

VILLAGE OF BARODA MEETING MINUTES
Berrien County, Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2025

President, Michael Price called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Michael Price, Katie Zordell, Bob Feickert, Jack Lewis Nikki Andrews, Julie Elliott, Steve Hillhouse

Employees Present: Debbie Wishart, Paula Bryan, Grant Bly, Nick Skorupa

There were three guests signed in.

Audience Comment: None

1. Approved April, Agenda. Bob Feickert made motion 2nd by Jack Lewis, all ayes, motion carried.
2. Approved March 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes with correction to the spelling. Motion made by Bob Feickert and 2nd by Jack Lewis, all ayes, motion carried.
3. Approved March 26, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes with correction to the spelling. Motion made by Katie Zordell and 2nd by Michael Price, all ayes, motion carried
4. Approved paying bills- \$57,580.00. Motion made by Katie Zordell 2nd by Jack Lewis. Roll call vote: Bob Feickert, Katie Zordell, Michael Price, Jack Lewis, Nikki Andrews, Julie Elliott, Steve Hillhouse All ayes motion carried.
5. Approved payroll \$27,966.97. Motion made by Bob Feickert 2nd by Jack Lewis. Roll call vote: Bob Feickert, Katie Zordell, Michael Price, Jack Lewis, Nikki Andrews, Julie Elliott, Steve Hillhouse All ayes motion carried.

Reports

1. Treasurer's Report –Kruggel Lawton presented the 2024 Audit.
2. Clerk's Report – None
3. DPW Report- Storm drain needs repair by the Mill. Ten new stop signs are needed with reflective posts, Streets need to be restriped.

New Business:

1. Water rates have increased by 5% from our water supplier, Lake Township. Bob Feickert made a motion to increase water and sewer rates. This was 2nd by Jack Lewis to increase water and sewer rates to reflect the supplier increase. All ayes motion carried. Resolution 2025-03 amending the water rates was approved and adopted.
2. AMS Displays provided a proposal for the 2025 July 3rd Fireworks. Bob Feickert made a motion to approve the proposal and 2nd by Katie Zordell. All ayes motion carried.
3. Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition 5K Walk/Run asked for feedback on last year's event. If there are no concerns or complaints, they will complete a special event application and submit them for approval. It appears that everyone was onboard holding the event in the Village on September 20, 2025. The Lions Club will be holding a pancake breakfast that day in support of this organization.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Website updates- We are waiting for all bids requested before presenting the quotes.
- 2) Dixon Engineering- We are determining if the water tower can be taken out of service and go directly through Lake Township for our water supply. Once we know more from outside experts' reports will be provided.
- 3) Clock repairs have been done. Many noted that the time continues to be off. Michael Price stated there may be other electrical problems that contribute to the issue as it also causes the lights in town to stop working.
- 4) The council discussed moving forward in participating with the Central Berrien County Chamber and Growth Alliance. The organization will provide Baroda Village with access to promoting growth in the community through economic development by focusing on attracting, retaining, and expanding businesses, while also working on community development initiatives. The council discussed oversight would be needed to insure that work is being done to promote the Village. They will also provide grant writing for the Village. Concerns by council are that Baroda Township is also funding this organization \$15,000 funded by Township and Village residents creating a larger tax implication to Village residents. A motion was made to approve \$10,000 funding to the Central Berrien County Chamber and Growth Alliance by Julie Elliott and 2nd by Katie Zordell. Roll call vote: Bob Feickert NO, Katie Zordell YES, Michael Price YES, Jack Lewis YES, Nikki Andrews NO, Julie Elliott YES, Steve Hillhouse YES, motion carried.

Committees:

1. Finance Committee – None
2. Personnel Committee- Andrew Spitzke performance review was completed. Michael proposed a \$1.00 hour wage increase and 2nd by Jack Lewis. Roll call vote: Bob Feickert, Katie Zordell, Michael Price, Jack Lewis, Nikki Andrews, Julie Elliott, Steve Hillhouse All ayes motion carried.
3. Planning Committee-Public hearing with regular meeting is posted for April 15th regular meeting
4. Policy & Procedure: None

Council Comments:

Bob Feickert – Thank DPW

Nikki Andrews -None

Julie Elliott - None

Katie Zordell – None

Steve Hillhouse- None

Jack Lewis - None

President's – Michigan Rural Water Study ordinance updates will be provided when available.

Audience Comments were taken

Meeting adjourned at: 8:05 PM

Debbie Wishart, Clerk

Michael Price, President