

Village of Baroda Council Meeting Minutes  
Berrien County, Michigan  
March 2, 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, Nikki Andrews and Steven Hillhouse were present. Julie Elliott and John “Jack” Lewis were absent.

**EMPLOYEES PRESENT**

Gloria Payne, Clerk  
Mark Culverhouse, Treasurer  
Grant Bly, Department of Public Works (DPW)  
Anthony Cochran, Department of Public Works (DPW)

**AUDIENCE**

Sixty-two visitors were present.

Village of Baroda  
2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing

President Michael Price opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

*Audience Comments*

Robin Doyen stated a dollar amount needs to be added in the budget for maintenance to drains. Gravel has been added to the ditch by her next-door neighbor.

With no further comments, President Michael Price closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mel Tollas commented on the handicapped parking spots in the Village. They still have not been painted by Connie’s Place, TJ’s and the Park. No signs have been installed since August 2024. This issue is not resolved.

Doreen Schultz asked for the agenda to be placed on the website. Clerk Payne responded that she sent the agenda to the webmaster.

**APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Steve Hillhouse to approve the agenda. Five ayes, motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

### **February 2, 2026**

After making changes to the meeting minutes, it was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Nikki Andrews to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2026. Five ayes, motion carried.

### **February 12, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Steve Hillhouse to approve the special meeting minutes of February 12, 2026. Five ayes, motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Katie Zordell to approve the bills in the amount of \$33,309.86. Roll Call Vote: Five yes, motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Motion by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Steve Hillhouse to approve payroll in the amount of \$13,198.70. Roll Call Vote: Five yes, motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Mark Culverhouse directed council members’ attention to the Treasurer’s report. He asked council members if this was the information they are satisfied with. Robert “Bob” Feickert responded, he was comfortable with the report.

### **Clerk Report**

Clerk Gloria Payne stated she was busy....and tired, but okay.

### **Department of Public Works (DPW) Report**

Grant Bly asked Council members to consider purchasing a 550 gallon above ground commercial diesel fuel tank, to have diesel fuel on hand. President Price quoted the cost to be approximately \$1,210.00. Robert “Bob” Feickert commented this is not a necessary expenditure right now, due to the possible dissolution of Baroda Village.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CGA Presentation**

President Michael Price turned the floor over to Kati Schoenwitz. She is a Central Berrien Community Growth Alliance Board member, and the owner of Baroda Soda.

Kati gave a presentation that included marketing plans, a fresh new logo and a growth campaign “Raise the Bar” (Baroda). She played a mockup of a video that could be developed depicting Baroda to attract expansion, ideas, and opportunities. A website could be created [www.discoverbaroda.com](http://www.discoverbaroda.com) for information. She also reported that Jennifer Leich will begin employment with the CGA on March 16, 2026.

She thanked council members for this opportunity and is hoping for a “thumbs up!”

**2026 Lakeshore Football Fundraiser**

President Michael Price presented to council members the request from the Lakeshore Football program fundraiser to be present at the intersections of West Lemon Creek Road and Stevensville-Baroda Road on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert seconded by Katie Zordell, to approve the request from the Lakeshore Football program fundraiser to be present at the intersections of West Lemon Creek Road and Stevensville-Baroda Road on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Five ayes, motion carried.

**Approve Budget Amendments**

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Steve Hillhouse to approve the 2025-2026 year-end budget amendments. Five ayes, motion carried.

**Approve 2026-2027 Budget/General Appropriation Resolution**

After discussion and questions on the General Appropriation Resolution and the budget numbers, it was decided to table this agenda item and set a special meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Village of Baroda Life Insurance Side-by-Side Comparison**

President Michael Price turned the floor over to Dillon Foulk of Colonial Life who indicated that after receiving the figures from the current carrier, with the Village of Baroda, American United Life, and comparing them with what he had to offer, it was determined that American United Life was less in cost with both Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage at a cost of \$26.78 per month, compared to Colonial Life, which did not offer Accidental Death and Dismemberment. If he were to include that benefit the monthly cost to the Village would be \$49.48. Robert “Bob” Feickert commented he saw no reason to make a change.

**Disincorporation Commission**

At the request of Council member Steve Hillhouse, who asked, “How does the Village Council feel about the Disincorporation Commission?”

The floor was turned over to Bradley Mattner who addressed the Village Council regarding statutory compliance concerns related to the disincorporation petition under MCL 74.18a. He clarified that he was speaking as a resident and not in his capacity as an appointed commission member, as the commission has not yet met or been sworn in.

Mr. Mattner identified concerns regarding whether the petition language satisfied statutory requirements, including the absence of language requesting a vote, the use of “vacated into” rather than “disincorporated into” boundary description consistency, and whether those statutory elements were evaluated as part of the sufficiency determination. He stated he was not alleging wrongdoing and suggested Village obtain a written legal opinion to ensure compliance and maintain public confidence. A copy of the Village of Baroda Disincorporation Petition-Statutory Comparison Handout and a copy of the Local Proposal Petition is attached.

Mr. Mattner further reported that, in response to his Freedom of Information Act request, he received email communications indicating discussions between township officials regarding disincorporation dated back to February 2025, which he stated raised transparency and public trust concerns.

Nikki Andrews commented, as we enter the process that involves the possible dissolution of the Village Board, I remind myself, the board and our community at large, that we have a moral imperative to serve the residents of Baroda. The choices we morally and legally choose to make are best made without any hidden agendas. Transparency will tend to reveal personal and group agendas that are self-serving. I encourage each of us to work within the spirit of cooperation. Not competition.

Michael Price commented he is not for the dissolution of Baroda Village.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Katie Zordell to request a written legal opinion from the Village Attorney regarding whether the disincorporation petition complies with MCL 74.18 (a)(1), (2) and (4) and that the opinion be presented to the Village Council at the earliest available meeting. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Audience comments were heard.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Finance Committee

None.

#### Personnel Committee

None.

#### Planning Commission

None.

#### Policy and Procedure Committee

None.

### **COMMENTS**

Robert “Bob” Feickert commented that the recorder that was purchased should be used, and a countdown timer should be purchased. It was moved by Feickert seconded by Hillhouse to purchase a countdown timer to be used at all future public meetings. Five ayes, motion carried. He thanked the residents for attending the meeting. He also requested that arrangements be made for a meeting location capable of accommodating the number of people expected to attend and investigate a sound system so council members can be heard by those in the audience.

Nikki Andrews – None.

Katie Zordell asked about Music in the Park arrangements, including scheduling bands food trucks. She also asked about plans to repair the park basketball court this Spring.

Steve Hillhouse commented he loves living here in Baroda and thanked audience members for attending the meeting.

President Michael Price commented he felt it was a waste of money to spend on the dissolution of the Village of Baroda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Audience comments were heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comment and no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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**Michael Price**

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**Gloria Payne**

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