



# VILLAGE OF BARKER WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 5, 2025  
7:00pm

Mayor Aaron Davis  
Deputy Mayor Val DiTommaso  
Trustee Melanie Hirschman  
Trustee Chloe Lee- *Absent*  
Trustee Alexander Detschner

In **Attendance**: DPW Superintendent Mark Remington. Trustee Lee was absent from the meeting.

The **was opened at 7:00pm** with Mayor Davis administering the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Library shed lease agreement

The Board reviewed the proposed lease agreement as written by the Village Attorney for the new 10x20 shed the library is placing behind the building. The location has been moved to accommodate for the snow removal of the parking lot. The Lease was agreeable as written and the Board will approve at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Lead/Copper testing update

DPW Superintendent Remington attended a meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> with members of Niagara County DOH & NYS DOH to convey the new requirements for Lead/Copper testing moving forward. As a result of the EPA Audits that were performed 2024 it has been determined that our current method for site determination, verification, and record maintenance of Lead and Copper Sampling should fall under the responsibilities of each individual purchase system. This will mean that the coordination of sampling will no longer be handled by the County but will be the responsibility of each purchase system individually. This will have a significant impact on the budget, as sampling will cost around \$50/sample and the Village will be required to submit 10 samples per round. Further logistics about who can handle the sampling in the area will be forthcoming, as well as which households will be sampled and how that is determined.

- CDBG grant application for Stormwater improvements

A Zoom meeting was held with Ken Knusten & Jeremy Hughes from Barton & Loguidice about possible grant opportunities to help begin the implementation of the Stormwater Study to fruition. This CDBG grant is fully funded by the grant and can include engineering costs. The first phase identified in the stormwater study cost was approximately \$1.2 million and adding engineering fees would bring it around \$1.4 Million, the cost for B&L to prepare the grant application would be \$7,000. All Board members present were in favor of moving forward with this application. Ken stated a large part of this grant is showing community need & participation. If the Board agrees to move forward with the application, then it will need to be executed at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Another grant opportunity has arisen regarding David Barker Park. NYS has created a new grant program intended to target parks/recreation and since the Village has had intentions of installing a basketball court where the ice rink depression is B&L could put the grant application together for the cost of \$3,000. There would need to be engineering plans drawn up for the application since this is a brand-new project and none exist. The basketball court would have year-round usability because a curb would be installed that would allow the court to be flooded in the winter to be used as a skating rink. The Board seemed to be in favor of applying for this 90/10 grant program.

- Corn Fest request for Park/ fee waiver

A letter requesting the use of David Barker Park for August 9<sup>th</sup> to host the Corn Festival was received along with the park/pavilion use form. The pavilion would be used for public access to sit, eat and get out of the sun, so no need to apply the fee as stated in the policy. Main Street would be closed off from Quaker Road to Pallister Avenue and the VH/Library parking lot would be used for the car show. A request was received from the Corn Fest 5K run to hold registration in the VH Meeting room from 6:00am-11:00am. After the 5K was completed then the building would be locked and closed to the public.

- New Water Software options

The Village has been experiencing an extremely difficult time with the new water software from gWorks. The only reason the Village was forced to switch was due to gWorks buying out the former software UB Max. Ultimately the gWorks software was not in compliance with NYS standards for reporting payments or accommodating water re-levy onto the Village tax roll. Reading meters had to be done with pen and paper because gWorks does not have a user interface that allows the meter reader to enter the reads directly into the program. Many extra hours of work had to be put in so water bills could be sent out, even if they were sent out a week late, not on the Village's part, but due to the deficiencies of the gWorks software. Several other water software companies have been demoed and there are a couple of contenders. Clerk-Treasurer Detschner will reach out to Attorney Seaman for guidance on getting out of the gWorks software contract, requesting a refund of the upfront costs and reviewing the new software contract before execution. The most important aspect of getting water software is that it will allow for future continuity for Village residents, mobile friendly, follow NYS OSC accounting standards and has necessary functions.

No **Public Comment** was offered.

**Board Comment** was offered by:

*Mayor Davis*: Stated the Board received an email from Martin Padilla regarding the status/condition of 1708 Quaker Road. This property is in foreclosure and is bank owned. If Code violations exist its important that CEO Remington pursues violations and if necessary proceeds with the unsafe structure code.

Trustee Hirschman: Inquired about the status of the property clean up at 1707 East Avenue. Slowly the property owners have been filling dumpsters by hand. No equipment has been brought in to assist in the clean up and no

information has been received from the property owners on the timeline. Now that the weather is breaking the smell is getting worse and no barriers exist to keep kids away from the debris. CEO Remington will reach out to Attorney Seman on next steps.

A motion for **adjournment was made at 8:10pm** by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-0/None ABSENT-1-Lee. Motion carried.

**Next meeting is the Monthly Board Meeting, Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

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