

TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

MINUTES – MARCH 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

Via In-Person

Board Members Present: Supervisor Donald Foster, Councilperson Michael Rice, Councilperson Kevin Everly, Councilperson Jeffrey Coleman, Councilperson David Shipman

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Fred Schweiger, Highway Superintendent; Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk; Rebekah Peck, Deputy Town Clerk

Guests:

Wayne Searles; Waverly, NY

Rich Nichols; Waverly, NY

Matt Freeze; Morning Times

Patty & Andy Aronstam; Waverly, NY

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Donald Foster.

Pledge of Allegiance

Privilege of the Floor

1. Rich Nichols, residing at 420 Acres Avenue, Waverly, addressed the board regarding his high water bill. He provided a detailed explanation of events dating back to November 2024, when he received a phone call from Mrs. Richards-McCarty notifying him of the high bill. Neither the village nor Mr. Nichols was able to confirm any leaks at that time.

Mr. Nichols has requested the board to consider forgiving a portion of his bill, citing a consistent billing history over the past 12 years. In response, the board agreed to have the village conduct further testing on the old meter that was in use during the period of the high reading, including a flow test.

While awaiting the results of the flow test, the board decided to suspend any penalties that have been assessed as of March 5, 2025, as well as those set to be assessed on April 5, 2025.

Motion to suspend water/sewer penalties on this account until the flow test has been completed and the board reconvenes made by Councilperson Kevin Everly, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice. All in favor.

2. Wayne Searles, residing at 215 State Route 17C, has formally requested that the board consider forgiving his high water bill, as well as the bill for his tenant on Lot B. Water/Sewer Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty clarified that the village confirmed a water leak on Lot B in November 2024. The issue was initially identified by Pat Roney, who observed water seeping from beneath the skirting. This information was promptly communicated to Mr. Searles at that time.

Regarding Mr. Searles' personal residence, Clerk Richards-McCarty previously informed him that his water usage readings had consistently increased over the past few billing cycles. However, no confirmed leak was identified at his property.

Given the town's policy on bill forgiveness, combined with the fact that Lot B is not connected to the sewer lines, the town board has decided to defer further discussion of this matter to the coming days.

Approval of Minutes: A **motion** to approve last month's regular board meeting minutes (02/10/2025) as submitted by the Town Clerk made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Abstained
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

Vouchers: A **motion** to approve the vouchers made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice.
5-Ayes, 0-Noes

2025 (Abstract 3):

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund	32-56	\$74,308.87
➤ Highway Fund	20-38	\$343,626.96
➤ Water/Sewer Fund.....	8-11	\$6,019.95

Personnel:

Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty

1. Lockwood Fire Chief Darrin Wilson dropped off two applications for new memberships on Monday, March 3, 2025. The board agreed it is not for the Town of Barton Town Board to decide the fate of who the fire company chooses to hire. Therefore, the board unanimously decided not to move on this.

According to Lockwood's by-laws, they are required to submit new membership application to the Town Clerk, who in turn notifies the town board. The board suggested the Town Clerk continue to notify the board by placing copies of the applications in their folders but they will not be voting on them.

2. For the past three meetings, I have been requesting the board's approval to add a new online payment method, DOXO. Since our last meeting, I have only received a couple follow- questions regarding this matter. I'm hoping the town has had sufficient time to review it thoroughly and that you are prepared for a vote tonight.

Motioned/approved at 05/12/2025 meeting to include the following in this month's minutes:

- During the discussion regarding Doxo, Board Member Jeff Coleman does not like the idea, stating, "If it comes back to bite you in the butt, I want it notated in the minutes. I don't want to hear, 'You guys passed it.'" He indicated that the full responsibility would rest with the Town Clerk.
- Board Member Dave Shipman concurred with Jeff Coleman that "If it comes back to us, we're going to point a finger at her", meaning the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk acknowledged and accepted full responsibility of this implementation.

Motion to approve DOXO as an additional payment method and to authorize the Town Clerk to execute any and all necessary agreements related to this matter made by Councilperson Kevin Everly, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman. All in favor.

3. Ellen Pratt reached out to me to see if the Town is interested in participating in another electronic cleanup project. During this conversation, she notified me that Joe Woods, a representative from React, has kindly offered to visit municipalities once a month for a few hours to collect electronic waste. He will personally manage the collection process at the truck and leave once it's fully loaded. I confirmed with Smith Brothers that we have all the insurance we need if the county uses the same agreement form.

Motion to approve electronic cleanup project made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman. All in favor.

4. I'd like to gauge how the board would feel about applying for an SRBC grant to help offset the cost for new water meters. Pat Roney recently discussed this opportunity with me and recommended that the town consider pursuing it. From what I quickly read is

that the town would be responsible for a 20% match. The application process goes from November 2025-January 2026. Hunt Engineers said they would apply for this grant on our behalf at a cost of \$600. The Village of Waverly recently applied for this grant in the amount of \$91,350. Mayor Aronstam added this grant is one of the easiest grants to apply for.

The Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to do more research on this grant and continue filling them in at future meetings.

5. Effective November 20, 2024, the landfill on Shepard Road will have been closed for 30 years. In accordance with LGS-1 and related documentation, the town is permitted to purge certain records while retaining others permanently. I would like to determine whether the board is prepared to proceed with this action or if they wish to be involved in the process.

The Town Board asked to hold off on this process for a little while. Will follow-up at a later time.

Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger

The state provided assistance due to the salt shortage, American Rock Salt was unable to fulfill their OGS commitments for salt so salt was needed to be purchased outside of the contract price through various vendors. Non-contract price was more than twice the contract price. We will be reimbursed for the additional costs. This reimbursement is expected to amount to approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.

According to the executive budget, Governor Hochul initially proposed to hold local CHIPS funding flat. Last year she proposed a \$250,000 reduction in CHIPS funding. While the funding will remain flat, which is an improvement over last years' proposed cut, additional support is still needed. The Governor is allocating \$800 million to the New York State Department of Transportation's road fund to address issues related to maintenance and deteriorating infrastructure while Local Highway Departments', who are dealing with the same problems, are expected to receive no increase in funding. Local highway departments are responsible for maintaining 87% of New York's 112,000 miles of roads and more than half of its 16,000 bridges. Additionally, nearly 50% of vehicle miles traveled annually occur on local roads. However, local municipalities—comprising villages, towns, and counties—receive only 12% of the revenue from gas taxes and DMV fees, which is the sole source of funding for their road maintenance.

New Business

1. Public Hearing @ 6:45pm – Sale of Former Barton Fire Substation Property
Proof of Notice having been furnished, **motion** to go into public hearing at 6:45 PM made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Abstain
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

No discussion.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Hearing terminated at 6:45 PM made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Abstain
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/10/2025

RESOLUTION NO 12-2025

APPROVE CONVEYANCE OF FORMER BARTON
FIRE SUBSTATION PROPERTY TO THE WAVERLY-
BARTON FIRE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Town Board of the Town of Barton deems it necessary to return the Barton Fire Substation Property to the Waverly-Barton Fire District; and **NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman and carried; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 10, 2025, the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York hereby approves the conveyance of the former Barton Fire Substation property to the Waverly-Barton Fire District for the consideration of one dollar and 00/100 (\$1.00) lawful money of the United States; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barton Town Board grants the Town Supervisor the authority to sign any and all documentation needed to fulfill implementation of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Abstain
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

2. Sewer Bill Adjustment Due to Leak – Delbert Stedge

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/10/2025

RESOLUTION NO 13-2025

SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT DUE TO LEAK-
DELBERT STEDGE

WHEREAS, Town of Barton water/sewer owner, Delbert Stedge, requested sewer forgiveness for the property located at 1 Smith St. Waverly, New York due to a leak; and

WHEREAS, Village of Waverly Water Department confirmed this leak and most of the water did not go into the sewer pipes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton Town Board requests that the Water and Sewer Clerk take the average of the last four water and sewer consumptions prior to the leak and charge only that average to the landowner; and

NOW THEREFORE upon a motion by Councilperson Kevin Everly, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice and carried; be it

RESOLVED, the Town of Barton Town Board, Tioga County, New York approves the owner's request to adjust the sewer portion only of the recent water and sewer bill due to a leak; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the water and sewer bill be reduced from \$1,146.99 to \$456.62, with an adjustment to the sewer portion only, totaling \$690.37; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Village of Waverly.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

3. Deposit Funds into Capital Machinery Reserve Account (DA231)

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/10/2025

RESOLUTION NO 14-2025

DEPOSIT FUNDS INTO CAPITAL MACHINERY
RESERVE ACCOUNT (DA231)

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton deems it necessary to transfer surplus monies from the Fund Balance to the Highway Capital Machinery Reserve; and

NOW THEREFORE upon a motion by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman and carried; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 10, 2025, the Town of Barton Town Board approves the transfer of funds as written:

From: DA909	Fund Balance	\$166,086.00
To: DA231	Capital Machinery Reserve Account	\$166,086.00

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

4. Discussion on Western Star Truck

Highway superintendent is asking to reserve one of the two remaining turnkey Western Star trucks. It would cost \$331,000. The current replacement for the other International truck was \$301,000 as of last year's pricing. If you bid the same truck now, you're looking at another \$310,000 and that wouldn't be built until the next year. In the two years of waiting for the purchased truck to be built, it's adding another \$10-15,000. The price for the Western Star truck is in line with what other trucks are running and it'd be assembled much sooner. The Western Star truck is an I-shift.

The new EPA mandate requires a 10-year emissions warranty. Dealerships are currently evaluating the cost of replacing all the necessary components to comply with this mandate. Over the next year, we can expect to see a significant price increase in replacement trucks to cover these additional mandated warranties.

Highway Superintendent Schweiger reviewed his capital reserve account, outlining the inflows and outflows of funds. He noted that after purchasing the Western Star truck, pending approval, there would still be remaining funds available in the account.

Motion to approve purchase of the 2025 Western Star truck made by Councilperson Jeff Coleman, seconded by Councilperson David Shipman. – All in favor.

5. **Motion** to accept resignation from Board of Assessment Review member Joseph Patituce effective March 6, 2025, made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman. All in favor.

6. Appoint Tracie Shambo to the Town of Barton Board of Assessment Review

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/10/2025
RESOLUTION NO 15-2025

APPOINT TRACIE SHAMBO TO THE TOWN OF
BARTON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Joseph Patituce effective March 6, 2025, a vacancy occurred in the office of Town of Barton Board of Assessment Review that needs to be filled; and

WHEREAS, Town of Barton resident Tracie Shambo has shown an interest in this open position; and

NOW THEREFORE upon a motion by Councilperson Kevin Everly, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman and carried; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 10, 2025, the Town Board of the Town of Barton appoints Town of Barton resident Tracie Shambo to fill the vacant Town of Barton Board of Assessment Review position effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice	Aye
Kevin Everly	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

Old Business

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:28 PM made by Councilperson Kevin Everly, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Arrah Richards-McCarty

Town of Barton Town Clerk