

TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 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

Guests:
None.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Privilege of the Floor
None.

Approval of Minutes: A **motion** to approve January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

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

2026 (Abstract 2):

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund	11-40.....	\$21,009.41
➤ Highway Fund	5-18.....	\$80,999.60
➤ Water/Sewer Fund	1-5.....	\$4,547.43

5-Ayes, 0-Noes

Personnel:

Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty

1. I sat in on the legislative updates from NYAOT they'll be proposing at the conference in two weeks. A couple things to note:

- a. NYAOT is looking to update the tax cap formula to exempt capital infrastructure from that calculation.
 - b. They're looking to increase the competitive bidding threshold which they mentioned is grossly outdated and does not accurately reflect today's economy.
 - c. They're looking to modernize public notice requirements. Looking to post notices more electronically rather than in newspapers, such as a website. The current way, taxpayers are being taxed twice; once on their taxes and the other by paying the newspaper invoice. Chris Koetzle's (Director) argument is that the taxpayer should not be mandated to subsidize a private industry when it can go elsewhere (online). Employments, obituaries, etc. all moved on.
 - d. Last thing I noted, even though there were more, was that he is looking to reduce municipal health benefit costs by working on consortiums.
2. On the executive side, NYAOT announced that AIM is slated to be maintained at \$715 million dollars, but they are adding an additional \$50 million in temporary funding. Nothing different in this account than in AIM however they don't want to be forced to keep AIM at the additional \$50 million increase, so they add this in as "temporary". They did this last year too. All other funding staying the same – CHIPS (\$648M), PAVE-NY (\$150M), POP (\$100M)
3. Town Clerk Annual Report
 - a. We brought in over \$84,000 throughout 2025.
4. Previously, I've mentioned the idea of transitioning our records to an electronic archiving system. I'll be attending a conference in a couple of weeks and can speak with vendors about this option. The Town Clerk asked if the board still approves me moving forward with researching grants and obtaining quotes for this project. They agreed that I can obtain more information and follow up with them later.
5. Town Clerk asked about the recycling event. The board approved me moving forward with scheduling the recycling event again this year.
6. Last week, we discovered that a deposit was short by \$19.99 in cash. After reviewing the situation, we were unable to determine what happened. I reached out to another town to see if they had experienced something similar, and they shared their Town Board approved covering the shortage from petty cash and then reimbursing petty cash from the tax account. The board agreed for me to submit a voucher and pay out of tax contractual.

Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger

1. Insurance payment for the truck was received.
2. The new truck was delivered.
3. Significant snowfall required extensive plowing operations.

New Business

1. Update Town of Barton Emergency Operations and Pandemic Plan
Updated Halsey Valley Fire Chief to Tom Cole.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 02/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 07-2026

UPDATE TOWN OF BARTON EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS AND PANDEMIC PLAN

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2020, state legislation was signed requiring all public employers to create plans to protect employees in the event of another health emergency declaration in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the protection of public employees during a public health emergency is a critical aspect of operational continuity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton has met its statutory obligations for dealing with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton Emergency Operations and Pandemic Plan needs to be updated from time to time; and

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

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Barton adopts the updated Town of Barton Emergency Operations and Pandemic Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Authorization for Melanie Sinsabaugh to conduct an Audit of the 2025 Town of Barton Court Records

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 02/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2026

AUTHORIZATION FOR MELANIE SINSABAUGH TO CONDUCT
AN AUDIT OF THE 2025 TOWN OF BARTON COURT RECORDS

WHEREAS, Section 2019-A of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that town justices annually provide their court records and dockets to the auditing board of the town, and that such records then be examined and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Town Board's proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Court System's Internal Audit Office is responsible for monitoring Town Board compliance with Section 2019-A; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Unified Court System requests that we provide a copy of the audit of the Town of Barton court records for fiscal year ending in 2025 and a copy of the board resolution acknowledging that the required examination was conducted; and

WHEREAS, Town of Barton Bookkeeper, Melanie Sinsabaugh, has agreed to conduct an audit and review of the Town of Barton court records for a fee of \$300.00; 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 authorizes Melanie Sinsabaugh to conduct an audit and review of the 2025 Town of Barton court records for a fee of \$300.00.

Roll Call Vote:

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

3. Update Dog Licensing Fee

Town Clerk Richards-McCarty stated the rates are reflective of how the fee schedule is in the program. She and Don also discussed increasing the late fee; however, they inadvertently forgot to include that adjustment in last month's update.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 02/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 09-2026

UPDATE DOG LICENSING FEE

WHEREAS, resolution 05-2026 laid out the new fee schedule for dog licensing; and

WHEREAS, purebred licensing structure requires revision to accurately incorporate the applicable state surcharges; and

WHEREAS, the current late fee associated with dog licensing must also be updated to offset the rising costs of postage and personnel time required to issue and process late notices; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, February 9, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton hereby approves the change in purebred dog licensing fees as well as the update in late payment notice as follows:

Type of License	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Purebred License (1-10) dogs)	\$44.00	\$48.00
Purebred License (11-25) dogs)	\$69.00	\$168.00
Purebred License (26+) dogs)	\$119.00	\$348.00

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the late fee for dog licensing shall be updated from the current \$5.00 after 60 days to \$10.00 after 30 days; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this increase in the dog licensing fee shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

4. Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session to discuss current litigation at 6:49 pm made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson David Shipman. All in favor.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:41 pm made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson David Shipman. All in favor.

Old Business

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:41 pm made by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson David Shipman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Arrah Richards-McCarty
Town of Barton Town Clerk