

TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

MINUTES – JUNE 8, 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; Catherine Kozemko, Assessor; Jen Monahan, Assessor Clerk; Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk

Guests:

Tena Barrett; Waverly, NY

Rick Stevens; Waverly, NY

Patty & Andy Aronstam; Waverly, NY

Ron Perry; Waverly, NY *Added via correction of minutes on 07/13/2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Privilege of the Floor

Tena Larabee – Ongoing Sewage Issue

Tena Larabee has been dealing with raw sewage on her property since last October, resulting in both her dog and her becoming ill and requiring antibiotics. The Health Department has been involved since October, but their main concern so far seems to be the risk of someone falling into the hole that was just dug this week to determine why sewage is running onto her property.

Code Officer Chris Robinson visited the neighbors and will inspect the septic system to determine whether it is viable; if not, he will condemn the property. Chris has also been in contact with the Department of Health.

Tena has reached out to Soil & Water and the DEC. The DEC stated they cannot take action unless the sewage reaches the creek. Don Foster advised her to keep communication open with Chris.

Rick Stevens – Multiple Concerns

1. Rick met with Waverly School Superintendent Eric Knolles regarding the school tax bill. The tax rate is only shown to one decimal place, which he believes is misleading. He is requesting that it be displayed to two decimal places for accuracy. Town Clerk

Richards-McCarty stated that sounds like a programming issue that the school district will need to address.

2. Having lived in Barton for five years, Mr. Stevens asked what can be done about property cleanup, especially along Route 34 next to the dog obedient school, where several trailers look like they're sitting there rusting into the ground. Supervisor Don Foster provided him with a complaint form to submit to the Town Clerk, who will then see to it that Code Officer Robinson receives it. Mr. Stevens noted it's not a complaint but more of a concern. "When this stuff is around, it lowers our property value."
3. Mr. Stevens asked how many unregistered cars are allowed on a property. Code Officer Chris Robinson stated the number allowed is zero. Mr. Stevens plans to make copies of the complaint form to address this.
4. Mr. Stevens, who was born in Sayre and raised in Camptown, Pennsylvania, noted that his community growing up held annual cleanup days, during which Wyalusing Township used its trucks to pick up scrap and junk. He asked whether the Town of Barton could consider budgeting for a similar program. Supervisor Don Foster said he would take the idea into consideration for future budgets but added that initiatives like this can open up a "can of worms." Highway Superintendent Schweiger stated that it would be far too costly for taxpayers to have the Highway Department drive around picking up garbage. Mrs. Barrett asked how Sayre manages its cleanup efforts. Supervisor Foster responded that since Sayre is across the border, he is not familiar with their process. Mr. Stevens suggested he can look into some economical ways to implement it so that it doesn't become expensive for taxpayers.
5. Mr. Stevens noted that there are approximately 23 mailboxes on Madigan Road and said he reviewed the road surfacing schedule, but Madigan Road was not listed. Highway Superintendent Schweiger responded that the schedule had been posted online and was also included in the previous month's minutes. He clarified that Madigan is scheduled for work next week, along with Bunnell and Ranch Road, all of which are currently being reconstructed. Once reconstruction is complete, they will receive a double coat of oil and stone, which is expected to occur next week.

Mr. Stevens added that the roller had come through to depress the berms, but the berms must be lower than the road surface. Highway Superintendent Schweiger stated that they will build up the asphalt to the berm level, planing everything to level and then it will be oil and stoned.

Approval of Minutes: A **motion** to approve May 11, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk made by Councilperson Andy Plaisted, seconded by Councilperson Dave Shipman. All in favor.

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

2026 (Abstract 6):

<u>FUND</u>	<u>VOUCHER NO'S</u>	<u>TOTAL CLAIM</u>
➤ General Fund	123-156.....	\$13,673.94
➤ Highway Fund	63-79.....	\$654,428.05
➤ Water/Sewer Fund	16-22.....	\$136,275.52

5-Ayes, 0-Noes

Personnel:

Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty

1. ARPA Reporting – I received notice from Department of the Treasury stating based on their review, we have successfully completed our reporting, and Treasury has completed all actions pertaining to the closeout of our SLFRF award. No further action is needed.
2. I have been hearing and now seeing a higher volume of cyber-security attacks. I recently received an email from TiSales that appeared legitimate; the email was correct and nothing notable that would tell me it was a scam. Fortunately, I hadn't opened it right away—by the time I did, it was no longer accessible because their IT team had already identified it as a scam and shut it down. I'd like to take this moment to share my gratitude to Tioga County's IT department for their diligent efforts in filtering out most phishing attempts before they ever reach our inboxes.
3. Rates at the Village of Waverly have increased again. The village adjusts its rates every June to align with its annual budget cycle, and any additional increases throughout the year are driven by economic conditions.
4. Will be putting a flyer in board member's folders regarding NYMIR Risk Management Training Menu-2026

Highway Superintendent Fred Schweiger

1. Grader patching will begin tomorrow. We're scheduled for Suit Kote to begin Monday the 15th, weather permitting and depending on their workload. The department is trying to stay ahead of schedule to keep costs down, since the oil index increases weekly. If the town didn't have such a rough winter, the roads would have been done by now, but the department wanted to do a bit of work before sealing them over.
2. Ditches are cleaned.
3. The mower is operating now and he's working up on Ridge Road.

New Business

1. Reduce Tax Assessor Catherine Kozemko's Salary and Change of Hours

Jen Monahan has recently taken on the role of Town Assessor in Newark Valley. She will be working every other Thursday from 9–11 a.m., with Catherine Kozemko covering the opposite Thursdays during the same hours. The Town of Barton Assessor's office hours will remain unchanged—Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.—except when either assessor is out of town, on vacation, or has a scheduled appointment.

Given that they will be present fewer hours, Mrs. Kozemko felt it was fair to take a reduction in pay. She noted that she will still be working more than required, as she is only obligated to come in on Tuesdays but continues to work both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Councilman Jeff Coleman stated he does not see why Catherine should take any pay cut, since she is only mandated to work one day per week. Mrs. Kozemko responded that she believes Jen is already underpaid for the work she performs, as she currently carries out the responsibilities of an Assessor, but she appreciated his support. Ms. Monahan and Mrs. Kozemko emphasized that they are a team and therefore splitting the pay reduction.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 20-2026

REDUCE TAX ASSESSOR CATHERINE KOZEMKO'S
SALARY BY \$891.00/YEAR AND CHANGE OF
HOURS

WHEREAS, due to scheduling conflicts, Town of Barton Assessor Catherine Kozemko is requesting a change in hours at the Town of Barton Assessor's Office, as well as a reduction in pay; and

WHEREAS, this request reflects the high demand for certified New York Tax Assessors in multiple taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton is aware of the need for flexible work hours and pay adjustments 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, that on this day, June 8, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York adopts the following work schedule and salary:

Town of Barton Tax Assessor Catherine Kozemko

Work Schedule:

Tuesday: 9am to 4pm

Thursday: 9am - 4pm (1st Thursday)

12pm – 4pm (2nd Thursday)

Salary: \$27,239.00 (\$891 Reduction)

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Discussion on Resolution – Reduce Tax Assessor Clerk Jennifer Monahan's Salary and Change of Hours

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 21-2026

REDUCE TAX ASSESSOR CLERK JENNIFER
MONAHAN'S SALARY BY \$891.00/YEAR AND
CHANGE OF HOURS

WHEREAS, due to scheduling conflicts, Town of Barton Assessor Clerk Jennifer Monahan is requesting a change in hours at the Town of Barton Assessor's Office, as well as a reduction in pay; and

WHEREAS, this request reflects the high demand for certified New York Tax Assessors in multiple taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton is aware of the need for flexible work hours and pay adjustments from time to time; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, June 8, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Barton, County of Tioga, State of New York adopts the following work schedule and salary:

Town of Barton Tax Assessor Clerk Jennifer Monahan

Work Schedule:

Tuesday: 9am to 4pm

Thursday: 12pm – 4pm (1st Thursday)
9am - 4pm (2nd Thursday)

Salary: \$15,749.00 (\$891 Reduction)

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

3. Authorize the Purchase of a 2027 Ram 5500 Regular Cab Pickup with Plow and Sander.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 22-2026

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF 2027 RAM 5500
REGULAR CAB PICKUP TRUCK WITH PLOW AND
SANDER

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Barton believes it is necessary to purchase a pickup truck with plow and sander to replace the Town of Barton's non-functional and non-repairable 1998 dodge pickup truck; and

WHEREAS, Maguire Motors, LLC of 504 S Meadow Street Ithaca, NY has a proposal that meets the Town of Barton needs; and

WHEREAS, this purchase is through OGS Contract #PC68973SSB and meets state bid requirements; and

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

RESOLVED, that on this day, June 8, 2026, the Town of Barton Town Board authorizes the purchase of a 2027 Ram 5500 regular cab pickup truck with plow and sander from Maguire Motors, LLC in the amount of \$98,049.43; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this expenditure is subject to a permissive referendum; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this purchase is to be paid out of the following account:

DA5130.2 for \$98,049.43

Roll Call Vote:

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

4. Renew Service Agreement with GST BOCES

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 23-2026

RENEW SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GST BOCES

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Barton wishes to renew the GST BOCES service agreement; 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 wishes to renew the GST BOCES service agreement; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barton Town Board grants the Town Supervisor the authority to sign any documentation necessary relating to the agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

5. Creation of Account F8330.2 and Transfer of Funds

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 24-2026

CREATION OF ACCOUNT (F8330.2)AND
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton recognizes the need to properly account for expenditures related to well equipment, including replacement parts, upgrades, and associated capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, the creation of Account F8330.2 – Well Equipment will provide transparency and compliance with municipal accounting standards; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds available in F599-Water Fund Balance to support this purpose; and

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

RESOLVED, the Town of Barton Town Board hereby authorizes the creation of Account F8330.2-Well Equipment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton hereby authorizes the following transfer of money from the following accounts:

From: F599 (Fund Balance)	Fund Balance	\$8,000
To: F8330.2	Well Equipment	\$8,000

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Roll Call Vote:

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

6. Authorize Voluntary Animal Shelter Contributions on Dog License Renewals and Establishing Revenue Code A2705

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 25-2026

AUTHORIZING VOLUNTARY ANIMAL SHELTER
CONTRIBUTIONS ON DOG LICENSE RENEWALS
AND ESTABLISHING REVENUE CODE A2705

WHEREAS, Section 109 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, as amended by Part T of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2010, authorizes municipalities to include on dog license applications and renewals an option for dog owners to make voluntary monetary contributions in support of municipal or contracted animal shelters or pounds; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary contribution mechanism must be presented separately and distinctly from mandatory dog license fees and must be clearly identified as optional; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a dedicated revenue account to properly record and track such voluntary contributions in accordance with municipal accounting standards; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Barton hereby authorizes the inclusion of a voluntary animal shelter contribution section on all dog license applications and renewals processed by the Clerk's Office, consistent with the requirements of the Agriculture and Markets Law as amended by Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2010; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all voluntary contributions collected shall be deposited into a newly established revenue account titled:

A2705 – Voluntary Shelter Contributions

and such funds shall be used exclusively to support the contracted shelter; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, these voluntary contributions shall not replace or reduce any existing municipal funding commitments to the shelter, but shall serve as supplemental support as intended by state law; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

7. New Meter Rate Adjustment

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 06/08/2026

RESOLUTION NO 26-2026

NEW METER RATE ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton has received notice of a new meter rate increase from the Village of Waverly; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barton must, in turn, pass the rate changes onto those utilizing the water/sewer in the Town of Barton; 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 update the following new meter rate from \$150 to \$175; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

None.

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:05 pm to discuss a personnel matter of a particular employee made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

Present for the executive session were: Supervisor Donald Foster; Chairpersons Mike Rice, Andy Plaisted, Jeff Coleman, and David Shipman; Code Officer Chris Robinson and resident Ron Perry.

Motion to conclude executive session at 7:24 pm made by Councilperson Mike Rice, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

No formal action was taken during executive session.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:24 pm made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Andy Plaisted. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Arrah Richards-McCarty
Town of Barton Town Clerk