

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 25, 2008

President Abboud called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Roll Call.

Present

Robert G. Abboud, President
Fritz H. Gohl, Pro-Tem
Steven E. Knoop, Trustee
George L. Schueppert, Trustee
Walter E. Smithe, Trustee
Beth Mallen, Trustee
Elaine M. Ramesh, Trustee
Douglas Wambach, Village Attorney
Robert Kosin, Director of Administration
Michael N. Murphy, Police Chief
Dolores G. Trandel, Deputy Clerk
*Kathy Soeder, Village Clerk

Guests

Dan Strahan, Village Engineer
Benjamin LeCompte, resident
Gerald Hirsch, resident
Kathy Soeder, resident
Donna Hirsch, resident
Butch Borgmann, resident
Jason & Lori Elder, residents
Maureen Prettyman, resident
Nancy Schmidt, resident
Thomas Cafcas, Attorney
Bob Best, Attorney
Frank Cools, resident
Pamela Cools, resident
Dale Gilleland, resident

Trustee Smithe motioned to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and matters of personnel 6:39 p.m. Trustee Gohl seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 7 (Ramesh, Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Meeting Adjourned

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

President Abboud called the Public Session to order at 7:43 p.m..

MINUTES

Trustee Schueppert motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8, 2008 with certain corrections. Trustee Mallen seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

Trustee Schueppert motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2008 with certain corrections. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

Trustee Schueppert motioned to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 28, 2008. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Abboud opened a thirty-five minute session for public comments at 7:53 p.m.

President Abboud took this time to recommend the appointment of Kathy Soeder to Village Clerk. Ms. Soeder has lived in Barrington Hill for over six years and has contributed much time working with School Districts 220 and 300. Trustee Gohl asked if her work with the school districts would be in conflict with being Village Clerk. Attorney Wambach said no. Trustee Smithe motioned to appoint Kathy Soeder as Village Clerk. Trustee Gohl seconded the nomination. All present said Aye.

Motion Approved

*Deputy Clerk, Dolores Trandel, then swore in Kathleen M. Soeder as Village Clerk.

As there were no further remarks, the public comments session ended at 8:00 p.m.

FINANCE – Walter E. Smithe

Treasurer's Report – Trustee Smithe presented the Treasurer's report for the month of January, 2008. Trustee Smithe motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye..

Motion Approved

Police Pension Board Report – Trustee Smithe motioned to accept the financial report of the Police Pension Board through January, 2008 as presented. Trustee Schueppert seconded. All present said aye. Trustee Smithe will solicit information on a possible new accounting firm for the PPF work as the Board is not satisfied with information received from Lauterbach & Amen. He pointed out, however, that any decision on changing accountants for the PPF must be made by the Trustees of the PPF, not by the Village.

Motion Approved

Overtime Reports – Trustee Smithe motioned to approve \$10,890.57 in overtime expenses for January, 2008. The reasons for the overtime expenses were discussed. Trustee Schueppert seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 7 (Ramesh, Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Motion Approved

Presentation of Bills – Trustee Smithe motioned to approve the payment of the bills for the month of January to date of \$320,171.93. Trustee Schueppert seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 7 (Ramesh, Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Motion Approved

VK Audit Engagement Letter – Trustee Smithe requested additional funds to cover additional work. While the finance Committee was not in favor of overlooking an existing contractual agreement, they do recommend these funds be granted in order to maintain a favorable long-term relationship. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Ramesh, Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Abboud)
Nays: 1 (Gohl)
Absent: 0

Motion Approved

ROADS AND BRIDGES – Fritz Gohl

Monthly Report – Trustee Gohl indicated that the 2008 Road Program will include patching and/or resurfacing on Oak Knoll Road from Ridge to Old Hart and portions of Buckley Road and Cuba Road. Assuming it will be affordable, Dundee Lane will be added to the 2008 program so we can keep costs down for 2009. We have \$300,000 available in Motor Fuel Tax (MFT). Trustee Gohl stated that our Village Engineers will be checking the problematic water flow on River Road west of Haegers Bend. Spring Creek Road west of Bow Lane and East of Braeburn is in very bad shape and needs to be addressed. Pot holes will be assigned color codes, black being four plus inches and will be repaired first.

We have been having difficulties getting enough salt for our streets from Cuba Township. They have been spreading a salt and sand base mixture which they are using at this time. Cuba Township will be bringing out street sweepers to clear out most of the sand in order to prevent future drainage problems. Spring Creek at the sub-station may be in need of culvert work as ice chunks are causing problems.

Overweight restrictions will be looked at shortly and put into place after five consecutive days of temperatures over 32 degrees. It is possible the Village engineers may recommend the restrictions be put in place in the next several weeks in any event.

Trustee Gohl read a letter of praise from former Trustee Brian McManus, for the wonderful work we did in repaving Hills & Dales Road.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Fritz H. Gohl

Monthly Report – Trustee Gohl deferred to Chief Murphy who presented a Police Report on vehicle crashes in Barrington Hills in 2007. Most crashes by day of week proved to be Wednesday. June was the month of lowest crashes. Route 62 had the most crashes totaling 201. Other main routes were below 80 crashes. Chief Murphy also reported one identity theft in the month of January.

BUILDING AND ZONING – George L. Schueppert

Building Permit Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that three building permits had been issued during the month of January, 2008. They included permits for one pond, one addition and one site development.

ZBA Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that LeCompte’s appeal is still pending and deferred the appeal to next months meeting as the due to the lack of a quorum. ZBA did grant a variance of Gross Lot Area for a lot along Westfield Way.

Zoning Map 2008 Resolution 08-04 - Trustee Schueppert motion to approve the 2008 edition of the Village Zoning Map. Trustee Smith seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 7 (Ramesh, Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Resolution 08-04 Approved

Lake Otis Woods Special Use Permit - Trustee Schueppert moved to defer approving of this ordinance until an explanation can be secured as to why the builder did not get permission to remove trees on the property, including Heritage Trees, a violation of the Village Ordinance. Virtually all the trees on a heavily wooded property have been cut down. Trustee Smithe seconded. All present said Aye. President Abboud directed staff to investigate the matter and to issue a Stop-Work Order at the start of the work day tomorrow.

Permit Deferred

Hirsch Barn, 99 County Line Road - The Village will enforce the Home Occupation code. The ZBA needs to address septic requirements for barns with multiple stables. This will be addressed in Trustee Schueppert’s position paper regarding boarding of horses. Clarification is needed that Porta-Potties are not allowed as permanent solutions for barns. They may exist on site only during the construction phase.

PLANNING – Steven E. Knoop

Monthly Report – The Plan Commission adopted language on Canadian National Railway issue. President Abboud spoke of a letter of intent sent out to affected Villages along with our Resolution 08-03 OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE EJ&E WEST COMPANY BY THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CORPORATION. He said the Village is engaging the services of an experienced railroad executive to serve as a consultant to the Village. Our objections to the acquisition will likely be built around the economic impact on the communities currently being served by the EJ&E.

Trustee Knoop wants to update our Comprehensive Plan to include such references to Dark Sky, light pollution, landscape lighting and other conflicts with the character of the Village.

INSURANCE – George L. Schueppert

Monthly Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that new health care bills continue to be lower than expected, and the close-out costs of our remaining liabilities under the former Great West plan are substantially below their estimate. Trustee Schueppert will be working with the Village’s insurance broker to negotiate renewal of our liability insurance at the same level of coverage. American Appraisal has completed its report on the value of the Village’s assets, and this will soon be presented to the insurance carriers in order to get a quote for coverage from them.

IML Pension Resolution 08-05 - Trustee Schueppert motioned to approve the IML Pension Resolution. Trustee Fritz seconded. All present said Aye.

Resolution 08-05 Approved

HEALTH, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, ENVIRONMENT – Beth Mallen

Strategic Plan for Village Building – Trustee Mallen reported that modifications of the Lock-up area in the Police Department have been completed. We are still waiting for the Department of Corrections to do final inspection, but the facilities can be used in the meantime. We are also getting prices and plans to renovate the MacArthur room.

Mr. Kosin reported that there was no loss to our 911 system after a car crashed into a light pole and knocked out power to our entire building.

Communications Committee – Trustee Mallen reported that a new format for www.VBHcomm.info is being prepared with room for the Police Department to add items of interest for our residents.

ATTORNEY – Douglas Wambach

Attorney Wambach stated that matters of litigation had been addressed in Executive Session.

Issue of abandoned home at 9 Cross Timber was raised to the Board. Mr. Kosin is asking the Board for the authority to secure an order of demolition at the cost of the resident. President Abboud requested an engineering assessment of the facility to be completed. Trustee Smithe motion approval and Trustee Schueppert seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)
Nays: 1 (Ramesh)
Absent: 0

Motion Approved

ADMINISTRATION – Robert G. Abboud

Other committee appointments will be handled at next month's meeting.

Trustee Gohl motioned to adjourn the Public Session at 9:30 p.m. and return to a Second Executive Session. Trustee Mallen seconded. All present said Aye.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved _____

Minutes of the Second Public Session of February 25, 2008

President Abboud called the Second Public Session back to order at 10:10 p.m.

Appointments – President Abboud announced that Tom Roeser resigned his position on the Plan Commission. He then passed out a resume on George Gottlieb to the Trustees for their consideration as a replacement for Mr. Roeser. The Trustees wanted some time to review this resume and have Trustee Knoop speak to the candidate before giving their approval.

Trustee Schueppert requested that the Trustees charge the ZBA and the Equestrian Committee, under the direction of Trustees Schueppert and Mallen, with drafting a proposal that addresses the boarding of horses within the Village Ordinance. President Abboud has asked that he and Trustee Schueppert speak this month to discuss details and lay out a strategy for tackling these issues.

Trustee Knoop motioned to adjourn the Second Public Session at 10:25 p.m. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved _____