

Village of Baroda Council Meeting Minutes
Berrien County, Michigan
November 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Price at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Price, President, Katie Zordell, Robert “Bob” Feickert, Julie Elliott, Steven Hillhouse, Nikki Andrews, and John “Jack” Lewis.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Gloria Payne, Treasurer
Grant Bly, Department of Public Works (DPW)

AUDIENCE

Nine visitors were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Doyen commented that culverts should be cleaned out every year.

Matt Moersch of Public House asked council members if they would be willing to consider a New Year’s Eve Party with a “Light the Keg” drop. Consider fireworks, music, ice carving, sleigh rides. It was suggested that the Baroda Legion be contacted to be involved, as well.

It was suggested by Robin Doyen to consider a Founder’s Day be considered as well.

Jane Bannon reported Christmas in the Village will be held December 6, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., entitled Christmas with our Hero’s. The Baroda Fire Department, Baroda-Lake Township Police, and Medic I will be invited. Any volunteer help would be welcomed. Children will have an opportunity to make Christmas ornaments, which will be donated to the Battle Creek Veterans.

Christina Price, Baroda Township Clerk thanked Baroda Village for the apple donation for the Trail and Treat Halloween celebration at Hess Lake Park. She also thanked Robert “Bob” Feickert for picking them up. There were approximately 800 in attendance.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to approve the agenda with moving the Acceptance of the Clerk resignation to New Business and addition of the Sewer Fund discussion under Unfinished Business. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Katie Zordell to approve the October 6, 2025, meeting minutes with two changes. Those changes were noted and will be corrected. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to approve the bills in the amount of \$39,498.01 Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to approve payroll in the amount of \$17,780.06. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Gloria Payne directed council members’ attention to the Treasurer’s report.

Clerk Report

None.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Report

Hydrants have been flushed. Leaf vacuum has been repaired and new tires were purchased for it.

NEW BUSINESS

Loader Backhoe Repairs

A discussion ensued regarding the repairs to the backhoe. An estimate from McCann states that the right-side console wire harness is burnt and the fuse and relay block is burnt. The estimate to replace the right-side console wire harness and test the entire electrical system is \$8,364.03.

Grant Bly reported that the fuel injector pump is degraded and will cost approximately \$2,000.00 to replace. The tires are worn out and will cost approximately \$2,000.00.

After discussion, and concerns with McCann possibly finding more issues with the backhoe, and putting money into the old machine, this agenda item was tabled to consider options to possibly sell the backhoe and purchase another used one.

It was moved by Julie Elliott, seconded by Nikki Andrews, that an inventory of all equipment including the equipment’s life expectancy, be submitted by the December council meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

Resignation of Baroda Village Clerk

President Price read an email from Debbie Wishart resigning as Baroda Village Clerk effective November 6, 2025.

It was moved by Michael Price seconded by Katie Zordell, to accept the resignation of Debbie Wishart as Baroda Village Clerk effective November 6, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.

Consider Interim Baroda Village Clerk Position

An offer of conditional employment for interim Clerk was presented to Council members by Gloria Payne, current Baroda Village Treasurer. A discussion ensued as to why an interim Clerk would be needed. This would give the Council time to accept applications for the position and then offer the position internally. Discussion further included since Gloria Payne was interested in the position, who comes with 26 years of being a former Clerk for Lake Charter Township, why would the position need to be posted, possibly receiving applicants who are not familiar with municipal government.

It was decided to have Gloria Payne, Treasurer, resign from her position as Baroda Village Treasurer.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to accept the resignation of Gloria Payne as Treasurer of the Village of Baroda. Six ayes, one nay (Elliott) Motion carried.

Discussion continued regarding offering the position of Baroda Village Clerk to Gloria Payne. Gloria Payne informed Council members that she would take the position at \$23.00 per hour, the same rate of pay. She further informed the Council that she was not seeking to be placed on the Village’s health insurance plan, nor the Health Savings Account (HSA). The position to begin Monday, November 10, 2025, with office hours from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

It was moved by President Michael Price to nominate Gloria Payne as Baroda Village Clerk at \$23.00 per hour beginning Monday, November 7, 2025. Roll Call Vote: Price yes; Zordell yes; Feickert yes; Hillhouse yes; Lewis yes; Elliott no; Andrews no. Motion carried.

Baroda Village Treasurer Position

President Price informed members the position for Baroda Village Treasurer has been placed on Indeed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hills Road Drainage

President Michael Price directed council members attention to the email from Steve Carlisle of Wightman. The DPW is planning to clean out the culverts this week.

Clock Update

The clock is still not working. President Price plans to continue to work on getting the clock working properly.

Church Street Sidewalk Concrete Repairs Update

President Michael Price reported Rose’s Concrete is scheduled to do the work within the month of November.

Park Sign

Tigmaster completed the pieces to make the sign, and we are working on putting it together.

Sewer Fund Discussion

Robert “Bob” Feickert drew council board members attention to the graph he submitted showing the sewer fund balance trend and the data provided by Kruggel Lawton CPA. He also discussed that he continues to be concerned about the declining sewer fund balance.

President Michael Price commented that it could be due to increased electrical rates.

Christina Price, Clerk of Baroda Township, commented that Debbie Wishart showed her the report from Baroda’s BS&A Revenue and Expenditure report, as well as the report Brian Hake, of Kruggel Lawton, Baroda’s Auditor, that he had prepared for council members, and Brian was too alarmed. It could be due to repairs and maintenance, as well as depreciation, might be a good idea to wait to hear from Kyle Bond from Michigan Rural Water Association when he presents the Council next month with the water rate calculation study he will report on.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Steven Hillhouse, to raise the sewer fee a minimum of 10% next month to Baroda Village residents. Roll call vote: Price yes; Zordell yes; Feickert yes; Hillhouse yes; Lewis yes; Andrews no; Elliott no. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

None.

Personnel Committee

None.

Planning Commission

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2025. There is an ordinance change that might need to be considered. Resident Menser is planning to build a four-unit pole barn and the Village will have to approve the site plan.

Policy and Procedure Committee

Robert “Bob” Feickert presented the Department of Public Works (DPW) Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Policy which has been reviewed by the Baroda Village attorney. This policy will be added to the personnel policies. Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to approve the DPW CCL policy. All ayes, motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Nikki Andrews expressed her concerns with the Planning Commission’s plan to reduce their board from nine members to five members. Five is not comfortable since at times, members can’t attend the meeting and then three people are voting for the businesses. Nine is too many, five is not enough, seven seems to be the optimum.

Robert “Bob” Feickert reported he purchased twelve ½-bushels of apples for \$156.00. Over 7 of the ½-bushes were handed out at Trail and Treat. The remaining apples were given to the fire department to hand out on Halloween.

Julie Elliott turned the floor over to Sarah Spoonholtz of the Southwest Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Sarah reported that Robert “Bob” Jones, Director of the Central Berrien Community Growth Alliance was dismissed after his 90-day review, there was mutual parting of the ways. The job has been posted. Nine or ten applicants have applied, in a continued effort to grow ideas to market the communities. Sarah also discussed the development of a commercial property inventory list in the CGA communities.

Katie Zordell – None.

John “Jack” Lewis asked President Michael Price the name of the owner of the building across the street. James Florian, owner of Quality Mold and Engineering.

Steven Hillhouse – None.

President Michael Price – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Doyen requested that the boundary lines be marked between her property and the Baroda Municipal Building. Further, she commented that dredging ordinances should be in place.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comment and no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Michael Price

Gloria Payne