

# TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Via In-Person

**Board Members Present:** Supervisor Donald Foster, Councilperson Michael Rice, Councilperson Andy Plaisted, Councilperson Jeffrey Coleman, Councilperson David Shipman

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Fred Schweiger, Highway Superintendent; Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk; Dan Shay; Deputy Highway Superintendent

**Guests:**

Matt Freeze, Morning Times

Mike & Elaine Lovegreen; Waverly, NY

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Foster asked for a moment of silence to honor past Councilman Jim Pratt. Mr. Pratt passed away on December 19, 2025, at 78 years old.

**Privilege of the Floor**

Mike Lovegreen introduced himself and expressed he was interested in attending the meeting. He also offered his personal services to the town. Mr. Lovegreen served 35 years as District Manager for the Bradford County Conservation District, acted as a Team Leader for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition for a number of years, and worked on dirt and gravel roads in Bradford County. Following his introduction, he was introduced to Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger.

Elaine Lovegreen introduced herself and stated that she was attending the meeting as an observer.

**Approval of Minutes:** A **motion** to approve December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman. All in favor.

**Vouchers:** A **motion** to approve the vouchers made by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Coleman.

**2025 (Abstract 13):**

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund .....	296-317.....	\$7,067.81
➤ Highway Fund .....	198-218.....	\$61,137.20
➤ Water/Sewer Fund .....	46-48.....	\$1,858.89

**2026 (Abstract 1):**

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund .....	1-10.....	\$8,264.87
➤ Highway Fund .....	1-4.....	\$48,191.74
➤ Water/Sewer Fund .....	n/a .....	\$0.00

5-Ayes, 0-Noes

**Personnel:**

**Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty**

1. Microbac notified me on 12/15/2025 their prices are increasing 5% effective January 1, 2026.
2. NYAOT – Annual letter. I have the packet saved on my computer. The following are the highlights. If you'd like a copy of this, please let me know.
  - a. 2026 Annual Training School and Annual Meeting will be held February 15-17, 2026. I have gone to this the last couple years and have found this to be very informative.
  - b. Passed the 2026 Newly Elected Town Officials Schools Agenda to be board to be held in Albany and Corning, NY this month.
  - c. There will be a budget hearing at that conference. The town can appoint a delegate to vote on the legislative issues that are presented in this packet if they choose.

**Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger**

1. On December 29, 2025, a town truck was involved in an accident after rolling over on icy roads. Fortunately, the driver was not injured. Mr. Schweiger reported that he received confirmation from the insurance agent this evening that the truck will be totaled. The settlement check is expected to be approximately \$200,000, which is more than the amount the town would have received if the truck had been sold.
2. Due to significant snowfall, the town has experienced an increase in salt usage,

resulting in higher salt bills.

## New Business

1. Appoint Thomas Howe to the Town of Barton Planning Board as an Alternate  
On November 25, 2025, Thomas Howe submitted a letter of interest for the vacant Town of Barton Planning Board alternate position.

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/12/2026

RESOLUTION NO 01-2026

APPOINT THOMAS HOWE TO TOWN OF  
BARTON PLANNING BOARD AS AN AD HOC  
MEMBER

**WHEREAS**, there is a vacancy in the office of Town of Barton Planning Board ad hoc member that needs to be filled; and

**WHEREAS**, Town of Barton resident Thomas Howe has shown an interest in this open position; and

**WHEREAS**, Town Law Section 64, Subdivision 5 confers specific authority on Town Boards to fill vacancies in town offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Barton believes it is necessary to fill this vacant position, lest the Town of Barton Planning Board be reduced to less than a majority of its total membership by unforeseen circumstances; and

**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Jeff Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman and carried; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this day, January 12, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton appoints Town of Barton resident Thomas Howe, of 1187 Talmadge Hill Rd S, to fill the vacant Town of Barton Planning Board ad hoc member position effective immediately.

### Roll Call Vote:

Mike Rice                    Aye

Andy Plaisted              Aye

Donald Foster              Aye

Jeffrey Coleman          Aye

Dave Shipman              Aye

2. Appoint Board of Assessment Review member Greg Borst

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/13/2026

RESOLUTION NO 02-2026

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBER –  
GREG BORST

**WHEREAS**, the term for Board of Review member, Gregory Borst, expired September 30, 2025 and reappointment is necessary for him to maintain that position; and  
**WHEREAS**, Mr. Borst has agreed to another five- year term; and  
**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice and carried; therefore, be it  
**RESOLVED**, the Town of Barton Town Board does hereby re-appoint Gregory Borst to another five-year term starting October 1, 2025, and expiring on September 30, 2030.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mike Rice	Aye
Andy Plaisted	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

3. Re-Organizational Meeting

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/12/2026

RESOLUTION NO 03-2026

2026 REORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Barton needs to start the calendar year with a reorganizational meeting; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Barton needs to fill certain appointed positions; and  
**WHEREAS**, legal notice of the time and place of this meeting has been given to the news media and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board; and  
**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Jeffrey Coleman and carried; therefore, be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Barton approves the 2026 reorganizational appointments.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mike Rice	Aye
Andy Plaisted	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

## REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 12, 2026

- a. Pursuant to Town Law Section 62 - set regular monthly meeting day & time  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Exceptions: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.**
- b. Pursuant to Town Law Section 64, subsection 1 - set depositories  
**Chemung Canal Trust Company   J.P. Morgan Chase   NYCLASS**
- c. Town Law Section 64, subsection 2 - set newspaper  
**The Morning Times**
- d. Town Law Section 29, subsection 15A - appoint Bookkeeper  
**Melanie Sinsabaugh**
- e. Town Law Section 24 - appoint Court Security and Sergeant in Arms (Meeting Security)  
**Paul Emerson**
- f. Town Law Section 102, subsection 1 - set mileage rate  
**\$0.65 cents per mile**
- g. Appoint Assessor & Assessor Clerk, respectively  
**Catherine Kozemko   Jennifer Monahan**
- h. Appoint Registrar of Vital Statistics & Deputy Registrar, respectively  
**Arrah Richards-McCarty   Rebekah Peck**
- j. Appoint Deputy Clerk  
**Rebekah Peck**
- k. Appoint Historian  
**Jeffrey Coleman**
- l. Appoint Delegate and alternate to Association of Towns  
**n/a**
- m. Appoint Deputy Supervisor  
**Jeffrey Coleman**
- n. Appoint Health Officer  
**Tioga County**
- o. Appoint Deputy Highway Superintendent  
**Daniel Shay**
- p. Appoint Dog Control Officer  
**Wayne Searles**
- r. Board of Review  
**Grady Updyke (Term ends 09/30/2028)**  
**Tracie Simons (Term ends 09/30/2029)**  
**Greg Borst (Term ends 09/30/2030)**

- s. Town Planning Board- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday \month (if applicable)

**Robert Palanza (2030) Fred Schweiger (2026)**  
**Chris Uetwiller (2028) Paul Emerson (2029)**  
**Recording Secretary: Arrah Richards-McCarty**

**Grady Updyke (2027)**  
**Alternate: Thomas Howe**

Chairperson

**Robert Palanza**

Agricultural Member

**Grady Updyke**

Town Board Liaison to Planning Board

**Donald Foster**

Tioga County Planning Board Representative:

**Grady Updyke (3-Year Term 2026-2028)**

- u. Town REAP Representative

**N/A**

- v. Village Sewer/Water Board

**Arrah Richards-McCarty**

- w. Appoint Building & Fire Code Officer

**Chris Robinson**

- x. Appoint Attorney (1-yr) 2026

**Nicholas Cortese, Coughlin and Gerhart**

- y. Appoint General Consulting Engineering Services

**N/A**

- z. Appoint Justice Court Clerk

**Nancy Perry**

- aa. Set Hours for Town Clerk

**January- December, Mon-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Friday 9- 12:00 p.m.**  
**Special hours may be posted from time to time as needed.**

- bb. Appoint Tax Collector (4-year term; 2024-2027)

**Arrah Richards-McCarty**

- cc. Appoint Record Management Officer (4-year term; 2024-2027)

**Arrah Richards-McCarty**

- dd. Appoint Cemetery Commissioner and ex-officio Member (Board Member)

**Fred Schweiger**

**David Shipman**

ee. Town Law section 27, subsection 1, set salaries for 2026

Assessor _____	\$28,130/year
Assessor Clerk (P/T) _____	\$16,640/year
Attorney (Appointed) _____	Contract
Bookkeeper _____	\$21,020/year
Cleaner (P/T) _____	\$22.50/hour
Code Enforcement Officer/ Bldg. & Fire _____	\$15,600/year
Councilpersons (4) _____	\$3,830/year
Court/Town Board Security (P/T) _____	\$27.04/hour
Dog Control _____	\$15,080/year
Highway Superintendent _____	\$71,430/year
Highway Superintendent, Deputy _____	\$28.64/hour
Highway Employees _____	\$27.60/hour
Highway Plow/Wing man _____	\$21.84/hour
Justice _____	\$20,800/year
Justice Clerk (P/T) _____	\$11,900/year
Pit Person (P/T) _____	\$19.13/hour
Registrar Vital Statistics _____	\$9,010/year
Summer Laborers _____	\$21.84/hour
Summer Mower _____	\$21.84/hour
Water/Sewer Clerk _____	\$3,620/year
Water Administration _____	\$3,620/year
Planning Board Secretary _____	\$2,250/year
Supervisor _____	\$18,310/year
Supervisor Clerk _____	\$300/year
Town Clerk/Tax Collector _____	\$39,380/year
Town Clerk (Deputy)/Tax Collector (Deputy) (P/T) _____	\$19.21/hour
Town Clerk, Clerk (Temporary) _____	\$17.00/hour

ff. Highway Clothing Allowance \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00/year

4. Sewer Bill Adjustment Due to Leak – Parvin Mensch

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/12/2026  
RESOLUTION NO 04-2026

SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT DUE TO LEAK-  
PARVIN MENSCH

**WHEREAS**, Town of Barton water/sewer user, Parvin Mensch, requested sewer forgiveness for the property located at 137 State Route 17c, Waverly, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Village of Waverly Water Department could not confirm a leak and therefore the landowner was referred to the Village of Waverly Sewer Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Waverly Sewer Board approved a reduction of sewer bill to an average of 1100 cubic feet; and

**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman and carried; be it

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Barton Town Board, Tioga County, New York acknowledges the Village of Waverly's consent for reduction and approves the owner's request to adjust the sewer portion only of the recent water and sewer bill; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Water/Sewer Clerk make an adjustment to the sewer portion only, totaling \$418.86; and be it

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mike Rice	Aye
Andy Plaisted	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

5. Changes to Dog Licensing Fees

The last time the dog licensing fees were changed was back in 2022. The DCO now has to take stray dogs to Schuyler County Humane Society which is an \$80/roundtrip cost.

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/12/2026  
RESOLUTION NO 05-2026

INCREASE IN DOG LICENSING FEE

**WHEREAS**, The Town Board of the Town of Barton is facing budgetary shortfall of revenue needed to cover its obligation for the control of dogs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Barton currently charges \$13.00 per spayed/neutered dog and \$21.00 per unspayed/unneutered dog; and

**WHEREAS**, the Barton Town Board believes there is a need to increase the dog licensing fee by \$1.00 per dog to cover costs for the control of dogs' personal services, contractual expenses, Humane Society of Schuyler County contract, and dog transportation costs; and

**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Jeff Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice and carried; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this day, January 12, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton hereby approves the increase in dog licensing fees as follows:

<u>Type of License</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Female Spayed	\$13.00	\$14.00
Male Neutered	\$13.00	\$14.00
Female Unspayed	\$21.00	\$22.00
Male Unneutered	\$21.00	\$22.00
PB4	\$54.00	\$58.00
PB6	\$56.00	\$62.00
PB7	\$65.00	\$72.00

And be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this increase in the dog licensing fee shall take effect February 1, 2026.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mike Rice           Aye  
Andy Plaisted       Aye  
Donald Foster       Aye  
Jeffrey Coleman    Aye  
Dave Shipman       Aye

6. Water Rate Increase

Last year, the town agreed to raise the rates in two increments; one in September, the other in January 2026. This resolution is the second part of the increase to cover expenses. This equates to about \$0.40/hcf increase over minimum.

Town Clerk Richards-McCarty explained that the Village of Waverly maintains a contract with the Water Department, which also provides services under the Town's contract. Each year, the contractual salary increases. The last time the Town of Barton adjusted its rates prior to September 2025 was in 2021. Additionally, as water meters are being replaced, the cost of new meters has risen significantly; however, replacing them is essential to reduce water loss.

Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger asked if we were supposed to be budgeting for new meters. Mrs. Richards-McCarty replied the town was going to look into applying for a grant in November to help offset the cost of new meters. The grant requires the town to pay upfront and would then reimburse us.

One other item to note is that the Water Department is going to have to replace the VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) on our pumps. We will be invoiced for that shortly and it will come in at around \$7,000.

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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

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ADOPTED 01/12/2026

RESOLUTION NO 06-2026

WATER RATE INCREASE

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Barton is committed to maintaining a safe, reliable, and sustainable public water system for all residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, while modest rate adjustments were made in 2016, 2021, and 2025 residents have not experienced significant increases in recent years, and the current rate structure no longer reflects the financial realities of operating and maintaining the water system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed rate adjustments and finds them necessary and reasonable to support the long-term viability of the municipal water system; and

**NOW THEREFORE** upon a motion by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted and carried; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Barton hereby approves the following changes, listed in red, to the municipal water rates as follows:

**TOWN OF BARTON  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER  
304 ROUTE 17C  
WAVERLY, NY 14892**

Minimum water billing based on meter size as follows:

<b>METER SIZE</b>	<b>3-MONTH RATE</b>	<b>2-MONTH RATE</b>	<b>1-MONTH RATE</b>
5/8" x 3/4"	\$47.01	\$31.34	\$15.67
1 inch	\$53.76	\$35.84	\$17.92
1.5 inches	\$90.87	\$60.58	\$30.29
2 inches	\$157.26	\$104.84	\$52.42
3 inches	\$223.62	\$149.08	\$74.54
4 inches	\$290.01	\$193.34	\$96.67

**How to calculate WATER bill:**

Minimum meter charge of **\$47.01** plus **\$3.12 per hundred cubic feet** in excess of minimum usage.  
Rate drops to **\$2.77 per hundred cubic feet** for usage in excess of 5,000 cubic feet.

Flat rate water is \$75.00 per unit.

- 3-month bill includes first 800 cubic feet of water
- 2-month bill includes first 600 cubic feet of water
- 1-month bill includes first 400 cubic feet of water

**How to calculate SEWER bill:**

Minimum meter charge of **\$32.22** plus **\$5.37 per hundred cubic feet** based on water usage.

Flat rate sewer is \$42.50 per unit.

- 3-month bill includes first 600 cubic feet of water → Minimum bill = \$32.22
- 2-month bill includes first 400 cubic feet of water → Minimum bill = \$21.48
- 1-month bill includes first 200 cubic feet of water → Minimum bill = \$10.74

A **5% penalty** is added to unpaid bills 30 days after the billing date. An additional **10% penalty** is added 60 days after the billing date to unpaid bills. Termination notices are also sent out for accounts that are unpaid 60 days from the bill date. Also, unpaid charges, if not paid by November 30, will be added to the Town taxes.

Capital Charge is \$31.00/unit.

And be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, this rate change is to be in effect immediately, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of this rate change on the Town's official website and in accordance with applicable public notification requirements.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mike Rice	Aye
Andy Plaisted	Aye
Donald Foster	Aye
Jeffrey Coleman	Aye
Dave Shipman	Aye

**Old Business**

None.

**Motion** to adjourn meeting at 6:53 pm made by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arrah Richards-McCarty*  
Town of Barton Town Clerk