

TOWN OF BARTON

DONALD FOSTER, SUPERVISOR

SPECIAL MINUTES – OCTOBER 5, 2026 @ 6:00 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: Melanie Davies, Bookkeeper; Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk (in at 6:05pm)

Guests:

None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Donald Foster.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Review Tentative Budget

Bookkeeper Melanie Davies went page by page through the Tentative Budget.

Town Clerk Arrah Richards-McCarty discussed her Tax Collection accounts with the Town Board. She explained that this account funds only the Temporary Tax Clerk position. She further stated that since the beginning of her term, she has implemented workflow efficiencies that have reduced the hours needed for temporary tax clerk support, due in part to improved processes and the effective performance of the Deputy Town Clerk. These changes have significantly lowered personnel costs.

She reported that in 2023, the temporary tax clerk worked 131.50 hours, while in the most recent tax year (2026), she was able to reduce those hours to just under 60 for the season. Bookkeeper Davies agreed, noting that even prior to Mrs. McCarty's tenure, temporary tax clerks typically worked more hours than they do now.

Mrs. McCarty's budget worksheet proposed reducing the Tax Collection salary line (A330.1) from \$2,100.00 to \$1,500.00. From this reduction, she recommended reallocating \$200.00 to the Town Clerk Salary (A1410.1), \$200.00 to the Deputy Town Clerk Salary (A1410.12), and returning \$200.00 to the Town as savings.

Mrs. McCarty also distributed a packet outlining the Barton Town Clerk's responsibilities, accomplishments, and workload, as well as regional comparisons supporting a salary review. Barton has the second-largest population in the comparison group and manages the second-highest parcel volume, yet the Town Clerk's salary remains the lowest despite a

workload comparable to larger municipalities. Since 2020, the Clerk's Office has delivered measurable financial gains and operational efficiencies. Mrs. McCarty clarified that she is not requesting any salary adjustments from this packet for the current year, but wished to inform the Town Board of Barton's position relative to regional salary standards.

Additionally, Mrs. McCarty stated that she would like to see a 4 percent raise to keep pace with inflation. Most other towns are requesting a 4 percent increase as well, and the Town of Owego is considering a 5 percent raise.

Supervisor Foster stated that he would like the Town Board to review the information and discuss it further at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

2. Authorize Arrah Richards-McCarty to Apply for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant

Mrs. McCarty stated that this grant opportunity opens in November. She will be working with Hunt Engineers, who have also assisted the Village of Waverly with this same grant. She assured the Town Board that this is a multi-step process, and granting her the authority to apply does not authorize any further action. Additional resolutions will need to be reviewed and approved by the Board as the process moves forward.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BARTON TOWN BOARD

ADOPTED 10/05/2026

RESOLUTION NO 38-2026

AUTHORIZE ARRAH RICHARDS-MCCARTY TO
APPLY FOR THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN
COMMISSION (SRBC) CONSUMPTIVE USE
MITIGATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) offers grant funding to support projects that mitigate consumptive use or otherwise improve drought resilience in the Susquehanna River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the importance of pursuing grant opportunities that benefit the community and support long-term planning and resource stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk, has identified an SRBC grant opportunity aligned with the Town's goals and is qualified to prepare and submit the required application materials; and

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

RESOLVED that the Barton Town Board hereby authorizes Arrah Richards-McCarty, Town Clerk, to prepare, finalize, and submit an application to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) for grant funding on behalf of the Town; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town authorizes Arrah Richards-McCarty to take all necessary actions, provide required documentation, and act as the Town's official representative for matters related to this grant application.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30 PM made by Councilperson Dave Shipman, seconded by Councilperson Mike Rice. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Arrah Richards-McCarty
Town of Barton Town Clerk