

Village of Baroda Council Meeting Minutes
Berrien County, Michigan
January 12, 2026

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, Nikki Andrews and John “Jack” Lewis. Steven Hillhouse was absent.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Gloria Payne, Clerk
Andrew Spitzke, Department of Public Works (DPW)
Grant Bly, Department of Public Works (DPW)

AUDIENCE

Seven visitors were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doreen Schultz expressed her disappointment in having the Christmas decorations put up so late in the season. She inquired why the lights were not lit. Grant Bly, Baroda Village Department of Public Works responded that the outlets are not in working order,

President Price turned the floor over to Dillon Foulk of Colonial Life. He is offering dental, vision and life insurance, at no cost to the Village to the Council members and the employees. This will be added to the Baroda Village Council meeting agenda soon.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

After adding additional items to the agenda, it was moved by Michael Price, seconded by Robert “Bob” Feickert to approve the agenda, as amended. Six ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

After reviewing the minutes, a motion was made by Julie Elliott, seconded by John “Jack” Lewis to approve the December 1, 2025, meeting minutes. Six ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Julie Elliott seconded by Robert “Bob” Feickert to approve the bills in the amount of \$31,294.50. Roll Call Vote: Six yes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Julie Elliott to approve payroll in the amount of \$26,386.43. Roll Call Vote: Six Yes, motion carried.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report

In the absence of a Baroda Village Treasurer, Clerk Gloria Payne directed council members' attention to the Treasurer's report. She further reported that she opted to omit the fund balance figures from this report to look into what is causing the sewer fund numbers to be incorrect.

Clerk Report

Clerk Gloria Payne reported she is busy preparing the W-2's and 1099's.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Report

President Price turned the floor over to Kyle Bond of the Michigan Rural Water Association. Mr. Bond will be reviewing the way the Village of Baroda calculates the water and sewer bills. He asked to be provided the amount of resident accounts and commercial accounts, as well as the size of meters that are in the Village. Lastly, he is in need of the April – March 2026-2027 budget figures for his findings.

Resignation of Nick Skorupa

President Price directed council members' attention the resignation letter of Department of Public Works employee Nick Skorupa. It was moved by Michael Price, seconded by John "Jack" Lewis to accept the resignation of Department of Public Works employee Nick Skorupa. Six ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Chill Hill – There was no one from Chill Hill present to report on this agenda item.

Quote for Clean Earth Environmental Services

President Price provided a quote from Clean Earth Environmental Contracting Services to vacator along with two (2) technicians to vacuum clean and wash down four (4) sanitary lift stations to remove buildup for proper operation. Further, disposal of "ECO Waste Solutions" for proper disposal, at a cost of \$3,270.00 - \$4,240.00.

It was moved by Robert "Bob" Feickert, seconded by John "Jack" Lewis to accept the quote of Clean Earth Environmental Contracting Services. Roll call vote: Six yes, motion carried.

Consider Andrew Spitzke – Full Time

Michael Price reported that Andrew Spitzke is asking for full-time work. It was discussed that Andrew Spitzke would take the full-time position left vacant by Nick Skorpua effective January 6, 2026. Further, that he would pursue obtaining his CDL and water and sewer licenses.

It was moved by Julie Elliott seconded by Katie Zordell to offer the vacant Department of Public Works position to Andrew Spitzke, effective January 6, 2026. Roll call vote: Six yes, motion carried.

Village of Baroda Treasurer

Michael Price reported that he and Julie Elliott have interviewed some applicants for the Treasurer's position. It was reported that an additional applicant had applied. This agenda item was tabled to interview the additional applicant.

Public Notice of Village Meetings and Holidays

The public notice of village meetings for the year 2026 and the holiday for 2026 were provided. It was moved by Robert "Bob" Feickert, seconded by Julie Elliott to accept the notice as presented. Six ayes, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

A rough copy of the budget amendments for the April – March 2025 – 2026 was presented. The council members opted to review those amendments and act on them at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The April – March 2026-2027 budget will be worked on, and the Council is in need of the chip and seal costs from the County of Berrien Road Department.

Personnel Committee

None.

Planning Commission

No meeting was held in December 2025, however, the Planning Commission meeting is scheduled to meet on January 20, 2026, regarding ordinance changes.

Policy and Procedure Committee

None.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Robert "Bob" Feickert thanked Gloria Payne for the meeting minutes. He did request that page numbers be added to the minutes.

He remarked that performance evaluations with the employees should be done in February and review water sewer and CDL licenses.

Robert "Bob" Feickert asked if Clerk Gloria Payne had any comments. Clerk Payne reported that these council meetings could be more efficient and effective if council members would meet with their perspective committees, such as the finance committee could discuss the logistics of the budget. The personnel committee could discuss the applicants and their qualifications. The policy and procedures committee could work on the licenses for the DPW workers. That is what the committee's are designed for. It is not good practice to discuss prospective candidates, nor discuss employees in the public meeting. This causes hard feelings. Lastly, there is far too much interaction between the council members and the public. Public comment is meant for public comment and nothing else.

Nikki Andrews thanked the Department of Public Works for the awesome job of snow removal. She thanked Gloria for the feedback to the Council, above.

Julie Elliott – None.

Katie Zordell – None.

John “Jack” Lewis – None.

President Michael Price thanked council members for the floral arrangement in the recent passing of his grandmother.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doreen Schultz commented that the ice sculptures were awesome in the Village. She asked whether references were checked on, for the perspective Village Treasurer position. Lastly, she suggested that the Village consider hiring temporary employees for the Department of Public Works to perform seasonal tasks, such as mowing.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comment and no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Michael Price

Gloria Payne

Village of Baroda Council Meeting Minutes
Berrien County, Michigan
Special Meeting
January 19, 2026

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

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

EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Gloria Payne, Clerk
Anthony Cochran, Department of Public Works (DPW)

AUDIENCE

Three visitors were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BARODA VILLAGE TREASURER POSITION

Michael Price introduced Mark P. Culverhouse of St. Joseph, Michigan as the candidate for the Baroda Village Treasurer’s position. Mr. Culverhouse reported that he has a B.S. in Public Administration and served as a Financial Control Supervisor. He is looking for a part-time position to supplement his income and is interested in being the Baroda Village Treasurer.

Michael Price nominated Mr. Culverhouse as the Baroda Village Treasurer. It was moved by John “Jack” Lewis seconded by Julie Elliott to appoint Mr. Culverhouse. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Motion carried.

BARODA TREASURER RATE OF PAY AND HOURS

It was moved by President Price, seconded by Robert “Bob” Feickert, to set the Treasurer’s starting pay at \$20.00 per hour, with the start date January 20, 2026. All ayes, motion carried.

WATER/SEWER OPERATOR

Michael Price turned the floor over to Anthony Cochran, who recommended that the Village terminate the contract with the current Operator. The Village has received letters from the State of Michigan citing violations. The contract can be terminated by sending a letter to the current Operator giving him 30 days’ notice of termination.

Anthony Cochran further suggested that he and President Michael Price would perform all water and sewer operations duties, including all required daily testing.

Anthony Cochran requests a \$750.00 per month stipend. The current Operator is being paid \$1,500.00 per month.

Michael Price reported that he received his sewer license in October and his water license in April of 2025, he agreed to accept a \$750.00 per month stipend while he is filling this role. Once Andrew Spitzke obtains his licenses, he could become the Operator.

This will be looked into and brought up for a vote at the next regular council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comment and no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Michael Price

Gloria Payne