FCC broadband radio license expired on September 14, 2024. I did try to renew the license because once you lose it, chances of getting it back are slim. Since Niagara County implemented the countywide narrowband system to comply with the new regulations beginning back in 2014 and since the Village does not comply with the requirements to keep our own license, we are now solely operating under the countywide system. After investigating compliance requirements that were extremely costly and reaching out to the County, the best option was for the Village to stay with the countywide narrowband system.
- ✓ Village Hall will be CLOSED Tuesday, November 5th for Election Day and Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day

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

Mayor Corwin-Bradley stated the East Avenue and Church Street paving looks great. Trustee Hirschman stated the fall decorations at the David Barker Park Gazebo and Village Hall/Library building look great and many people took advantage of them for Homecoming pictures last weekend.

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

No permits were issued in September.

Deputy Mayor Davis arrived at 7:34pm.

Correspondence:

NYSEG/U Dig NY safety information packet
NYS DOT CHIPS/PAVE NY/EWR/POP letter-September 20, 2024
Verizon- single billing transition
Niagara Gospel Mission letter
NC MUSIP-potential new OSHA regulations for fire departments
NC MUSIP- 2025 plan assessment
Highmark Health Insurance-Disabled Dependent verification process
NYSLRS 2025 Projected invoice
Charter Communication-fee changes-September 17, 2024
NC Gallonage Report

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 005 Voucher #'s 149-183 H3 Voucher #'s 78
General Fund-\$17,669.17 Water Fund-\$8940.06 T&A Fund-\$1500.00 H-3 Fund-\$11,212.50
TOTAL \$39,321.73

A motion to approve the above claims and bill payment audited by the entire Board of Trustee members present was made by Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Trustee DiTommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-1-Davis Motion Carried.

Budget Transfers: A1010.4 Board of Trustees Contractual \$20.00 to A4020.4 Registrar
F8340.4 Transmission & Distribution Contractual \$420.00 to F8310.4 Water Administration Contractual

A motion to approve the above budget transfers was made by Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Trustee DiTommaso.

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

Public Comment was offered by:

Amy Dewart: Stated that she had found a display case in the barn of the historical society and inquired if the Village would be allowed to use it in the new building for historical displays. In the process, Dick and Marcia Ray have offered to donate a vintage display case that was used in the former Ray's Service Station made of walnut and glass (1940's). The approximate size is 3ftx4ftx2ft and was used to display candy. The Board was delighted with the offer and chose to accept it.

A motion to accept the donation of the walnut display case to use in the Village Hall at 8708 Main Street was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee DiTommaso.

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

Board Comment was offered by:

Trustee Detschner: Inquired about the increased water loss for 3rd quarter 2024. DPW Superintendent Mark Remington stated that Rural Water leak detection will be out on Wednesday, October 9th to help shut down mains and listen for leaks using the report from the K-9 leak detection team to pinpoint other areas.

Deputy Mayor Davis: Stated Scout Pack 18 will be doing the scouting for food again November 9th and that he would like that in the newsletter. All the food collected will go directly to the Barker Food Pantry for donation.

Mayor Corwin-Bradley: Stated that Light Up Barker planning has begun. The Scouts will be selling food, Adam Atwater will do hayrides, Mr. & Mrs. Clause will be present, a couple craft stations and the lighting contest. LUB will be December 14th from 5:00-8:00pm.

Trustee DiTommaso: Stated that he's been walking the sidewalks around the Village more and has noticed many areas of concern. At the November work session the Board can discuss the report from Precision Safe Sidewalks.

A motion for **adjournment was made at 7:49pm** by Deputy Mayor Davis and seconded by Trustee DiTommaso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-Corwin-Bradley, Davis, Detschner, DiTommaso, Hirschman NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Next work session will be Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Village Hall meeting room

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village meeting room**

Note change in date due to the Veterans Day Holiday, Monday, November 11th

Respectfully submitted,

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