

VILLAGE OF BARODA
Council Meeting Minutes
Baroda Municipal Building/Zoom Meeting
July 6, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Nye, Michael Price, Jodi Mattner, Leonard Krone, Toni Gaul, and Clerk Denton

Members Absent: Kathryn Strefling

Guests Present: Christina Price, Doreen Schultz, Jeff Gaul, Jack and Cynthia Bauer, Nancy Strefling, and Matt Fry

Council Meeting called to order at 6:28 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Nye

I. Reports

A. Village Engineer- 5-year recreation plan needs to be discussed with township to adopt a new one. Main meter close to a meeting with Lake Township, looking back in 1994 upgrades were started so may not be as much work for a new meter to be installed.

B. Economic Development

C. Committees

1. Park- The security cameras set to start install Friday July 9, 2021. First step to bury the conduit underground and get set for lines to be ran.

D. Planning Commission

E. DDA

II. New Business –

A. Baroda Court (Miss Baroda Scholarship) – Krysta wolf brought in the court to thank the village and introduce this year's court. Krysta updated us on what has been happening with the pageants since covid. The Court asked for permission for a fund-raising event on July 24 after the once upon a time 5k run. The court would be collecting donations on the corner of First street and Lemon Creek rd. from 2 to 4. The donations help for college and trade school funds. A motion to allow the fundraiser by Trustee Mattner and second by Trustee Gaul, vote all ayes motion carries.

B. New Hire Andrew Pay – The question of his pay was asked after Andrew came to the office claiming his pay was wrong. After conversation with Andrew, he was told his hire wage was \$18.00 an hour, Clerk Denton, and Treasurer Hurst looked back to previous hired position wages to see start off is \$15.00 an hour. Clerk Denton needs a clarified wage to correctly pay the new hire. The question of Andrew having a CDL license also needs to be addressed, with the background of mechanical but no license either. Trustee Krone filed the motion for pay to increase to the \$18.00 dollar rate per hour, and Trustee Price second. The vote is all ayes motion carries.

- C. The Local – Brittney and Paige from the Local are looking at getting a liquor license that may be granted to Baroda. The local heard from a source that the Village of Baroda numbers have gone up in the recent senses report. The state may issue another license and if that happens, The local would just like a general consensus from the board on what can happen if they can get the license. Discussion will move forward once the Village of Baroda is aware of the new license Trustee Mattner filed a motion for discussion and second by President pro tem Nye. Vote all ayes motion carries.
- D. Florian Drain lines – Jim Florian built a subdivision where the old school was demolished. When construction started Mr. Florian had to install all new drain lines to connect into the Village of Baroda existing sewer lines. The contract was for 2 years the lines would stay in Mr. Florian name for any issues, after that time expires then the Village will gain the responsibility of those lines. The request is to pass a resolution to accept those lines as the village and take over the responsibility. The motion carries along as an easement already existed from original contract.
- E. Michigan gas contract - President Pro-Tem Nye read the contract from Michigan Gas Utilities, allowing them to service all their lines and the ok to be able to service on any property. Michigan gas is responsible for all their own equipment and services. President Pro Tem Nye filed the motion to keep Michigan Gas our utility provider, and Trustee Krone second. All ayes the vote carries.
- F. Restructure of the maintenance dept. – Trustee Krone is wanting to discuss removing the D.P.W. position from the maintenance dept, having Ric either step down or reapply for a regular position. To save costs on payroll and get the dept from spending so much on equipment repair and maintenance. Trustee krone filed a motion to disband the D.P.W. position and Trustee Gaul second. Trustee Krone will advise the maintenance on what needs to be done. All ayes the vote carries. Trustee Krone has 2 people that can be hired part time to take over F & V contract to keep the sewer and ponds under state regulations and save thousands in the long term. Trustee Krone filed a motion to bring in outsource and stop using F & V Trustee Mattner second. The vote all ayes motion carries.
- G. Letter Addressed to the Board- A private letter was received to the village thru legal Mailing with no return address from a concerned taxpayer over the previous President elect, and previous Clerk/Treasurer leaving their positions on a short notice. The letter was only sent to the members of the board and each letter read the same. Trustee Gaul stated in January the board had multiple questions of where village funds were being spent, Payroll, and the sale of vehicles in the past. The new clerk Stated he was having issues finding files, some files triple passworded, and having trouble finding information and contracts for industrial park. All Items that have been in question, Trustee Gaul stated the council wants answers and they were investigating matters. Trustee Gaul also spoke with Terri

Freehling the county commissioner and county treasurer. Mrs. Freeling stated we have definite reasons to be concerned. Trustee Gaul stated the county treasurer checked back two years last year payment good two years ago late on payment. The State of Michigan was sending letters since 2016 about audit reports not being followed, and policies and procedures not set, and the council never saw any stated Trustee Gaul. If checks and Balances are not followed can end up in a bad way thru the state. There are no minutes written for multiple raises given couple positions in the village and more questions than answers on a FOIA request right before notices of resignation letters by President and Clerk. The village audit is the week of July 19, 2021, Clerk Denton is getting paperwork ready and wants to ask many questions to learn for the future of the village. The board feels a forensic audit will be the only way to see the bigger picture if any wrongdoing was done. Dennis the township supervisor recommended to copy the hard drive, by an outside computer source or have the forensic auditors. Trustee Gaul asked clerk Denton if the office is getting back to checks and balances, Clerk Denton stated the office is learning daily and the two new positions are working well together. Trustee Krone filed a motion to get an appointment to discuss with a forensic expert on how to get an audit started and costs to make the decision on what needs to be done next. Trustee Gaul second the motion, the vote is all ayes motion carries.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Council Minutes – June 21, 2021
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Paying of Bills and Transfers - \$12,575.62
- D. Correspondence

IV. Council Comments

- A. President Comments
- B. Council Member's Comments -

- V. Audience Comments – Main Street- Residents at end of first street are having issue with traffic speeding at a dead end. Traffic does not understand it is a dead-end road. Options brought up by concerned homeowners at the end range from new signs to speed bumps, the village will investigate options as the road is being repaved shortly. Clerk Denton will look review all options and have some for discussion shortly.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mike Denton