

# VILLAGE OF BARODA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Village of Baroda Council Meeting held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:30pm.

## Roll Call Completed

**Present:** Michael Price, Katie Strefling, Bob Feickert, Jack Lewis, Jodi Mattner, Katie Zordell, Mel Tollas

**Employees Present:** Paula Bryan, Amber Osha, Anthony Cochran, Andrew Spitzke, Grant Bly

**Also Present:** Audra Johnson, Carol Jakubs, Christina Price Bubber Krone, Blair Selover, Amy Byrd, Kelly Bennett, Ryan Dunn, Mary Couitcher, Chuck Heit, Kelly Clark

**Audience Comments:** Amy Byrd, Berrien County Prosecutor, introduced herself and gave a little background on why she should be re-elected. Chuck Heit, Berrien County Sherriff, introduced himself and gave some background on his career and why he should be elected.

## Approve/Amend Agenda

**Motion made** by Bob Feickert 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack Lewis to accept the agenda for July 1, 2024, as amended to move the F&V Operations and Kubota above the Reports Ayes-7 Nays-0 **Motion Carried**

## Approve Minutes for June 3, 2024

**Motion made** by Jodi Mattner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Strefling to approve the minutes as amended. Ayes-7 Nays-0 **Motion Carried.**

## Approve Paying of the Bills

**Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Feickert to approve the paying of the bills in the amount of \$75,960.35. **Motion Carried.**

### Roll Call Vote:

Michael Price-Yes  
Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

## Approve Payroll

**Motion made** by Bob Feickert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Lewis to approve the payroll in the amount of \$19,984.14. **Motion Carried.**

### Roll Call Vote:

Michael Price-Yes

Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

**F&V Operations-** there was much discussion and questions answered. No action was taken.

**Kubota-** Ryan Dunn brought quotes to the board. It was decided that Kubota will bring some equipment down on Friday, July 5, 2024, for the DPW guys to test out to see what best fits the needs for the Village.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Paula Bryan, reported on the Revenue and Expenditure report ending May 31, 2024. She reported that all bank accounts have been reconciled through May 31, 2024.

**Clerk's Report:** The Clerk, Amber Osha, mentioned the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition 5K Run. Mary Couitcher was in the audience to represent them. She talked about the progress they are making on the event. The Clerk will email the Special Events Permit to Brittany to get filled out. The Clerk Also brought to the attention that Indiana Michigan Power will be doing vegetation management July 15 through September 27, 2024. There will be a Berrien County Drain Commissioner meeting being held at the Baroda Municipal building on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

The 2024 Tax paperwork was correct, and taxes have been finished. Tony used the boat for the DPW, and it will work. We will reimburse Michael Price for the purchase of the boat. She also reported on the training that she had received in June.

**Kading -Water Testing Contract**

**Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Strefling to sign the Contract with Tim Kading for the water testing.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Michael Price-Yes  
Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

**Village Engineer-** the engineer was not present.

**Ordinance Officer-**the Clerk has concerns that she and Michael Price have not been able to contact our Ordinance Officer. There was no action taken.

**Current Events-** There was discussion that vehicles are speeding through the Village. Christina Price informed that there is a speed study being done soon. It was suggested that the Chief of Police be invited to a meeting so concerns can be voiced to him. It was also suggested that residents should go to a Police Board meeting to voice their concerns.

**Local Business Fireworks-** there was discussion about the lack of communication to the Council when things come up. It was also discussed that when there are concerns, they should be directed to the office.

**Michiana IT Solutions**

**Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jodi Mattner to accept estimate 1005 not to exceed \$24,000 from the AARPA funds. **Motion Carried.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Michael Price-Yes  
Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

**Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Zordell to accept estimate 1006 for the amount of \$1,794.88 paid from the AARPA funds. **Motion Carried.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Michael Price-Yes  
Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

**Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Feickert to accept estimate 1007 not exceed \$4,500 paid from the AARPA funds. **Motion Carried.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Michael Price-Yes  
Mel Tollas- Yes  
Katie Strefling- Yes  
Jodi Mattner- Yes  
Bob Feickert- Yes  
Jack Lewis-Yes  
Katie Zordell-Yes

**Park Sign-**the Clerk showed the Council the ideas that had been presented to her. It was decided that the Tree idea was the best for ongoing donations. **Motion made** by Mel Tollas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Strefling to approve the ordering of the park sign not to exceed \$150. Ayes-7, Nays-0 **Motion Carried.**

**Water Pipe Testing-** Michael Price informed the Council that letters had gone out to residents. He had started the process and was going to have the DPW guys start marking the curbs stops. B&Z has been contacted for work to be done.

**Park Committee-** Music in the Park had a great turnout. The Pergola needs to be power washed, and the leaking toilet needs to be fixed before the next event. The event needs to be put on the main page of the website. Residents would like to see our signs updated to include Sunday and the time. Food trucks will also be at the next events.

**Finance Committee-**Nothing

**Personnel Committee-** Going through the applications for the DPW position and starting the interview process.

**Planning Commission-** Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

**Policy & Procedure Committee-** Mel Tollas has been working on updating the Employee Handbook. She will be emailing it to the other Council members for their input before deciding the next steps.

#### **Council Member Comments:**

**Bob Feickert-** Thank you Christina Price for getting the defibrillator for the Municipal Building. He is very enthusiastic about the progress with the Kubota. Bob would like to see a brief report monthly about what is being accomplished in the Department of Public Works. Are Bubber's personal belongings still on the Village property? Yes. He has concerns that the Village residents and Township residents pay the same in taxes to the Township, so when the Township donates to an organization, he feels that the Village is also paying those donations.

**Katie Zordell-** She would also like to see Bubber's personal property moved. Katie asked about the buildings on 1<sup>st</sup> Street being fixed. Wanted to know the update on the basketball courts being fixed. Michael Price informed that he has contacted several other companies, and they are booked up for this year but will be getting the Village estimates for next year. Katie also would like to see the DPW clean off the top of the drains when they are going around doing brush pickup. She also thanked Michael Price for having better communication as of late.

**Katie Strefling-**When the basketball courts were done I the past the Village paid the company to also paint the handicapped parking and it was never done. They either need to come out and do it or reimburse the Village for the work not done. Katie asked about the flower beds that were built on Church Street, who is responsible for them? They are not being taken care of.

**Jodi Mattner-**No comments

**Jack Lewis-** He has had residents complain to him about how the Business Buildings look on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. He would like to see Connie's outside of the building taken care. He has complaints. Jack appreciated Ryan from Kubota coming in and bringing equipment to test out.

**Mel Tollas-** All handicap parking in the Village needs to be painted or have signs. She wanted to know without the Village having a DPW foreman who should get called if there is a concern. Michael Price said to call him. We need the proper toilet paper for the park bathrooms.

**President's Comments-** Michael wants to go to a training in August. He also informed the Council that the Water Tower had been hit by lightning.

**Audience comments were heard.**

**Meeting adjourned at: 9:25 PM**

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Amber Osha, Clerk

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Michael Price, President

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