

BARAGA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

May 20, 2025

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M.

President S. Koski opened the meeting.

Present at Roll Call: Paul Stark, Jeannine Mayo, Tony Cerroni, Tim Olson, Sandy Johnson, John Westman and Scott Koski

Also Present: LeAnn LeClaire, Village Manager
Diane Mayo, Village Clerk
Andrew Keranen, P.E., U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by J. Westman to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on April 11, 2025.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Public Hearing for the Michigan Community Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Infrastructure Improvement Project opened at 5:02 P.M. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Roll Call: Paul Stark, Jeannine Mayo, Tony Cerroni, Tim Olson, Sandy Johnson, John Westman and Scott Koski

Andrew Keranen, P.E., U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., was present to discuss a grant for Lagoon 2. It would be a 100% competitive grant up to 2.5 million with a sliding scale for local matches. The local match has to be a cash match. Currently Lagoon 2 is leaking. The grant would be to fix and expand the lagoon. Communities that are approved for the grant will be notified on June 20, 2025. The project would go into operation as soon as approval is received since the project has to be completed by December 31, 2027. L. LeClaire, Village Manager, said we could afford the project as the past sewer loan is now paid off.

Public Comment: None

The Public Hearing for the Michigan Community Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Infrastructure Improvement Project closed at 5:18 P.M. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

The council went back into their regular council meeting at 5:19 P.M. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Roll Call: Paul Stark, Jeannine Mayo, Tony Cerroni, Tim Olson, Sandy Johnson, John Westman and Scott Koski

Public Comment: None

Motion made by P. Stark seconded by T. Olson to authorize Resolution 2025-5-20-01 for an application to the Michigan Community Block Grant for funding for its Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Competitive Funding Round. The resolution authorizes the Village of Baraga to request up to \$2,500,000.00 in CBDG funds to make treatment improvements at the wastewater treatment lagoons, including relining Lagoon Number 2 to prevent leaking, constructing Lagoon Number 2B for required capacity, associated Lagoon 2/2B valves, and sludge removal in Lagoon 2. The Village of Baraga also commits local funds from its sewer budget in the amount of a 25% match.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

L. LeClaire, Village Manager, explained that our current energy incentive program, Energy Innovations Collaborative Service, is no longer an option for the Village due to a change in member eligibility requirements. She suggested participating in the Energy Efficiency United Program.

Motion made by J. Westman seconded by P. Stark to approve participation by the Village of Baraga in the Energy Efficiency United Program effective January 1, 2026.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

L. LeClaire discussed the purchase of two new guns for the police department.

The total purchase amount of the guns is \$1,790.00. However, the trade in value of the current guns is \$250.00 each leaving a balance of \$1,290.00.

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by T. Olson to purchase two guns from Woodland Firearms & Supply in the amount of \$1,290.00.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Police Report was given by S. Koski, Village President. Thirty-four complaints were received in the month of April. Two arrests were made. Three hundred thirty-five property checks were completed.

L. LeClaire, Village Manager, gave the Manager Report. The lease for the former Besse Forest Products property has been signed by Ottawa Forest Products. They will be updating equipment before they utilize the property. KCO Construction will be knocking down Da Shack within a couple weeks. L. LeClaire attended a Fraud Prevention Seminar on April 16 which was very informative. Due to information received at the meeting, we will not be placing the bills paid on the monthly minutes anymore. The Letter of Inquiry was sent to Copper Country Shores Community for a \$100,000.00 grant for new flooring in the Baraga Recreational Facility. They would like us to proceed with the full application. L. LeClaire will discuss with the Keweenaw Bay Hockey Association for help funding the project. She also discussed property that was

damaged by the recent storm. Approximately \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 worth of damage was done to the Walking Trail. E. Spruces St and McGillan St also received extensive damage.

The DPW Report was given by L. LeClaire, Village Manager. The DPW workers have installed all seven hundred ninety-three electric meters within two months and the electric portion for the Village is now completely on AMI. Docks have been put in and sweeping and garbage pickup has been done. Mowing is also started. The cemetery will be cleaned up before Memorial Day. Two applications were received for the summer DDA position. Due to the possible retirement of one of our electrical lineman in five years, the process of getting another lineman is being discussed. The electrical lineman apprenticeship is a four year program so it would be beneficial to hire someone to be trained before the current lineman's retirement.

Motion made by T. Olson seconded by J. Westman to donate \$1,000.00 to the Baraga Lumberjack Committee for services rendered.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Baraga Lumberjack Committee has requested street closures on July 3 and 4th for their annual celebration.

Motion made by P. Stark seconded by T. Olson to close Superior Ave on July 3, 2023 from 5:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M., starting at State St. north to M-38 for the community dance. Approval was also given for a liquor license for beer and wine coolers on July 3rd for the community street dance. On July 4th, Superior Ave will be closed from 8:00 A.M. to the conclusion of the parade from the Baraga Armory north to M-38. After the main parade, Superior Ave will be closed from First St north to M-38 until the fireworks have concluded.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by J. Westman to donate \$500.00 for flags, markers and wreaths for the cemeteries to the Baraga American Legion for services rendered.

Motion made by S. Johnson seconded by P. Stark to award the WPPI Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Nolan Hendrickson.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried

Motion made by S. Johnson seconded by T. Cerroni to purchase two stainless steel dump buckets with sanders in the amount of \$14,000.00.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried

Motion made by J. Mayo seconded by P. Stark to pay the bills when the monies become available.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion carried

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by T. Olson to adjourn.
Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M. on May 20, 2025.

Submitted by Diane Mayo, Village Clerk