



VILLAGE OF BARKER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2026

7:00PM

Mayor Aaron Davis
Trustee Melanie Hirschman
Trustee Val DiTommaso
Trustee Alexander Detschner
Trustee Chloe Kenny

In **Attendance:** Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laurel Cantella, Aaron Nellist, Seanna Corwin-Bradley, Cheryl Parr, Jordan Gow, Daniel Wojewoda, Micheal Diez, Gene Cavanaugh, Robert Wendler, Trent Kenny, Judy Remington, Drew Remington, Derek Remington, Bryce Remington, Mona Remington, Ramona Remington and Darlene Lutz

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

Clerk-Treasurer Detschner **administered the oath of Office** to Trustee Detschner.
Trustee DiTommaso was administered the oath of office on March 26, 2026 at the Village Hall.

Mayoral Appointments:

Code Enforcement Officer: Daniel Wojewoda
Official Newspaper: Union Sun & Journal
Village Attorney: Tom Seaman of Seaman Law LLP
Alternate Village Attorney:
Village Engineer: Barton & Loguidice
Ethics Board-Kaylee Wakefield (exp. 3/31/2026) 5 yr term
Ethics Board- Vacant (exp/ 3/31/2028) 5yr term with 2 remaining years
Planning Board- Seanna Corwin-Bradley (Expires 3/31/2027)

Clerk-Treasurer Detschner administered the **Oath of Office for the above Mayoral Appointments.**

Mayoral Assignments for the Board of Trustees:

Deputy Mayor: Val DiTommaso
Trustee Kenny-Property Maintenance and Improvements
Trustee Detschner-Grant, Research, Policies and Procedures
Deputy Mayor DiTommaso- Fleet Equipment Maintenance and procurement
Trustee Hirschman-Parks, Recreation & Main Street Beautification/ Facebook

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FY June 1, 2026 -May 31, 2027 was **opened at 7:03pm by Mayor Davis.** Mayor Davis gave a brief synopsis of the proposed budget and asked for public comment. Aaron Nellist inquired about last year's tax rate and what the increase was.

General Fund-\$508,537 Tax Rate at \$8.39 /thousand
Water Fund- \$115,973
TOTAL \$ 624,510

A **motion to close the public hearing for FY 2026-2027 budget was closed at 7:04pm** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Resolution # 4-2026 Adoption of the FY 2026-2027 Budget and Set the Tax Rate

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027 has been duly presented to the Board of Trustees by the Budget Officer and

WHEREAS, a duly advised public hearing has been held thereon,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to section 5-508 (4) of Village Law, that the said tentative budget as changed, altered and revised, be and hereby adopted as the Budget of the Village of Barker for the fiscal year 2026-2027

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tax rate for the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget be set at \$8.39 per thousand.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #4-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.

The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-4-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman NAYS-1-Kenny Motion Carried.
Resolution Adopted.

Proclamation

Honoring DPW Superintendent & Building Inspector Mark Remington on the Occasion of his Retirement

WHEREAS, Mark D. Remington, Department of Public Works Superintendent and Building Inspector officially retired on March 31, 2026, after twenty four (24) years of outstanding and meritorious service to the residents of Barker; and

WHEREAS, throughout his twenty four years of service as a DPW Laborer and Building Inspector, then DPW Superintendent, Mark has poured his service into various community events such as the Corn Festival and Farmer's Market; and was instrumental in the fire recovery and rebuilding process of the Village Hall/Library; as well as new water main installations through various funding sources in 2009 & 2012 to ensure safe drinking water for all; and

WHEREAS, Mark has served as an example to his peers, and the residents of this community and this State, both in his

personal achievements and employment achievements, with fairness and dedication;

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, we want to express our sincere appreciation to Mark for his dedication to the Village of Barker, in which he retires as a member in excellent standing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Barker, take this opportunity to express our sincere and grateful appreciation, and hereby extend to Mark D. Remington, our congratulations on this well-earned retirement and our best wishes to him for continued success and happiness in the years to come.

PROCLAIMED this 6th day of April 2026.

Remarks on Mark Remington's meritorious service from the Board of Trustees & Past Mayors: Cheryl Parr, Aaron Nellist & Seanna Corwin-Bradley. Mark left a lasting impact on our community, and we wish him the best in retirement.

The **Sales tax** received for March 2024 was \$14,766.00 an increase of \$229.24 from March 2023.

The **Approval of Minutes** for the Monthly Board Meeting March 9, 2026 was motioned for approval by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

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

Election Results: A total of 19 ballots were cast on Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Trustee: 2 year term-2 seats

Val DiTommaso 18

Alexander Detschner 16

Write In: Joshua Bachman 1

Resolution #5-2026- Investment Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #5-2026** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

Resolution #6-2026- Procurement Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #6-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.

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

Resolution #7-2026- Ethics Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #7-2026** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

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

Resolution #8-2026- Fund Balance Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #8-2026** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

Resolution #9-2026- Work Place Violence Prevention Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #9-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Kenny.

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

Resolution # 10-2026- Sexual Harassment Policy

This policy is on file with the Village Clerk-Treasurer

A **motion to adopt Resolution #10-2026** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Kenny.

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

Resolution #11-2026 Mileage Allowance

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined to pay a fixed rate for mileage as reimbursement to officers and employees of the Village who use their automobiles while performing their official duties on behalf of the Village of Barker; and

WHEREAS, the rate determined by the IRS may change throughout the year, at any point shall the rate of reimbursement changes it shall change the reimbursement allowed under Village Policy, as well.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

Section 1. That the Board of Trustees shall approve reimbursement of such officers and employees at the rate of 72.5 cents per mile.

Section 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #11-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.
Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #12-2026 Advanced Approval of Claims

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined to authorize payment in advance of audit claims for public utility services, postage, freight and express charges, and
WHEREAS, all such claims shall be presented at the next regular meeting for audit; and
WHEREAS, the claimant and officer incurring or approving the same shall be jointly and severally liable for any movement disallowed by the Board of Trustees;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
Section 1. That the Board of Trustees authorizes payment in advance of audit claims for public utility services, postage, freight and express charges and all such claims shall be presented at the next regular meeting for audit and the claimant and officer incurring or approving the same shall be jointly and severally liable for any amount disallowed by the Board of Trustees.
Section 2. That is resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #12-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.
Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #13-2026 Attendance at Schools and Conferences

WHEREAS, there is to be held during the coming fiscal year:
New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Fall Training School for Board members and Clerks
New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Public Works Training School
New York Association of Local Government Records Officers (NYALGRO)
New York State Association of Tax Receivers and Collectors (NYSATRC)
Niagara County Municipal Clerks Association meetings (NCMCA)
Niagara County MuSIP Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
Niagara County Association of Town Highway Superintendents
Western New York Water Works Association
New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA)
Western New York Fire Marshall's Inspectors Association
Niagara Frontier Building Officials Association
Finger Lakes Building Officials Association
Western Southern Tier Building Officials Association
New York State Municipal Finance Officers Association (NYSSMFO)
New York State Office of the State Comptroller (NYS OSC)
New York State Association of City and Village Clerks (NYSACVC)
New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS)
International Municipal Clerks (IIMC) Approved Institute
International Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference
WHEREAS, it is determined by the Board of Trustees that attendance by certain municipal officials and employees at one or more of these meetings, conferences or schools benefits the municipality;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
That the Superintendent of Public Works, Clerk-Treasurer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Building Inspector be authorized to attend these previously names meetings with the understanding that their primary responsibilities to the Village are met. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #13-2026** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.
Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #14-2026 Designation of Official Depository

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Barker has determined that Village Law 4-412(3)(2) requires the designation of the banks or trust companies for the deposit of all Village monies;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
Section 1. That the Board of Trustees of the Village of Barker does hereby designate M&T as the depository of all money received by the Village Clerk-Treasurer
Section 2: That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #14-2026** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.
Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #15-2026 Authorizing the Official M&T Bank signers

WHEREAS, The Village of Baker has designated M&T Bank as the official depository of all money received by the Village Clerk-Treasurer on April 6, 2026 by Resolution # __-2026;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1: That following are authorized signers to all Village accounts at M&T Bank

Mayor- Aaron Davis
Clerk-Treasurer- Amanda M. Detschner
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer- Laurel Cantella

Section 2: That this resolution shall take effect on April 7, 2026

A **motion to adopt Resolution #15-2026** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried. Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #16-2026 Setting the Monthly Meetings of the Village of Barker Board of Trustees, regular Work Sessions and setting the Annual Organizational Meeting

WHEREAS, the Village of Barker Board of Trustees meets on a monthly basis; and
WHEREAS a regular time and day for these meetings is necessary to provide public attendance
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the first Monday of the month is hereby established as the regular work session at seven o'clock PM in the Village Hall and
THEREORE BE IT RESOLVED that he monthly meetings of the Village of Barker Board of Trustees shall be held on the second Monday of each month at seven o'clock PM in the Village Hall Meeting Room, 8708 Main Street, Barker;
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual organizational meeting of the Village of Barker Board of Trustees shall be held on the first Monday of April at seven o'clock PM replacing the regular Board Meeting for April.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #16-2026** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried. Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #17-2026 Procedure for Calling Special Meetings

WHEREAS. It is not uncommon for special meetings to be necessary in the addition to the regular meetings of the Village of Barker Board of Trustees, and
WHEREAS, it is necessary, as well, to have a procedure for calling such meetings, and
WHEREAS, it is also necessary to notify the public and the news media of these special meetings,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that these special meetings may be held at the request of the Mayor alone and/or at the request of two or more Trustees, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk-Treasurer will notify each member individually and that in the absence of the Clerk-Treasurer, the Mayor will provide the notification and
That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #17-2026** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried. Resolution Adopted.

Resolution #18-2026-Establishing a Cell Phone Stipend for the Code Enforcement Officer

WHEREAS, it's the Village's expectation that the employees and Elected Officials designated as key personnel be accessible during duty hours, after duty hours, on weekends and on Holidays to respond to emergencies or other events/activities requiring recall; and
WHEREAS, privately owned cell phones are the primary means of communication that said key employees/elected officials utilized on a daily basis in conducting business/performing their assigned responsibilities and for recall; and
WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works, Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer already receives a \$25.00 stipend per month towards the cost of their personal cell phone premium; and
WHEREAS, the Code Enforcement Officer will now be paid a \$25.00 stipend per month, starting April 2026; and
WHEREAS, it's the duty of the individual receiving the cell phone stipend to ensure that they maintain a properly working device at all times; and WHEREAS, in arriving at the terms and conditions in the Resolution, the Board of Trustees and employees/elected officials covered by this resolution recognize that this Resolution may be amended in the future at any time;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Barker Board of Trustees hereby approves the employee phone stipend as stated above.

A **motion to adopt Resolution #18-2026** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried. Resolution Adopted.

Adopt Updated Revised Employee Handbook and Policies as presented to the Board of Trustees

After 18 months of revisions and working with the Village Attorney, a completed revised employee handbook has been proposed for adoption

A **motion to adopt the updated revised employee handbook and policies** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Detschner. The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Unpaid Water- Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect unpaid water rents, delinquent as of April 1st, 2026 by sending the outstanding amounts to Niagara County Department of Real Property for placement on the Village Tax Roll. The total unpaid amount as of April 1, 2026, is \$15,147.06 with the addition of the \$100 administrative fee to each unpaid parcel. 29 parcels remain unpaid as of April 1, 2026.

A **motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect unpaid water rents via re-levy to NC real property** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Unpaid Extra Garbage Cart Fee- Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect unpaid extra garbage cart fees (additional carts requested by Village residents above and beyond the free tote provided by the Village), delinquent as of April 1st, 2026 by sending outstanding accounts to Niagara County Department of Real Property for placement on the Village Tax Roll as an miscellaneous charge. Three septate notices have been sent to residents who currently have unpaid fees. The total unpaid amount as of April 1, 2026, is \$300.00 from four residents.

A **motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to collect unpaid water rents via re-levy to NC real property** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Trustee Detschner.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Authorize Mayor Davis to execute the letter of engagement with Tronconi Segarra & Associates LLP to assist the Clerk-Treasurer in filing the Annual Financial Report (AFR) with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller for FY 2025-2026. Base Price is \$2,500 for filing of AFR and various hourly pricing for help throughout the Fiscal Year ranging from \$415-320 per hour.

A **motion to authorize Mayor Davis to execute the letter of engagement with TS&A** was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.
The previous was ADOPTED. AYES-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports were not presented due to the timing of the release of the bank statements and time to complete the reconciliation. As soon as the books are reconciled for the month of March the financial reports will be sent to the Board of Trustees via email.

- ✓ Water bills will be mailed April 9th and are due May 11th without penalty
- ✓ Spring 2026 Newsletters will be prepared shortly and will be mailed when the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is finalized after it is sent by Niagara County. Any contributing articles please remit by April 10th, the ADWQR has been completed as of March 30, 2026 and is ready to mail
- ✓ The Clerk-Treasurer will be attending the IIMC Annual Conference May 15-May 21 in Reno, Nevada. Vacation days will be utilized for her attendance to represent the NYS Association of City and Village Clerks as President

A **motion to allow the use of the Village pickup truck to travel to Albany April 14 & 15th, 2026 to attend the NYCOM FTS planning meeting** by Clerk-Treasurer Detschner was made by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

Public Works

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2025 has been completed as of March 30, 2026 and will be mailed when the April newsletter is complete.

A motion to **appoint Jordan Gow to DPW Supervisor effective April 6, 2026, at a rate of \$58,240.00 annual salary** was made by Trustee Detschner and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

A motion to **appoint Donald Stoll as Laborer DL effective April 6, 2026, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour** was made by Trustee Hirschman and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

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

A motion to **accept the resignation of Mary Trakas as Laborer/Cleaner effective April 18th, 2026** was made by Trustee Kenny and was seconded by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso.

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

Code Enforcement

Daniel Wojewoda has been appointed as Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Part-Time effective April 6, 2026, at a rate of \$29.00 per hour.

Correspondence:

Oncore Origination LLC- Land Lease interest Battery Storage
Seaman Law LLP- Memo of understanding Village's Employee Handbook retiree health insurance
Charter Communications-Upcoming Changes- March 26, 2026
Charter Communications-Upcoming Changes- March 27, 2026
Charter Communications-Upcoming Fee Changes- March 27, 2026
NC Gallonage Report

Approval of Claims and Bill Payment: Abstract 011 Voucher #'s 362-396
General Fund-\$16,010.40 Water Fund-\$6,200.83 T&A Fund-\$1,500.00 \$TOTAL \$23,711.23

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-5-Davis,Detschner,DiTommaso,Hirschman,Kenny NAYS-0/None Motion Carried.

No **Public Comment** was offered.

Board Comment was offered by:

Trustee Detschner: Stated he looks forward to working with the Board for another term

Deputy Mayor DiTommaso: Offered congratulations to the new hires and stated that he has confidence that their employment will be beneficial to the Village moving forward.

Trustee Hirschman: Thanked the Remington family for attending the meeting this evening and stated everyone's remarks about Mark were touching and extremely thoughtful.

Mayor Davis: Offered congratulations on Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and Trustee Detschner on their re-election to the Board and thanked the new hires for joining our team.

A motion for **adjournment was made at 7:32pm** by Deputy Mayor DiTommaso and was seconded by Trustee Hirschman.

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

Next work session will be Monday, May 4, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

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