

VILLAGE OF BARODA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Village of Baroda Council Meeting held on Monday, June 3, 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

Also Present: Audra Johnson, **Dinnie** Donnie Johnson II, Teri Freehling, C. Jakubs, Lora Freehling, Doreen Schultz, Christina Price

Audience Comments: Doreen Schultz- The cracks and chipping paint are getting worse on the Basketball courts. She does not feel as if the DPW guys are doing their job properly. The new playground equipment looks good and is getting used.

Becky Turnbow read a letter with her concerns as to the Department of Public Works and the dismissal of the Foreman.

Lora Freehling with the Berrien County Register of Deeds talked about a free notification service that will help homeowners.

Miss Baroda Court introduced themselves and talked about the scholarship program. They want to have a street corner fundraiser on July 20th. **Motion made** by Katie Strefling 2nd by Mel Tollas to approve the fundraiser on July 20th from 11am to 3pm at the corner of 1st Street and Lemon Creek Rd. Ayes-7 Nays-0 **Motion Carried.** The organization is also looking for financial support and a place to keep their float year-round. They will be having a fundraiser with the Lions Club on August 3rd at the American Legion pavilion. It will be a pancake breakfast.

Approve/Amend Agenda

Motion made by Bob Feickert 2nd by Jack Lewis to accept the Consent agenda for June 3, 2024, excluding the meeting minutes from May 6, 2024 as amended. Ayes-7 Nays-0 **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 Minutes for May 6, 2024

Motion made by Bob Feickert, 2nd Jack Lewis to approve the minutes.

Ayes-7 Nays-0 **Motion Carried.**

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Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Paula Bryan, reported on the Revenue and Expenditure report ending April 30, 2024. She reported that all bank accounts have been reconciled through April 30, 2024. She is currently working with the County to get all the tax bills ready to mail out by July 1, 2024.

Clerk's Report: The Clerk, Amber Osha, asked for more Trustee's to volunteer to help with the Music in the park. She submitted the donation to the Fire Department for the fireworks and water bills were going out the next day and were now on a regular schedule.

Old Business:

Boat for ponds- There was discussion to have the DPW guys look at the boat and if it is sufficient for what they need, then we should reimburse Michael Price for the price of the boat.

Clerk 101-Mel- Mel Tollas stated that there was a lack of communication due to not receiving any response to her emails regarding Clerk 101 and other emails.

Tractor Quotes- There was discussion about what the needs are and what exactly is needed to take care of those needs. We were given a contact at Kubota to reach out to. This was tabled again to work on getting quotes for equipment that is better suited for the job.

New Business:

Miss Baroda Court- nothing, this was discussed during the audience comments.

Tim Kading- Water Testing- Motion made by Katie Strefling 2nd by Katie Zordell to Hire Tim Kading as of July 1st at \$750 a month to do the water testing. **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

2024 Tax Rates- A copy of this tax rate was provided. Angel Story, Assessor has filled out the form. It was pointed out by Katie Zordell that there is an error in the paperwork. The Clerk will bring it to the Assessor's attention.

Committees:

Park Committee: The Nitz Gazebo needs to be power washed. We need to contact TigMaster for a sign for

donations. There is graffiti on the bridge that needs to be cleaned or painted.

Finance Committee: Nothing currently.

Personnel Committee: Discussion was had that the Department of Public Works Foreman had been suspended on Friday, May 31, 2024, and let go from the Village of Baroda on Monday, June 3, 2024.

Planning Commission: The Arsh Group attended the May meeting and went over the survey. They will be at the June meeting as well. Brad would like all feedback so he can pass that along. Brad will be stepping down from Planning Commission Chair so that position and well as three other Planning Commission seats will be opening after November 2024.

Comments:

Bob Feickert: Doreen, good to see you and glad you are feeling better. Thank you for cleaning up the park. It looks beautiful. Bob has concerns that the waterline testing deadline is coming quickly and there needs to be a better plan and get it implemented. Thank you to Tony Cochran for finishing step one. . **Motion made** by Katie Strefling 2nd by Katie Zordell to accept the proposal from B&Z for \$650 per house unless a lower bid comes in within the next 10 days then accept the lower bid. **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

Bob also mentioned that communication needs to improve among the Village Board.

Katie Zordell- Bubber's personal property is still in the Department of Public Work's area. There was discussion that Michael Price would contact Bubber and give him 30 days to remove his property. The buildings in town on 1st Street need to be fixed. The handbook needs to be updated. Katie feels the Village should not abandon the 2nd Street alley way.

Katie Strefling- Katie feels that the former DPW Foreman should be offered an exit interview. It should be done with Michael Price and one other Trustee. There is an open position, and it needs to be posted.

Jodi Mattner- Clarification if the DPW guys are able to do the collection of water for the testing. Jodi asked Michael if he could address Doreen's concerns about brush pick up. He stated that he had addressed it.

Jack Lewis- Stated that his yard waste has all been picked up very nicely.

Mel Tollas-Doreen the flowers that she has planted and watered on 1st Street looks very nice and Mel appreciates the work that Doreen has put it. She stated that the Village needs to work on creating a Downtown District Association.

President's Comments: Suggested that the Personnel Committee has the authority to hire someone temporary until the position can be filled. Bob thinks that Grant and Andrew should be asked about extra hours until someone can be hired full-time. Mel mentioned to ask Tony also. Also, ask Grant or Andrew if they want full-time. It was also discussed that the Clerk should post a full-time DPW position.

Motion made by Bob Feickert 2nd by Jack Lewis to post a full-time DPW position.
Ayes-7 Nays-0 **Motion Carried.**

Audience Comments were heard.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:14 pm.

Amber Osha, Clerk

Michael Price, President

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