

VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

Minutes of the Special Meeting July 8, 2008

President Abboud called the Special Meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. Roll Call.

Present

Robert G. Abboud, President
Fritz H. Gohl, Pro-Tem
Walter E. Smithe, Trustee
George L. Schueppert, Trustee
Beth Mallen, Trustee
Elaine M. Ramesh, Trustee
Douglas Wambach, Village Attorney
Robert Kosin, Director of Administration
Kathleen Soeder, Village Clerk

Guests

None

Absent

Steven E. Knoop, Trustee

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

President Abboud provided background on the Canadian National (CN) railway issue. The Barrington area communities are working together to fight this issue. As the issue has progressed, other community organizations have formed. Recently all have merged to form The Regional Answer to Canadian National (TRAC) eliminating duplication of efforts. The team is pleased at how well the support team has come together. The latest event is that U.S. Congressman Peter Roskam's office has introduced a bill to designate the southern end of the E J & E for the STAR line allowing no additional freight traffic on that stretch of track. This would force CN to build additional rails, which would virtually kill the deal. The outcome of this legislation will be to help the team determine where the House is on rail legislation. TRAC needs money to move the legislation forward and to maintain publicity efforts on this issue.

The Village Board allocated \$15,000 back in January to allow the President to engage advisors in the fight against CN and that money has not yet been spent. We have not put any money into the Barrington organization, because we wanted control of how our money was spent. TRAC is asking all communities to contribute. The Executive Board of TRAC is made up of all communities that have crossings with high-volume traffic.

TRAC IGA Resolution 08-15 - Trustee Smithe motioned to approve the resolution authorizing and approving an intergovernmental agreement establishing The Regional Answer to Canadian National. Trustee Gohl seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 5 (Ramesh, Mallen, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (Knoop)
Abstain: 1 (Schueppert)

Resolution 08-15 Approved

Trustee Schueppert explained his decision to abstain from the vote because he believes the Village's position of killing the CN deal is too strong a stance. He believes other options should be explored and that more effort should have been made to engage CN leadership over the matter.

President Abboud explained that CN leadership has met with each community's leadership to discuss the issue. They are now returning for a second round with community leadership and we are expected to meet with them in the next 60 days. Karen Darch met with Hunter Harrison, the CEO of CN, last time as one of the Barrington area leaders and walked the tracks with him. Each community has reported the same message from CN leadership at each of the meetings – they have the law behind them on this merger and they expect the states to pick up the cost for the majority of any mitigation desired. There have been strong attempts to meet with CN leadership, including efforts made by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) because they are requesting more data to complete their analysis and evaluation. The STB is reporting that CN is not being cooperative in meeting their request for data.

Contribution – President Abboud recommended that the Board authorize \$15,000 as our Village contribution for joining the TRAC coalition. Barrington Hills has 6 ½ miles of CN track, so more than the minimum \$10,000 fee is expected from us. In addition, \$15,000 gives us a bit more voting power. President Abboud explained that our financial contribution did not need to be more than \$15,000 because we have been given credit by the coalition for contributions in leadership already made to the effort. Trustee Mallen asked if we shouldn't consider keeping our contribution at the lowest level of \$10,000 because of our own tight budget this year.

Trustee Smithe motioned to approve the \$15,000 previously allocated for engagement of a consultant to be reallocated to the TRAC IGA just approved. Trustee Gohl seconded. Roll Call.

Ayes: 5 (Ramesh, Schueppert, Smithe, Gohl, Abboud)
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (Knoop)
Abstain: 1 (Mallen)

Resolution 08-15 Approved

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Trustee Schueppert requested that a document be created and circulated to all of the Trustees with the names and communities of each TRAC member, as well as a list of the TRAC Executive Board members.

Trustee Schueppert motioned to adjourn the Public Session at 7:35 p.m. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved _____