

TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

Via In-Person

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

Board Members Absent: Councilperson Michael Rice

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

Guests:

Patty Aronstam; Waverly
Andy Aronstam; Waverly

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 February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, 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 3):

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund	41-74.....	\$111,256.20
➤ Highway Fund	19-35.....	\$48,210.57
➤ Water/Sewer Fund	6-11.....	\$34,218.20

4-Ayes, 0-Noes

Personnel:

Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty

1. I would like a motion to approve the transfers of the following mobile home park

permits per Town Code §97.41 (C). On the last permit, Diane Teribury had passed away and therefore cannot sign the transfer permit. The other permit is signed by both parties.

Motion to approve the following mobile home park transfer permit made by Councilperson Jeff Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

- From Kimberly Quinn to Michael and Tracie Simons
 - From Diane Teribury to Kylie Baker and Tyler Talada
2. Lockwood Fire Chief Darren Wilson invited the Town Board and Town Clerk to their annual banquet on March 21 at 6pm. We need to RSVP by March 16. Supervisor Foster and Councilpersons Dave Shipman and Jeff Coleman agreed to attend. Town Clerk Richards-McCarty will notify the Fire Chief.
 3. I received an email from the US Department of the Treasury regarding our ARPA funding. Treasury has now begun a closeout review of our SLFRF award. Treasury may send instructions to revise and resubmit the final P&E Report. Treasury will send an acknowledgement of program closeout. I completed the closeout process March 2nd.
 4. W/S Charges – VOW increased their fees for after-hours service charges from \$150 to \$166.50.

Motion to approve the increase of fees for water/sewer after-hours service charge from \$150 to \$166.50 made by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman. All in favor.

5. NYSEG Resolution – The Town has received many complaints from residents who are struggling to afford their basic electric service. This resolution states that the Town believes that approving continued rate increases without stronger cost controls, more transparency, and real affordability protections is unacceptable and not in the public's best interest. The Town of Barton is also one of many municipalities submitting this same resolution in response to these growing concerns. Therefore, this resolution formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to immediately and thoroughly review NYSEG's electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices.

Supervisor Foster would like to pass the resolution that mirrors what Tioga County just passed instead of this one. Town Clerk Richards-McCarty felt the two resolutions had differences and offered two different objectives. Supervisor Foster felt the resolution he has would be adequate. Councilperson Andy Plaisted read the resolutions as two separate resolutions as well and agreed with the common goal of putting the blame where it belongs- at the state level. Councilperson Jeff Coleman thought that the two resolutions were similar and preferred to move forward only with the one already listed on the

agenda. Councilperson Dave Shipman stated to pass both resolutions and bombard them up at the state. Supervisor Foster said he'd like to keep it the way it is now "but that's just me. It's going to be up to the board". There was no further discussion; resolution did not move forward.

I am going to postpone any records archiving for now. I have a few other projects I want to focus on first.

Recycling Event – We were able to reconnect with REACT and secure dates for this spring and summer. We've scheduled e-waste collection for the first Tuesday of each month, starting in April and continuing through August. We will post a flyer on our website, on the outdoor corkboard, and on the electronic sign out front.

NYS DOT sent a notification on February 17, 2026, stating they will be repairing the bridge which carries Route I-86 over Ithaca Central Railroad.

Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger

Really hard winter on the roads – worse than last year.

Highway Superintendent Schweiger was in Albany last Wednesday for Advocacy Day to request increased CHIPS funding. The request is for an additional \$250 million, which would bring the total CHIPS allocation to approximately \$898.1 million.

Meanwhile, both the DOT and the MTA have already received substantial funding. The MTA currently has over a billion dollars available, but because most of their work occurs at night, they cannot complete projects at the pace needed to use the funds they already have. Instead of reallocating these resources to upstate needs, the money continues to flow downstate. The DOT also received an additional \$800 million last year and is expected to receive a similar increase this year due to deteriorating infrastructure, rising material costs, and related expenses.

Local municipalities face these same challenges, yet they are not receiving funding increases comparable to those given to the MTA and DOT. CHIPS funding was not rejected in the budget, and discussions are still ongoing. During Advocacy Day, we spoke with Senator Tom O'Mara, Senator Lea Webb, Assemblyman Joe Angelino, Assemblyman Chris Tague, and the administrative staff for Assemblyman Brian Miller—all representing Region 9 in upstate New York. Many were not aware of the full extent of the issues.

Local roads and bridges make up 87 percent of New York State's roadways and more than half of its bridges, yet less than 12 percent of the taxes and fees paid by drivers are directed back to maintaining these local systems. This imbalance is drastically unfair.

AIM funding has remained flat, and although the state has added temporary supplemental funds, those additions are not guaranteed annually. These adjustments still do not make up for

what has been taken away from municipalities over the years.

Councilperson Jeff Coleman asked whether the MTA gets to keep all the funding it receives each year if it doesn't spend it. Highway Superintendent Schweiger explained that yes, they do. Any unused money stays in the MTA's accounts, continues to earn interest, and simply rolls over into the next budget year—they don't have to return anything to the state.

New Business

1. Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 10-2026

STANDARD WORKDAY AND REPORTING
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The New York State Retirement System created new reporting regulations in 2009 that require establishment of terms and work hours for elected and appointed officials and a resolution stating such at the onset of each term;

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton hereby establishes the following as standard workdays for elected and appointed officials, and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by the following officials to the Clerk of this body;

Name	Social Security Number	NYSLRS ID	Title	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier 1
Elected Officials:									
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
							<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointed Officials:									
MELANIE SINSABAUGH	██████	R10603521	BOOKKEEPER	01/01/2026-12/31/2026	6.00	3.57	<input type="checkbox"/>	BIWEEKLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
CATHERINE KOZEMKO	██████	R13233994	ASSESSOR	10/01/2025-09/30/2031	7.00	9.09	<input type="checkbox"/>	BIWEEKLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
NANCY PERRY	██████	R10675975	COURT CLERK	01/01/2026-12/31/2026	6.00	2.53	<input type="checkbox"/>	BIWEEKLY	<input type="checkbox"/>

Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Approve Annual Accounting for Town Clerk

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 11-2026

APPROVE 2025 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FOR
TOWN CLERK

WHEREAS, Town Law Section 123 requires an annual accounting and the submission of books and records by all town officers and employees to the town board; and

WHEREAS Supervisor Donald Foster performed a review of the Town Clerk's records on February 23, 2026, using Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks; and

WHEREAS, a copy of said findings to the checklist was given to each Town of Barton Board Member for review and approval; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton Town Board did hereby review and approve the aforementioned annual accounting requirements performed by Supervisor Donald Foster.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Plaisted Aye

Donald Foster Aye

Jeffrey Coleman Aye

Dave Shipman Aye

3. Approve Annual Accounting for Tax Collecting Officer

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 12-2026

APPROVE 2025 ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FOR
TAX COLLECTING OFFICER

WHEREAS, Town Law Section 123 requires annual accounting and the submission of books and records by all town officers and employees to the town board; and

WHEREAS Supervisor Donald Foster performed a review of the Tax Collector's records on February 23, 2026, using Appendix E – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Tax Collecting Officers; and

WHEREAS, a copy of said findings to the checklist was given to each Town of Barton Board Member for review and approval; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton Town Board did hereby review and approve the aforementioned annual accounting requirements performed by Supervisor Donald Foster.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Plaisted Aye

Donald Foster Aye
Jeffrey Coleman Aye
Dave Shipman Aye

4. Audit of 2025 Justice Court Records and Dockets

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 13-2026

APPROVE AUDIT OF 2025 JUSTICE COURT
RECORDS

WHEREAS, Bookkeeper Melanie Sinsabaugh performed a review of the Justice's records on March 7, 2026 using Appendix 10 Annual Checklist; and

WHEREAS, a copy of said findings to the checklist was given to each Town of Barton Board Member for review and approval; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton Town Board did hereby review and approve the aforementioned audit of records performed by Melanie Sinsabaugh; and be it further

RESOLVED, a copy of said findings to the checklist and approved resolution be forwarded to the Town Justice.

Roll Call Vote:

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

5. Approve Purchase of a Variable Frequency Drive 50 HP Well Pump from Triple V Electric Inc.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 14-2026

APPROVE PURCHASE OF A VARIABLE
FREQUENCY DRIVE 50 HP WELL PUMP FROM
TRIPLE V ELECTRIC, INC

WHEREAS, Pat Roney, Chief Plant Operator for the Village of Waverly Water Department has alerted the Town of Barton of the need to replace a Town of Barton well pump; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton procurement policy specifies that all estimated purchases of less than \$20,000 but greater than \$5,000 require a written request for proposal (R.F.P.) and written/faxed quotes from three vendors; and

WHEREAS, these quotes are as follows:

Aqua Logics Systems, Inc..... \$9,883.00
Triple V Electric, Inc..... \$8,000.00
Boulie Electric..... (No quote by Deadline) \$0.00

And

WHEREAS, Triple V Electric, Inc has the lowest R.F.P.; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 9, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York, approves the purchase of a Variable Frequency Drive 50 HP well pump from Triple V Electric, Inc. for a total of \$8,000.00; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

6. Establishment of a Combined Water and Sewer Repair Reserve Fund to Finance a Type of Equipment Repair or Replacement for Water and Sewer Infrastructure in Water and Sewer Improvement Areas 1 and 2.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 15-2026

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMBINED WATER AND
SEWER REPAIR RESERVE FUND TO FINANCE A
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT
FOR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN
WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENT AREAS 1
AND 2

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton is charged with maintaining and repairing the Town of Barton Water and Sewer Improvement Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton has in the past been presented with difficulty budgeting for the repair and replacement of water and sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton would be greatly assisted in its long-term budgetary planning for the repair and replacement of water and sewer infrastructure within the Water and Sewer Improvement Areas 1 and 2 by establishing a combined water and sewer repair reserve fund to finance a type of equipment repair or replacement; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 9, 2026 the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York, pursuant to Section 6-D of the General Municipal Law, as amended, there is hereby established a Capital Reserve Fund to be known as the "Combined Water and

Sewer Repair Reserve Fund" to finance a type of equipment repair or replacement for water and sewer infrastructure, (herein after called "Reserve Fund"). The purpose of this reserve fund is to accumulate moneys to finance the costs of a type of repair or replacement in the sewer and water improvement areas 1 and 2. The type of repair or replacement to be financed from the reserve fund is the combined water and sewer infrastructure. The Chief Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to deposit and secure the moneys of this reserve fund in the manner provided by Section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The Town of Barton Town Supervisor may invest the moneys in the reserve fund in the manner provided by Section 11 of the General Municipal Law, and consistent with the investment policy of the Town of Barton. Any interest earned or capital gains realized on the moneys so deposited or invested shall secure to and become part of the reserve fund. The Chief Fiscal Officer shall account for the reserve fund in a manner, which maintains a separate identity of the reserve fund and shows the amount of each sum paid into the fund, interest earned by the fund, the amount of each withdrawal from the fund, and the total assets of the fund; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, except as otherwise provided by law, expenditures from this reserve fund shall be made only for the purpose for which the reserve fund is established. No expenditures shall be made from this reserve fund without the approval of this Governing Board and such additional actions or proceedings as may be required by Section 6-D of the General Municipal Law or any other law including a permissive referendum if required; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a reserve parent fund to hold the cash and accounting entries shall be located under the (F)-WATER FUND, and shall be titled "**WATER AND SEWER REPAIR RESERVE**"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

7. Resolution Calling on New York Governor Cathy Hochul to Declare an Energy State of Emergency Due to Escalating Electricity Costs.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 03/09/2026

RESOLUTION NO 16-2026

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON NEW YORK
GOVERNOR CATHY HOCHUL TO DECLARE AN
"ENERGY STATE OF EMERGENCY" DUE TO
ESCALATING ELECTRICITY COSTS

WHEREAS, New York State's utility costs are among the highest in the United States; and
WHEREAS, New York State residents have been facing escalating electricity delivery charges, supply costs, and regulatory mandates for several months contributing to an all-time high and

unsustainable electricity costs causing financial hardship for our residents, businesses, farmers, and manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, New York State's lack of electric generation is putting the electrical power grid under significant stress which will only continue without change; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2025, the Town Board of the Town of Barton adopted resolution #49 of the year 2025 in support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699) which safeguards households, small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserves access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability and allowing consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton's request to declare an "Energy State of Emergency" would allow immediate action to lower bills, place safeguards on utility bills to protect our consumers from extreme price spikes; initiate suspension of taxes, fees, and surcharges on energy bills; and expediate the construction of base load generation; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 9, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York, urges the New York Governor to declare an "Energy State of Emergency" to protect Town of Barton residents and all New York State ratepayers from extreme and unsustainable price spikes, promote stabilization of the power grid, and to promote affordable energy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Cathy Hochul, Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, Assemblyman Christopher S. Friend, and Roy M. Christian, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Public Service Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:06 pm made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Arrah Richards-McCarty

Town of Barton Town Clerk