

VILLAGE OF BARODA
Council Meeting Minutes
Baroda Municipal Building
September 7, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Nye, Michael Price, Leonard Krone, Kathryn Strefling, Toni Gaul, and Clerk Denton

Members Absent: Jodi Mattner

Guests Present: Greta Hurst, Donnie (Audra) Johnson, Christina Price, Jeff Gaul, Larry (Tina) Martin.

Council Meeting called to order at 6:29 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Nye

I. Reports

- A. Village Engineer- No Report
- B. Economic Development
- C. Committees- Park- Camera's 90 percent done waiting on final walk thru and billing
- D. Planning Commission- No meeting
- E. DDA – Resolution to dissolve the organization. B.A.B.A. looking to stay running looking for new board members and council to avoid being dissolved. If Baba does dissolve then whatever funds brought back to the village, Will be further discussed at a later time.

II. New Business –

- A. Municipal Emergency Coordinator –The County of Berrien request a village to have a couple people as Emergency Coordinator on file. If there was an emergency the two people would oversee safety and planning during and after a major event. Clerk Denton offered to be one person, and after discussion the council nominated Treasurer Hurst as the second. Both Denton, and Hurst live minutes from town, the board feels they are the best pick. If Treasurer Hurst denies the position a new pick would go to the board. President Pro Tem Nye file the motion of the Clerk and Treasurer to the position, Trustee Strefling second the vote with all ayes motion carries.
- B. UFCU letter head authorize signer –United Federal Credit Union does not have any of the current employees on the books as signers. They will only give limited info until a name is added. Clerk Denton needs the board to vote and sign off on the letterhead with typed minutes. The written letter needs to state Clerk Denton and Treasurer Hurst can make all the financial decisions going forward. Tina Martin and Bob Getz need to be removed off the accounts Trustee Krone filed a

motion to allow Denton and Hurst to be the authorized signers of the bank; Trustee Gaul support it all ayes motion carries.

- C. Arnt Quote – Repair work on First street for the storm drains. The bid is to remove and replace any damage areas with hot mix asphalt and install new riser ring where needed. We have received a bid from Kalin, but it was for fixing not a total repair of all the spots. The savings on the first street can cover some of the costs from the village. Trustee Krone has a couple extra ideas by getting an easement from round barn to add and replace drain to the alley behind the property, the village would have to pay for the expenses for the project. If Round Barn gives the easement, we could get estimates for the work. There was much debate on the topic going forward. The subject was tabled at this point with the \$10,500 quote.
- C. Clerk/Treasurer 60-day review – The Review Board (Kathryn Strefling, Leonard Krone, and Jodi Mattner) The discussion of the review was getting the checks and balances of the office in order and moving forward to learn our positions. The recommendation of \$1.25 per hour raise was filed in a motion. Trustee Price made the motion and Strefling second the motion. The council did a roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Larry Nye	X		
Toni Gaul	X		
Leonard Krone	X		
Mike Price	X		
Jodi Mattner			X
Kathryn Strefling	X		

All ayes motion carries

- E. Holiday Discussion (Halloween Christmas in the Village) – The discussion of Halloween brought up trick or treat time and different options with covid 19 numbers and restrictions. Trustee Strefling questioned if the door to door a good idea with the pandemic numbers on the rise. There was a discussion and the council decided to go forward with trick or treat leave it up to the parents. Trick or Treat hours are October 31/2021 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm with the fire department going from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The council also discussed Christmas in the Village and how we need to get plans going.
- F. Resignation Letter of Ric Hoffman. – President Elec Larry Nye read out loud a letter of resignation from Richard Hoffman giving a 2-week notice. Trustee Strefling thanked Ric for a positive and hardworking experience. Trustee Strefling filed the motion to accept the resignation, and Trustee Krone second. All ayes the motion carries.
- G. Downtown tree removal quote- The Village received two quotes on the tree removal, and at the last-minute Trustee Krone gave a quote from Bob tree service.

The two original quotes were identical from A&A Tree and Hurst Trees, with Bob being \$200 less. Trustee Gaul expressed her feeling about taking down the trees that it is heartbreaking the trees do add looks and we need all that we can grow. There was a discussion and the council decided on Hurst Trees, Trustee Strefling filed the motion and Gaul second all ayes motion carries. Clerk Denton will contact Hurst Trees. Trustee Krone also brought up that Knuth excavating will be finishing the parking lot and need a vote to approve. Trustee Krone filed the motion and President pro tem Nye second, all ayes motion carries. Discussion on signs and lines will take place later next month.

The question of posting the position and who is on the hiring committee, and how they review all applications for choice new hires. Trustee Strefling is concerned on how the transition and hiring will go for the position and all the changes in the water department.

A question was made by an audience member about the two new hires and their roles and wages. AJ Mottl and Tim Kading are the new guys taking over for F and V operations. Their role is to keep the village ponds and department running smooth. Trustee Krone will take over as DPW supervisor at no pay to help run the maintenance department. The Village will look into the legalities on the subject.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Council Minutes – The Minutes where not approved for August 2; Clerk Denton will send a copy to the Village lawyer to review before approval. It was requested to look over and take out any nonfactual information.
- B. Treasurer’s Report -Bank statements
- C. Paying of Bills and Transfers - \$115,965.66
- D. Correspondence-
A motion made by Trustee Krone and support by Trustee Price to approve that request.

IV. Council Comments

- A. President Comments- The concrete bench by the flagpole next to Baroda Mill was damaged by the mill owner. President pro tem Nye talked to the owner and both decided how to help replace the bench.
- B. Council Member’s Comments – Trustee Strefling asked about the short-term rentals from the state. Discussion next meeting to start the process for new ordinances.
A letter was read out load from County Treasurer, denying conversations with Trustee Gaul over late payments in the past by Village of Baroda.

V. Audience Comments – Greta Hurst asked who oversaw picking the trees for the street scape the board, and the DDA help with the choice. The trees were picked for slow growing and less roots. They were figured to last 30 years and

have overgrown at a rapid rate. Questions concerning the village parking lot being finished and ready for use, Pro Tem Nye assured it was close to done and all issues are being taken care of. Greta Hurst had questions of overnight parking and the allowing of maintenance vehicles with trailers to be parked overnight. Greta would like to know if there has been any thought of a resolution in policing the lot. The village will discuss future policy and rules for the parking lot later. The question of a second audit was raised and the question why. The board feels it needs answers and to help move forward. The Audit is capped and goes deeper than every year audit does.

Richard Hoffman stood and made a statement that he feels the resignation from his position was forced and the village has been forcing him out. He feels it was a personal attack on him and feels he was hired with all the credentials, and did his job. Trustee Krone stated he doesn't feel it was personal, but feels the job was not handled the way it should have been.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mike Denton