

**VILLAGE OF BARODA**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Baroda Municipal Building**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Michael Price, Jodi Mattner, Kathryn Strefling, Mel Tollas, Jack Lewis, Bob Feickert

Employees Present: Clerk Denton, Treasurer Covington, Shane Schmaltz, and Grant Bly

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Donna Ryan, Doreen Schultz, Audra Johnson, Carol Jakubs, and Donnie Johnson II

Council Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Price

I. Reports

A. Treasurer Update-

1. Bank Accounts-Treasurer Covington reported she is now on all accounts and is moving forward to learn them all.
2. BS&A Training-Treasurer Covington has completed the training approved by the council last month.
3. Goals and Feedback- Treasurer Covington sent a feedback form to council, to provide feedback and recommendations for the next year and asked to have the form filled out and submitted to trustee Covington before the next meeting.

B. Committees-

1. Park- Clerk Denton reported that we have spent a total of \$2301.59 on the park so far out of the \$30,000 put aside by Treasurer Hurst prior to her resignation. Discussion of a new slide will be brought up after reviewing pricing and availability.
2. Finance- Clerk Denton reported how much the Village has spent with Rhonda from Plante Moran to help get banking financials caught up and balanced.
3. Clerks Info- Clerk Denton informed the council about MAMC training in March 12-24. Clerk Denton attended this training last year and it is a Three-year program to become a Certified Municipal Clerk. The dates Clerk Denton requests are week two March 19-24 and as a MAMC member our cost is \$650 plus lodging. Trustee Mattner filed a motion for Clerk Denton to take the second year of MAMC training, seconded by President Price. A roll call vote of all ayes motion carries.

- C. Planning Commission- The Planning Commission is low on council members and has not conducted a meeting in several months due to lack of quorum. The discussion of pay to council who show up only to find out a lack of quorum was the discussion of the council. After discussion of how many seats take for a non-

quorum and how many seats need to be filled to not have these issues. Trustee Feickert made a motion to not pay the Planning Commission council that showed up to a meeting pay, due to lack of Quorum President Price second the motion. There was a roll call vote with Trustee Strefling and Trustee Mattner abstained from voting as they are council members on the Planning Commission. The vote is 3 yes and 1 no motion does not carry.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mike Price	X		
Rob Feickert	X		
Jack Lewis	X		
Mel Tollas		X	

After the vote there was discussion about adding members to the PC council and or changing the number of members who need to be appointed to avoid a lack of quorum. Discussion tabled till next meeting.

## II. New Business –

- A. Accept Leonard Krone Resignation/Application Process- The council read aloud Leonard krone resignation letter afterwards Trustee Tollas made a motion to accept Trustee Krone resignation letter and start the process of reviewing applications for a new council member. Trustee Strefling seconded the motion with a roll call vote all ayes motion carries. The council will take applications till the next meeting to vote on new members.
- B. Comcast Internet Maintenance Garage Contract- Clerk Denton discussed a new contract through Comcast for another 2-year contract to keep the internet at the shop at \$99.00 a month. The contract states rates can rise after 24 months Clerk Denton and Trustee Tollas both addressed that Comcast may offer another promotional offer at the 2-year mark. Trustee Tollas filed a motion to **accept** the contract from Comcast and Trustee Strefling seconded. A roll call vote of all ayes motion carries.
- C. Meeting Dates 2023 approval-The council reviewed the Village yearly calendar of meeting dates for the Village only at this time. All the dates look good except for the July 3 meeting will be moved to after the holiday to July 5. Trustee Strefling filed a motion to accept the meeting days for the 2023-year, Trustee Feickert second the motion. A roll call vote of all ayes motion carries.
- D. CDL License/DOT Physical- Shane Schmaltz as the full time DPW has his CDL and needs a DOT physical exam to keep the license requirements from the state. After discussion of types of exams and the state requirements for drug testing, and cost of physicals. Trustee Feickert filed a motion to authorize the Village to pay for a DOT physical for DPW employees with a current CDL. This

authorization is for one physical per employee in calendar year 2023, with payment coordinated between the employee and Village staff. Trustee Tollas seconded the motion, a roll call vote of all ayes motion carries.

- E. Budget Meeting Discussion- Clerk Denton wanted a discussion on how to start the budget and the path we need to take this year, last year we didn't have a clear path on the budget. The conversation of having up to 3 Budget meetings was an idea, and or a budget committee overseeing the planning. Trustee Feickert brought up the Uniform and Budgeting Act and asked that all the council needs to print and read the Act to be on the same page to work on this year's Budget. Trustee Tollas also reported on extra budget training offered by the MML through council training sessions.
- F. Berrien County Hazard Mitigation Plan- Clerk Denton showed the council the new Berrien County litigation act at 700 pages long and tonight is a discussion, and a resolution will be voted on at the next meeting. The resolution is due by February 10<sup>th</sup> and will be typed in and ready for the February meeting. Trustee Feickert did show Clerk Denton a couple mistakes and Clerk Denton reported the mistakes to Rocky Adams, the plan contacting officer.

III. Consent Agenda- Trustee Tollas discussed her training through MML league and how the Lawyer bill can be questioned. The council had a discussion of the answers from the Lawyer and what we can do to address the answers correct or not. There was a discussion on interviews and how they need to be in a public forum and not through a hiring committee. Trustee Feickert had a couple questions of the minutes and had a few words that need to be reviewed for clarity to the record. The discussion of approval as amended with a strike through after the council votes the minutes as amended was brought up and Clerk Denton will strike through when changes are to be made after draft form. Trustee Strefling made a motion to accept the consent agenda as amended minutes and pending the lawyer invoice for Trustee Tollas for clarity of payment to lawyer after questions answered. Trustee Tollas second the motion, a roll call vote of all ayes motion carries.

- A. Council Minutes – December 5, 2022
- B. Paying of Bills and Transfers - 26,589.72
- C. Correspondence-

IV. Comments

- A. President Comments- Since Trustee Krone retired from all village boards the council needs to elect a new Fireboard member to attend the meetings and represent the village. A couple of members of the council may be interested but would like time to decide and will answer at next meeting.
- B. Council Member's Comments- Trustee Feickert feels as a board when the public comments are made the council responses turn out to more argumentative and feels

a good suggestion is to listen and answer a question if possible or calmly state we will look into an answer. Trustee Tollas stated in the training the President position votes last in a vote and supports Trustee Feickert on his comments. Trustee Tollas strongly suggest the council update their training to stay up to date with the law. Trustee Stefling would like us to look at selling the older tractors to help in buying any newer equipment for maintenance.

- C. Audience Comments- The meeting started off with Shane Schmaltz and Grant Bly introducing themselves to the council board. Shane is our new hire full time DPW, and Grant has been working for the Village for 2 full winters as our experienced snowplow driver. The discussion of Baroda Village and Township merging equipment and being as one department to manage all maintenance was a suggested idea to save money and equipment purchases. The maintenance of the older tractors was asked for by the council, with Shane Schmaltz describing the issues about the older equipment and plans to update, fix, or replace will be considered in the next few months. The discussion of safety while mowing ponds with the older equipment was also discussed with the council needing more information brought back on all equipment. Doreen Schultz stated the Christmas lights did not look good at all and most of the poles where not lit up and also Doreen is sad for Leonard Krone stepping down as he was a great asset to the village, last is the village still working on the water lines for the state level to make sure no lead or galvanized piping and what the timing is. Mainstreet timers on lights please check as they were not working.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mike Denton

Color = As amended per council vote