

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

Minutes of the Special Meeting December 15, 2008

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

Present

Robert G. Abboud, President
Fritz H. Gohl, Pro-Tem
Walter E. Smithe, Trustee
Steven E. Knoop, Trustee
George L. Schueppert, Trustee
Beth Mallen, Trustee (*departed at 9:38 p.m.*)
Douglas Wambach, Village Attorney
Robert Kosin, Director of Administration
Michael N. Murphy, Police Chief
Kathleen Soeder, Village Clerk

Absent

Elaine M. Ramesh, Trustee

Guests

Barry LeCompte, Resident
Pamela Cools, Resident
Tony Phillips, Verizon
Carolyn Springer, Resident
Bill Springer, Resident
Dan Strahan, Village Engineer
Sarah Kenney, Village Planning &
Zoning Coordinator

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

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Ramesh)

Meeting Adjourned

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

President Abboud called the Public Session to order at 7:56 p.m.

MINUTES

Trustee Gohl motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2008. Trustee Smithe seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

Trustee Gohl motioned to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of November 24, 2008 as amended by Trustee Smithe. Trustee Mallen seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Abboud opened a thirty-five minute session for public comments at 7:59 p.m.

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

FINANCE – Walter E. Smithe

Annual Levy Ordinance 08-17 – Trustee Smithe motioned to approve the 2008 Tax Levy and assessment of taxes. It was noted that the Village does not levy on tax rate unlike other taxing bodies. The primary increase over last year is the overall increase in the Consumer Price Index. Trustee Mallen seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Ramesh)

Ordinance 08-17 Approved

ROADS AND BRIDGES – Elaine M. Ramesh

Monthly Report – In Trustee Ramesh's absence, Village Engineer Dan Strahan delivered this month's report. The River Road drainage project has been completed. The Merri-Oaks drainage project has been delayed until Spring due to a relocation of a gas line. President Abboud asked that an assessment be made of any residents in the vicinity that might be without natural gas service so any desired additions might be made during the change.

It was reported that big ditches have been made by snow plows on Oak Knoll Road. Chief Murphy will contact Cuba Township to report problem.

Trustee Smithe asked that deep test holes on Merri-Oaks be backfilled for safety.

Trustee Ramesh and the Village Engineer are currently planning 2009 road work.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Fritz H. Gohl

Monthly Report – Trustee Gohl reported that the Police Department is receiving increasing numbers of reports of both credit card fraud and identity theft. He also offered congratulations to Chief Murphy and his team for quickly solving the most recent home invasion in the Village.

Purchase Authority Radio Resolution 08-24 - Trustee Gohl motioned to approve relocation of an antenna facility to a water tower in the Village of East Dundee. Doing so will improve radio coverage for our police force. Trustee Smithe seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Ramesh)

Resolution 08-24 Approved

BUILDING AND ZONING – George L. Schueppert

Building Permit Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that the number of building permits issued this year continues to be far below expectations. Only \$91,000 has been collected in permit fees this year versus a budget of \$300,000. Trustee Gohl confirmed that copies of both the Village’s Burning and Heritage Trees ordinances are given to those purchasing permits.

ZBA Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that this month’s special December 3rd ZBA meeting was a public hearing regarding proposed amendments of the Village’s zoning code, including the definition of agricultural use. Comments were received from residents and the ZBA is considering its own revisions. President Abboud asked for a copy of the proposed changes.

A special meeting to discuss the commercial boarding of horses will be scheduled in either January or February for a time when all members of the ZBA are present.

Hirsch Barn – Neighbors have expressed concern that construction and advertising at Deerwood Farm violate the Home Occupation ordinance as well as the restrictive covenant signed by the homeowner. The Building Department has advised that the construction equipment onsite is to be removed. The Village Attorney has determined that the advertising does not violate either the Home Occupation ordinance or the restrictive covenant. President Abboud asked that the ruling document be shared with the neighbors. A issue concerning outdoor lighting is still being pursued. Neighbors report that nothing has been removed from the property. They are frustrated that enforcement has not taken place. Trustee Mallen, Director of Administration Robert Kosin and the Building Officer will make a visit to the property and will report back at the December 22nd meeting.

Verizon Special Use Ordinance 08-18 – Trustee Schueppert motioned to grant a Special Use permit to Verizon for cellular antenna installation. Trustee Mallen seconded. A recommendation was made to the Verizon representative for a need to monitor and control traffic along Algonquin Road and to coordinate with the Police Department to ensure safety during the installation. It was also mentioned that the Village would like to negotiate the opportunity to gain Wi-Fi access. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Ramesh)

Ordinance 08-18 Approved

PLANNING – Steven E. Knoop

Monthly Report - Trustee Knoop reported that the Planning Commission hosted a meeting with the Village of Homer Glen to discuss their lighting ordinance. Homer Glen's ordinance will serve as the prototype for the Village's Dark Sky Ordinance.

IGA 2008 Proclamation – In conjunction with the International Year of Astronomy, Trustee Knoop motioned approval of a proclamation that the Village of Barrington Hills aspire to be an international dark sky community. Trustee Mallen seconded. Currently Flagstaff, AZ is the only designated dark sky community in the nation. This proclamation is to raise awareness concerning the national issue of losing our dark sky, and to help the ZBA take forth the Planning Commission's lighting recommendations. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

A press release will be sent to all major newspapers, television and radio stations and copies to the National Geographic Adler Planetarium and the Dark Sky Association.

INSURANCE – George L. Schueppert

Monthly Report – Trustee Schueppert reported that he renewed liability insurance packages at an amount less than last year, resulting in insurance expenditures \$15,000 under budget.

Commercial Insurance Renewal – Trustee Schueppert motioned approval to renew the commercial insurance policy on behalf of the Village. The limit for the Village's property insurance is slightly higher as we are now covering the police radio network. Trustee Gohl seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 6 (Mallen, Schueppert, Knoop, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Ramesh)

Motion Approved

HEALTH, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, ENVIRONMENT – Beth Mallen

Monthly Report – Trustee Mallen reported that articles for the next newsletter are due January 15th.

ATTORNEY – Douglas Wambach

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

ADMINISTRATION – Robert G. Abboud

Meeting Calendar 2009 – Trustee Schueppert motioned to approve the 2009 Annual Meeting calendar. Trustee Smithe seconded. All present said aye.

Motion Approved

Director of Administration Robert Kosin reported that beginning with the January, 2009 meeting, Trustee Board Meeting packet information will be offered in electronic fashion. Paper copies will still be available for those who are interested.

BACOG Legislative Platform – President Abboud reported that he leads the team responsible for setting the legislative platform. They are currently looking to address a couple of issues including streamlining the sales tax process and the application of sales tax to Internet Purchases.

Canadian National Railway (CNR) – Several key TRAC communities have left the group, including Mundelein and Frankfort, and have made individual deals with CN for noise prevention and crossing upgrades. An Operations and Mitigation meeting is to be scheduled with CNR leadership and the Village staff will review what options might be available after the sale, including soundproofing and barriers.

Trustee Smithe suggested that the Board consider at the next meeting the formation of a Delinquent and Deficient Property Committee.

Trustee Schueppert motioned to adjourn the Public Session at 9:42 p.m. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved _____