

# **BARAGA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 14, 2026**

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

Council Member Sandy Johnson opened the meeting.

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

Absent: Scott Koski and Paul Stark,

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

Motion made by J. Mayo seconded by T. Cerroni to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on March 10, 2026.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried.

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

Baraga Area Schools superintendent, Tim Marczak, was present to discuss the Sinking Fund for the school district. The fund will be on the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. If not renewed, it will expire in December, 2026. The money is used to make repairs and improvements to the school building and the grounds. Funds do not go towards staff salaries or benefits. The current sinking fund is at 2.997 mills. The school is asking for a continuation of the sinking fund but want to bring it back to 3 mills for ten years to compensate for inflation in materials. The sinking fund will provide about \$475,000.00 annually to the school, and the average increase to the taxpayers is only thirty cents per year. Many required updates are needed at the school and the passage of the sinking fund is very important for the updates.

An amendment was needed for the water rate ordinance to include that the rates are for both active and vacant premises.

Motion made by T. Olson seconded by J. Westman to approve Water Rate Ordinance #267, which amends the Water Rate Ordinance No. 263, which becomes effective May 1, 2026 and for all billings thereafter until amended by the Village Council.

Rates for Village Customers would be \$43.00 per month minimum for 4,000 gallons, plus \$7.90 per 1,000 gallons of use over 4,000 per month for both active and vacant premises.

Rates for Commercial Customers would be \$53.00 per month minimum for 4,000 gallons, plus \$7.90 per 1,000 gallons of use over 4,000 per month on both active and vacant premises.

Rates for Township Customers would be \$45.50 per month minimum for 4,000 gallons, plus \$7.90 per 1,000 gallons of use over 4,000 per month on both active and vacant premises.

Rate for the Prison would be \$7.90 per 1000 gallons of use .

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried.

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by J. Westman for the approval of Resolution 2026-04-14-01 for payment of funds in the amount of \$7,972.21 for the Village of Baraga Water System Improvements Phase 3.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried

Motion made by J. Westman seconded by J. Mayo to approve Resolution 2026-04-14-02 for reimbursement and payment of funds in the amount of \$6,285.35 for the Village of Baraga CWSRF Wastewater System Improvements Project.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried.

Motion made by T. Olson seconded by T. Cerroni to approve Resolution 2026-04-14-03 for reimbursement and payment of funds in the amount of \$24,117.29 for the Village of Baraga CDBG WRI GRANT Wastewater System Improvements Project

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried.

The Police Report was given by I. Smith, Chief of Police. Nineteen complaints were received in the month of March. No arrests were made. Two hundred ninety property checks were completed.

L. LeClaire, Village Manager, gave the Manager Report. The DPW workers will be taking the S3 Water Exam on May 6, 2026. Derek Dault will also be taking the F3 Water Exam. The DNR Trust Fund Grant has been submitted and results should be received sometime in December 2026. L. LeClaire met with OHM in regards to a twenty-five site development for lots on the end of 5<sup>th</sup> St. by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Electric, water and sewer hookups were discussed. The DDA approved Portage Lake Construction's bid to pour cement for the full size basketball court at Capul Recreational Park. Their bid was the lowest bid at \$53,550.00. The DPW workers will do all of the preparation work for the court. JCS will paint the lines on the

new court and also paint lines on the Marilyn Ross half court. A fence will be placed on the new court. Total cost for those items will be \$12,555.00. L. LeClaire will be on vacation beginning May 3 and will be returning on May 12, 2026.

The DPW Report was given by L. LeClaire, Village Manager. Plowing was done. Safety training was done in Hancock for confined space, digging and trenching. OSHA training was also done in L'Anse. An early discharge request was done for the lagoons. AMI water module installations have begun and approximately seventy installations have been completed for the month.

The WPPI Scholarship of \$2,500.00 was awarded to Kaylynn Sullivan.

Motion made by J. Mayo seconded by T. Olson to pay the bills when the monies become available.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion carried

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by T. Olson to adjourn.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: S. Koski, P. Stark

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 P.M. on April 14, 2026.

Submitted by Diane Mayo, Village Clerk

