

VILLAGE OF BARODA
Council Agenda
Baroda Municipal Building
February 7, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Getz, Mona Himmelein, Larry Nye, Milt Sluder, Don Turney, Clerk Boehm and Treasurer Hammond

Members Absent: Steve Jasper, Ed Rath

Guests Present: Leonard Krone, Tony Cochran, John Holland (MRWA), Rick Ast

After a short reception to celebrate the book “Baroda Businesses”, the Council Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Getz. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. Audience Comments
- II. Reports
 - A. Village Engineer – n/a
 - B. Economic Development – n/a
 - C. Committees
 - 1. Park – Trustee Nye presented a list of items of work that needs to be done in the park, and also a “wish list” of items he would like for the park.
 - 2. Finance – We need to schedule a budget workshop before next month’s council meeting, however the finance committee is waiting for personnel committee to complete personnel reviews. After discussion, the workshop was set for Tuesday, March 28th at 5:30 p.m.
 - D. Planning Commission – The Planning Commission will meet in March to start the review process of the ordinances.
 - E. DDA – President Getz needed to reappoint several of the DDA members whose terms had expired. He reappointed Greta Hurst, Jim Demski and Chris Moersch for another 4-year term.
- III. Unfinished Business
- IV. New Business
 - A. Set public hearing for budget – The public hearing for the budget has been set for Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Nye, seconded by Trustee Turney. All ayes, motion carried.
 - B. Personnel committee meeting – Trustee Turney stated the personnel committee is in process of completing evaluations and will hold reviews prior to the budget meeting on Tuesday, February 28th.
 - C. Clerk Institute – Clerk Boehm asked about going to a Marketing & Attraction Conference through MEDA on March 30-31st in Lansing in place of the clerk’s institute this year. The program would cost approximately the same as the clerk institute however would be very beneficial to the Village. A motion was made by Trustee Turney, seconded by Trustee Himmelein to approve the training. All ayes, motion carried.

- D. Park Improvement Project – Clerk Boehm stated that she has been working with a local organization about the possibility of getting a contribution towards a new covered stage for the park, and also some additional improvements. They would be willing to contribute 1/3 of the cost of the project, and the Village would be responsible for raising the additional 2/3. The bid needs to be submitted in March because of the budget timeline for the organization for the next fiscal year.

Trustee Nye added that he thought it would be a nice addition to the park and could be a good way to bring more people to the park and possibly have more concerts. If we get approved, we will need to begin the fundraising process and get more finalized/detailed bids, however if we are not able to obtain the remainder of the funds, we are not required to move forward with the project. So, there is no financial risk to the Village to get approval for the “grant”. A motion was made by Trustee Nye, seconded by Trustee Turney to seek approval from the organization for the 1/3 funding toward a new covered stage/park improvements. All ayes, motion carried.

- E. MEDC Community Redevelopment Courses – the MEDC is having 2 Best Practices training sessions in Benton Harbor; May 2nd, and June 6th. President Getz stated that he would like to see the council attend the sessions if at all possible. The training is to assist with Baroda getting aligned for Redevelopment Ready Communities program that will begin in August. The sessions are at no cost to the Village, however there is a \$50 cancellation fee. President Getz and Clerk Boehm plan to attend thus far.
- F. Baroda Video – moved to next month’s meeting.
- G. July Council Meeting Date – due to the July 3rd fireworks, and the 4th of July holiday, it was decided to move the July Council meeting to Monday, July 10th. We will hold the meeting at the Township Hall due to a conflict with the Township Board meeting that is already scheduled.
- H. Water Rates – John Holland from MWRA came to present his findings regarding our water rates and water loss issue. He has been working with Clerk Boehm, Treasurer Hammond, DPW Krone, and Tony Cochran for the past month pulling information together to find out exactly how much money we are losing and will continue to lose if we do not increase our water rates to keep consistent with Lake Township’s increases. Lake Township has increased their rates by 30% this year.
- In order for us to maintain the water system, and build some reserves in case there is a water system emergency, or repairs that may arise, we need to make a significant increase this year, however if we stay on top of further increases in water purchase, and operating expenses, this should be the only time we have to make such a large increase. We were informed that most municipalities increase their water rates by 1-2% annually.
- We also looked at the Township customers and what they pay. It was decided that the Township would pay an increase of 25% on top of the new rates for all Village water customers. The Township residents were not part of the original water system install and do not pay taxes to the Village, so this is a way to compensate the water fund for having the Township customers.
- After reviewing John’s presentation, and the information provided, it was decided that we would follow a graduated water rate structure, dependent on meter size, as well as begin charging water at 0 gallons, as opposed to the current

rate of beginning at 3,000 gallons. We will also have a base “operating and maintenance repair charge” that will be used to fund the water account for future repairs and maintenance. A motion was made by Trustee Sluder, seconded by Trustee Nye to approve the graduated water rate fee schedule as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Bob Getz	X		
Mona Himmelein	X		
Steve Jasper			X
Larry Nye	X		
Ed Rath			X
Milt Sluder	X		
Don Turney	X		

Motion Carried.

It was also discussed that we should begin to build a fund for meter replacement cost, as the cost of meters has increased drastically, and again should be self-funded. A motion was made by Trustee Nye, seconded by Trustee Sluder to add a \$1.00/month meter replacement charge per water customer. A roll call vote was taken:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Bob Getz	X		
Mona Himmelein	X		
Steve Jasper			X
Larry Nye	X		
Ed Rath			X
Milt Sluder	X		
Don Turney	X		

Motion Carried. Clerk Boehm will contact the Village Attorney to get the proper ordinance and/or resolution in place and we will begin the new water rates as soon as we can (preferably by March, but possibly April).

DPW Krone and Tony also brought up the fact that we have many Miss Dig requests that we need to comply with as a utility holder, and we currently do not have a very reliable way to detect the exact location of our water lines. They have gotten a couple of estimates on line locators that would be much more accurate and less chance of error, causing a major loss for the Village. The highest bid thus far is from Etna for \$3000. They will be attending a operator day in Lansing this week and will see if they can purchase a “demo” locator for less money. After some discussion, it was agreed that we should make the purchase. A motion was made by Trustee Nye, seconded by Trustee Sluder to approve maximum \$3,000 for a new line locator for the Village. All ayes, motion carried.

- V. Consent Agenda - Motion by Trustee Rath, seconded by Trustee Jasper to approve the consent agenda. No nays, motion carried.
 - A. Council Minutes – January 2, 2017
 - B. Treasurer’s Report
 - C. Paying of Bills and Transfers - \$16,429.54

- D. Correspondence
- VI. Council Comments
 - A. President Comments
 - B. Council Member's Comments

Meeting adjourned 8:22 p.m.

Recorded by:

Tina Boehm
Clerk