

Village of Baroda Council Meeting Minutes
Berrien County, Michigan
Special Meeting
March 18, 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, John “Jack” Lewis and Steven Hillhouse.

VILLAGE OF BARODA LEGAL COUNSEL

Jessica Fette of Banyon Fette Law Office

EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Gloria Payne, Clerk
Mark Culverhouse, Treasurer
Anthony Cochran, DPW

AUDIENCE

Twenty-five visitors were present.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Robert “Bob” Feickert informed the public regarding the election in November 2026 and indicated that four elected positions are up for reelection. He encouraged the public to run for office. He would like to see more candidates than positions. The paperwork can be obtained from Christina Price, Baroda Township Clerk. The petition forms need six (6) signatures. We need you.

Michael Price commented that we need the public to state their name for the record and everyone will be given three (3) minutes to speak. A timer will be used.

Robert “Bob” Feickert requested the March 2, 2026, meeting minutes be added to the agenda. The minutes were left off of the agenda. He asked why the Open Meetings Act was not followed.

Clerk Payne commented that after the minutes were e-mailed to Robert “Bob” Feickert for his review, she then forwarded the meeting minutes to the rest of the council members for their comments, changes and corrections. At the time the agenda was put together, she had not heard back from all the council members for their input.

Robert “Bob” Feickert also asked for the Baroda Village attorney, Jessica Fette, to be present for the Disincorporation Commission portion of the agenda. He thanked Jessica Fette for being present and stated he did not want to pay for Jessica Fette to be present for the hour’s long discussion on budget. He asked that the order of the Disincorporation Commission portion be moved to item “a.”

It was moved by Feickert, seconded by Julie Elliott to move the Disincorporation Commission portion of the agenda to item “a.” All ayes, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Disincorporation Commission

President Michael Price turned the floor over to Attorney Jessica Fette, Village of Baroda’s counsel.

Jessica commented on the e-mail she received from Sara Senica, Baroda Township’s counsel. As everyone is aware, the Township had previously stated that they had some issues that were causing them not to appoint their third member for the commission. Without the appointed members, the Disincorporation Commission does not exist. All members have to be sworn in. You cannot meet without the necessary number of people. The e-mail essentially said that they do not like one of the Village’s appointees, and they would like the Village to change that.

Of course, the Township doesn't tell the Village who to appoint, and the Village doesn't tell the Township who to appoint. The Village can reappoint someone else, or the Village can rescind the Disincorporation Resolution that was voted at the February 2, 2026, meeting to form a disincorporation commission.

Approve 2026-2027 Budget and General Appropriations

President Michael Price brought directed board members to the Resolution of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Steve Hillhouse to strike the word Township and replace it with Village in Section 3 of the Resolution of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Michael Price seconded by Robert “Bob” Feickert to strike “All other Committees/Boards \$50.00 per meeting of Section 6 of the of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Robert “Bob” Feickert, seconded by Julie Elliot to amend the numbers in Section 7 of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. All ayes, motion carried.

Approve Kruggel Lawton for Preparation of 2025-2026 Audit

President Price reported the engagement letter approving Kruggel Lawton for the 2025-2026 audit needs council approval.

This agenda item was tabled to allow time for council members to review the engagement letter.

Water/Sewer Services Agreement

President Price directed council members’ attention to the two Water/Sewer Services Agreements with the Village of Baroda and Michael Price and the Village of Baroda and Anthony Cochran for Water/Sewer Operator services. These two Agreements were crafted, reviewed and written by Baroda Village Attorney Jessica Fette.

Julie Elliot wanted to be sure that the work for February would be paid for in March.

This agenda item was tabled for council members time to review the Agreements.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Robert "Bob" Feickert commented that the format of this budget was much more digestible.

Remember if you commit to the Village of Baroda to get your six (6) signatures on your petition to be placed on the November ballot.

I've seen a number of familiar faces who are coming to Township meetings, which is true for our Baroda Village meetings as well. With regard to the attorneys, part of their job is not to tell the public what actually happened. The attorney's job is to keep the Village and the Township, respectively, out of legal trouble. If I say something, and maybe it wasn't the best way to say it, it's the responsibility of the Village attorney to frame that in the best possible way to keep the village out of legal trouble. Same is true of the Township. So just because an attorney says something is factual, that might be the best way they can frame a fact. Not accusing anybody of lying. I'm saying we are portraying facts in the best possible light. So just take that with a grain of salt as you hear people speaking.

Robert "Bob" Feickert asked when the Water/Sewer Agreements were sent.

Michael Price responded one day this week.

Steve Hillhouse thanked the three members for being on the Disincorporation Commission. Thank you for waiting this out and I have no doubt we have the three best people for this job.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Price reiterated, we need your name for the record, and you will be given three minutes to speak.

Doreen Schultz commented that the clock is still not working. Is it possible we could spend a little money and change the face.

Michael Price responded he was planning on fixing it.

Kelly Clark commented, "I have seen members of our Disincorporation Commission at different meetings. I appreciate them and I hope that as Julie talked about, we just keep our stuff. I think our people are fine. We don't have a problem with things. The problem is with the Township, and they can just suck it."

Doug Mensinger, I am a lifelong Baroda Village resident. I too, don't listen to Facebook. I just recently found out about this Disincorporation a month ago in the newspaper. I too sat on that side of the table of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board as a Village President, I don't

see this ending well for anybody. Do we really have the money, because you guys, as a Village Council, are supposed to be stewards of our money. You can see from the comments tonight that they don't want to play ball.

It was commented, not all of the Township Board does not want to work with us only a select few.

Doug Mensinger responded, "I appreciate the guys who plow my street at 5:30 in the morning. My street is not going to get plowed out at 5:30 in the morning by Berrien County."

Heather Schmaltz commented with regard to the water and sewer bills. Gloria Payne asked the water meter reader, Tony Cochrane, to respond. "The gallons were not read for the month of February, so the next water bill will have the gallons that were used for February and March on the bill. The bill consequently will be higher, it was both a technical computer issue, and a "cloud" that occurred."

Michael Price responded that with regard to the streets, we are in the process of speaking to Arnt Asphalt and Shore Buckham regarding the streets.

We have an Enforcement Officer, Ryan Keough, who asks that a report be filled out and then he goes and checks on the complaint. The Enforcement Officer, Ryan Keough, has been out to the house on the corner of Church and Fourth because there has been report of chickens. They are not to be having livestock in the Village.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comment and no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Michael Price

Gloria Payne