

VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



October 6, 2025
7:00PM

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

In **Attendance**: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laurel Cantella and 4 Participation in Government Students: Evan Baker, Adam Parris, Briley Huwyler, Joseph Cirillo. DPW Superintendent Mark Remington was absent.

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

The **Sales tax** received for September 2025 was \$18,154.98 an increase of \$1,656.70 from September 2024.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the monthly board meeting held September 8, 2025 was motioned by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Lee NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Resolution #29-2025

Resolution in Support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) and in Opposition to Government Mandated Natural Gas Bans

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Barker strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Barker urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

A **motion to ADOPT Resolution #29-2025** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Lee NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Trustee Detschner abstained from the health insurance discussion and vote taken.

Health Insurance Renewal December 1, 2025- November 30, 2026

A motion to approve the Standard Gold plan through Univera Healthcare at the cost of \$1717.88/month for employee+spouse and \$2447.98/month for family coverage plus the \$1200 deductible was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

Niagara County Board of Elections Notice of Countywide Proposition

Local Law for Niagara County and form of submission of proposed Local Law in connection with the proposed Local Law in relation to the establishment of a 4-year term for the office of Niagara County Legislator approved by the Niagara County Legislature on July 22, 2025. Under said law, the clerk of each Village, City and Town in the County of Niagara must make the enclosed copies part of the public record.

A motion to enter the NC BOE Proposition into Village public record was moved by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Lee NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

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

- ✓ Fall 2025 newsletter will be ready to mail by October 17th, please submit any articles you wish to be included by Oct.10th
- ✓ Water bills for 3rd QTR 2025 will be mailed on October 8th and will be due by November 10th, 2025 without penalty
- ✓ During the next couple of weeks the Village will be moving from UBMax water software to the new Munibilling 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, 2025 will be re-levied onto the Town/County Tax Roll for collection in January 2026
- ✓ Village Hall will be CLOSED Monday, October 13th, Tuesday, November 4th for Election Day and Tuesday, November 11th in observance of Veteran’s Day, as well as Thanksgiving, November 27th & 28th

Mayor Davis inquired about the Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer’s attendance at NYCOM Fall Training School September 14-September 19th and asked for a written report by the next meeting.

Trustee Hirschman congratulated Clerk-Treasurer Detschner on the Distinguished Finance Officer Award from the NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers received September 16th for recognition for providing outstanding service to the society and furthering its legislative, professional and educational purposes.

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

Water loss for 3rd QTR 2025 was 31%

Trustee Hirschman stated the fall decorations in the park were a big hit for Homecoming pictures on Sept. 27th.

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

2 permits issued: 1 fence & 1 shed

1 Violation issued- 1716 Quaker Road

Correspondence:

- NYS Rural Water Association 25-year member recognition certificate
- NYS DOT CHIPS letter of balances-September 18, 2025
- Niagara Gospel Mission letter- September 11, 2025
- Charter Communications- Upcoming Programming changes- September 29, 2025
- Charter Communications- Govt. Affairs Point of Contact Change-October 1, 2025
- NC Gallonage Report

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 005 Voucher #'s 127-169

General Fund-\$16,377.48 Water Fund-\$6,185.44 T&A Fund-\$1,500.00 TOTAL \$24,062.92

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

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Lee NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

No **Public Comment** was offered.

Board Comment was offered by:

Trustee Hirschman: Stated Light Up Barker (LUB) will be held December 13th from 3:30 to 6:30pm. The judging will take place a day or two before the event so the awards can be announced and certificates given at that time. Boy Scouts will sell hamburgers/hot cocoa, several crafts for families, a Christmas picture backdrop, the bonfire with smores, hayrides and a visit from Santa & Mrs. Clause. Vendors will bring their own tents if they would like to set up at the event.

Mayor Davis: Stated that Scouting for Food will be November 8th for pickup and flyers will be delivered on Nov. 1st for notice to take part in the event. The donations collected benefits the Faith United Methodist Church food pany on Quaker Road.

A motion for **Adjournment was made at 7:29pm** by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Lee NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Next work session will be Monday, November 3rd at 7:00pm

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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