

# VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2025  
7:00PM



Mayor Aaron Davis  
Deputy Val DiTommaso  
Trustee Melanie Hirschman  
Trustee Alexzander Detschner  
Trustee Chloe Lee

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laurel Cantella, Robert Wendler. Trustee Lee was absent from the meeting.

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

The **Sales tax** received for July 2025 was \$21,067.35 an increase of \$3733.10 from July 2024.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the *monthly board meeting held July 14, 2025*, and the *special meeting minutes from August 8, 2025*, were motioned for approval by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING was opened at 7:01pm.**

**A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Utility-Scale Solar Energy System Installations and Utility-Scale Electrical Energy Storage Device Systems within the Village for a Period of Eight Months**

Be it enacted by the Village Board of the Village of Barker as follows:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The purpose of this Local Law is to amend the Code of the Village of Barker to establish a moratorium on the processing, permitting and/or construction of utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems within the Village for eight (8) months. A moratorium will allow the Village Board time to consider recent New York State legislation and expected regulations related to tax revenues which may be derived from such projects, as well as to examine, draft, review and adopt effective policy regarding the evolving technology and industry of utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems, and to ensure adequate restrictions and regulations are placed as may be necessary to promote and preserve the health, safety and welfare of the Village of Barker and its citizens.

**SECTION 2. FINDINGS.**

The Village of Barker Village Board does hereby find that without a temporary halt on the processing, permitting, and approvals for utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems there is the potential that such uses could be located in unsuitable areas within the Village, and/or developed on particular lots with inappropriate dimensional requirements, and/or developed in such a density as to alter the fabric of the community. Such uses could have materially adverse and irreversible impacts on the Village, and may threaten the health, safety or welfare of the Village's citizens.

The Village Board also finds that it is in need of additional time to perform the necessary analysis of the potential types of utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems that are appropriate to meet the needs of the community to provide for the planned orderly growth and development of the Village.

**SECTION 3. MORATORIUM IMPOSED; APPLICABILITY.**

For the period of eight (8) months, commencing on the effective date of this Local Law, or until such time as the Village of Barker passes a revised Local Law concerning utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems, whichever is sooner, there shall be a moratorium on the processing, permitting, and/or construction of utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems within the Village of Barker for all utility-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale electrical energy storage device systems which have not yet obtained a building permit for construction from the Village of Barker. This moratorium shall not affect any existing or proposed building-mounted, ground-mounted, rooftop-mounted or any other solar energy system or electrical energy storage device systems that are designed and intended to generate or store electricity solely for use on an individual lot.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY**

The invalidity of any word, section, clause, paragraph, sentence or part or provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity or any other part of this Local Law which shall be in effect.

**SECTION 5. TERM.**

This law shall take effect immediately, as provided by the law, upon filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of eight (8) months from its effective date.

A brief synopsis of the proposed Local Law was given by Mayor Davis. The Village doesn't currently have any regulations regarding solar/battery storage codified and a third party leasing company has been inquiring about parcels in the Village to for this purpose. This will allow the Village to draft a Local Law that addresses and defines the parameters of solar/battery storage within Village limits.

Robert Wendler inquired about the definition of utility scale as mentioned in the above local law. Mayor Davis stated the definition hasn't been defined but will be in the local law being developed. Mr. Wendler also stated he thought the battery storage portion is more critical from a safety standpoint.

The **Public Hearing was closed at 7:05pm** on a motion from Trustee Hirschman and seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

**A motion to ASOPT Local Law #6-2025 A Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Utility-Scale Solar Energy System Installations and Utility-Scale Electrical Energy Storage Device Systems within the Village for a Period of Eight Months** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

The Votes were cast as listed:

Mayor Davis-AYE  
Deputy Mayor DiTommaso-AYE  
Trustee Detschner-AYE  
Trustee Hirschman-AYE  
Trustee Lee-ABSENT

The previous Local Law #6-2025 was ADOPTED by a unanimous vote.

The **Niagara County Planning Board approved referral #6996** for the Local Law Establishing a Moratorium on Utility-Scale Solar Energy System Installations and Utility-Scale Electrical Energy Storage Device Systems within the Village for a Period of Eight Months at the July 21, 2025, meeting.

A motion to approve the **Destruction of Records Authorization dated July 30, 2025, according to the NYS Archives LGS-1 retention schedule** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

A motion to **Approve of the Inter-Municipal agreement for the Town of Somerset to add the Village of Barker to MuniBilling Utility Billing Software, as well as acknowledge and accept the waiver of conflict due to dual representation of both entities** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

A motion to **Establish Trick or Treat Hours** for Friday, October 31, 2025 (Halloween) from 5:00pm to 7:00pm was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

A motion to **Approve the Park Request from Friends of the Barker Library to have yoga in the park** (Main Street/David Barker Park) on September 13<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 utilizing the grass between the Gazebo and Pavilion was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee Motioned Carried.

**An audit of Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Records for FY 2024-2025** took place on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 5:00pm at the Village Hall. Trustee DiTommaso and Trustee Hirschman were present to audit the books. The month of April 2025 was chosen at random. The audit concluded at 5:47pm with all financial records found to be in order.

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

- ✓ Annual Financial Report (AFR) 2025 has been submitted to the Office of the NYS Comptroller July 25, 2025 and the legal notice was published July 31, 2025
- ✓ Tax Collection remains open. Penalty is now 6% and unpaid tax notices will be mailed September 5, 2025. Any unpaid taxes outstanding as of October 31, 2025 will be turned over to Niagara County to be placed on the Town/County taxes for collection in January
- ✓ Labor Day Holiday is the day of the scheduled work session-the work session will be CANCELLED for Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and the Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer will be attending NYCOM Fall Training School the week of September 15-19, 2025. The Office will be CLOSED Monday, September 15 - Friday, September 19, 2025.
- ✓ Columbus Day Holiday is the date of the October meeting. The meeting will be moved to Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Village Meeting Room, 8708 Main Street
- ✓ Modern trash collection issue was raised when a Main Street resident's cart remained uncollected. I advised them to call Modern customer service to report the issue. After no solution, the resident came to the Village

Hall to report the problem. I sent an email to the VP of Collections to find out that he had retired, so the CEO answered the email. Modern's position was that because it wasn't a Village issued trash cart (but it was a Modern trash cart purchased before the Village's switch to cart-based collection) that they would no longer collect the receptacle. Modern also stated that no more than 4 carts can be placed by the road for collection, as this parcel had 5. Modern was under the impression that the blue cart came from another municipality, but in fact it was one of Modern's carts. Modern has taken the position that they will only collect Village issued carts from now on, as stated in the contract. A change of leadership has brought about the change in position; this question was asked when the switch took place and Modern assured us that the residents that had purchased Modern carts would be collected. No notice was given to the Village Clerk or Mayor regarding the change. Once the information was received Clerk-Treasurer Detschner gathered a list and wrote a notice to tape inside the new cart explaining the changes and DPW Superintendent Remington delivered the carts. Last week no complaints were received about non-collection. The Modern carts can be placed curbside on bulk collection dates only.

The **Public Works Report** was reviewed and accepted by the Board of Trustees.  
Mayor Davis asked DPW Superintendent Remington to paint the rusted joints of the HVAC system and the gas meter at the new building.

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

**Correspondence:** Town of Somerset Planning Board- Public Hearing Notice- August 7, 2025 7:30pm  
NC MUSIP 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR 2025 Plan Loss Run  
Charter Communications- Upcoming Programming changes- August 5, 2025  
NC Gallonage Report

**Approval of Claims and Bill Payment:** Abstract 003 Voucher #'s 59-97  
General Fund-\$57,929.18 Water Fund-\$161.62 T&A Fund-\$6,500.00 TOTAL \$64,590.80  
A **motion to approve the above claims and bill payment audited by the entire Board of Trustees present** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.  
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee  
Motioned Carried.

**Budget Transfers:** A1910.4 Insurance \$1,400.00 to A9040.8 Worker's Compensation  
A1990.4 Contingency \$3,500.00 to A5110.4 Street Maintenance Contractual  
A **motion to approve the above budget transfers** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.  
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee  
Motioned Carried.

**Public Comment** was offered by:  
Robert Wendler: Inquired as to who authorized the red Lions Club Corn Fest sign that was out at the Corn Festival this past weekend. Mayor Davis stated the name, and no one recognized it. Mr. Wendler stated that it shouldn't have been placed out because the event wasn't sponsored by the Lion's Club and contained outdated information. Mayor Davis asked him to return the sign to the Lion's Club. Also, Mr. Wendler brought up a couple code enforcement issues along Quaker Road and asked if special use permits were still issued under Village Code. Special Use permits were eliminated from Village Code in 2013.

**Board Comment** was offered by:  
Trustee Hirschman: Inquired about how the corner of the park by the Grain House parking lot can be squared off and returned to the Village Park for use. Light Up Barker will be taken over by Trustee Hirschman and Clerk-Treasurer Detschner can assist in the planning and event coordination.  
Deputy Mayor DiTommaso: Stated he was excited to volunteer for the Corn Fest. He suggested staggering the set-up times for the vendors, so access was easier.  
Mayor Davis: Stated he resigned from the Ontario Shores Community Organization as of Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> as Vice President. This position caused a conflict of interest with the mayor's duties. He thanked everyone who attended and volunteered for the 5k race. A total of 96 runners ran the race, up a few from last year. Mayor Davis stated he received an email from Derek Heid from Channel 7 news asking for a meeting to introduce himself, as he will be the dedicated individual reporting on Niagara County.

A motion for **Adjournment came at 7:50pm** by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.  
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee  
Motioned Carried.

**Next work session will be Monday, September 1, 2025 is CANCELLED due to Labor Day Holiday**

**Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Village Meeting Room, 8708 Main Street**

Respectfully Submitted,

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