

BARAGA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2026

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
William Olsen, DPW Supervisor
Andrew Keranen, P.E., U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by T. Olson to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on April 14, 2026.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Old Business:

L. LeClaire, Village Manager, contacted Ottawa Forest Products concerning the former Besse Forest Products property. She questioned them if they still plan on putting a saw mill on the property. At this time, they no longer plan on doing so. However, they are in the talking stage with a business named Timber Laminations to utilize the property.

Public Comment: None

Members of the Baraga/Keweenaw Bay Hockey Association were present to discuss the Baraga Recreational Building. Paul Smith was representing the hockey association. He stated that they had completely re-organized the Baraga Hockey Board and would like to keep it operating in the future. L. LeClaire, Village Manager, stated there were a few problems that might make it difficult to do so. The Village has been paying the heat, water and electric. In 2024-2025, the bills were approximately \$27,197.18 and in 2025-2026 they were \$29,164.76. As the bills, escalate, it is getting harder for the Village to maintain them. Also, the rink would need compressors and flooring which was estimated at \$600,000.00 six years ago. Getting a new price on those items has not yet been obtained due to unavailability to find someone for an estimate, The Village of Baraga and Baraga Township have some money to help with it but it does not nearly cover the full amount needed. S. Johnson, Village Trustee, stated if the building is renovated it needs to be done in a manner that is of making it an all year round facility. P. Smith said they would be willing to help find funding for the building . The Village of Baraga will have a committee meet with the hockey association to discuss the matter further.

Andrew Keranen, U.P. Engineer & Architect was present to discuss the various projects in the Village and to have some resolutions approved.

Motion made by T. Cerroni seconded by S. Johnson to approve Resolution 2026-05-12-01 for reimbursement and payment of funds in the amount of \$14,711.05 for the Village of Baraga CDBG WRI GRANT Wastewater System Improvements Project

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Motion made by J. Westman seconded by T. Olson for the approval of Resolution 2026-05-12-02 for payment of funds in the amount of \$1,096.00 for the Village of Baraga Water System Improvements Phase 3.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried

Motion made J. Mayo by seconded by P. Stark to approve Resolution 2026-05-12-03 for reimbursement and payment of funds in the amount of \$5,028.28 for the Village of Baraga CWSRF Wastewater System Improvements Project.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Motion made by J. Westman seconded by T. Cerroni for the approval of Resolution 2026-05-12-04 which is a resolution to tentatively award a construction contract for the Village of Baraga CDBG WRI Grant Wastewater System Improvements Phase 2 to Payne and Dolan in the amount of \$1,257,707.50. The Resolution also authorizes the Village Manager as the designated representative to sign the necessary financial applications and contract documents required by MEDC CDBG throughout the project.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

The Police Report was given by L. LeClaire, Village Manager . Thirty-two complaints were received in the month of May. No arrests were made. Three hundred twenty property checks were completed.

L. LeClaire, Village Manager, gave the Manager Report. Brett Niemi, WPPI, and L. LeClaire met with the new General Manager, Garry Tollefson, at the Ojibwa Casino. They discussed with him all of the rebates available for the casino . He was very appreciative of the information. Trees were ordered for the Capul Recreational Park and will be planted by the DPW workers.

The DPW Report was given by L. LeClaire, Village Manager. The pre construction meeting for Phase 2 Sewer Project was held. The cemetery was cleaned and new flags were put up at the Veterans Park. The parks were opened and street cleaning was done. Brushing was done and pot holes were fixed. Work was done on the Lift Station Sewer Project. Part of the water plant roof was replaced. A bid is being waited on for the other part of the roof. A new hatch was installed at the water plant. Fifty water modules installations were completed.

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: 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 J. Westman to close Superior Ave on July 3, 2026 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

Absent: None

Motion carried

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

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

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried

Motion made by J. Mayo seconded by S. Johnson to adjourn.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 P.M. on May 12, 2026.

Submitted by Diane Mayo, Village Clerk