

# VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

Minutes of the Special Meeting May 12, 2010

President Abboud called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll Call

## Present

Robert G. Abboud, President  
Fritz H. Gohl, President Pro Temp  
Walter E. Smithe, Trustee  
Steve Knoop, Trustee  
Beth Mallen, Trustee  
Elaine Ramesh, Trustee  
Doug Wambach, Village Attorney  
Michael N. Murphy, Police Chief  
Robert Kosin, Director of Administration

## Guests

Pat Taylor, resident  
Jonathan Knight, resident  
Karen Rosene, resident  
David Stieper, resident  
Darla Stieper, resident  
Bill Kennedy, resident  
Judy Stevens, resident  
Dennis Gallitano, resident  
Jim O'Donnell, resident

## Absent

Joseph S. Messer, Trustee

President Abboud opened the meeting and stated he would not be taking public comment tonight.

Appointments - President Abboud reported there are two positions on the ZBA Board whose terms are expiring: Judith Freeman and Byron Johnson. President Abboud is re-appointing Ms Freeman for another five year term. Trustee Smithe motioned to approve the appointment of Ms Freeman. Trustee Gohl seconded. All present said aye.

## **Motioned Approved**

President Abboud requested Mr. Johnson to continue his service until the end of the lighting issue. Mr. Johnson agreed. Trustee Mallen questioned if Mr. Johnson could stay in his position until the completion of the Commercial Boarding issue. That request will be considered.

## Public Safety – Fritz H. Gohl

Trustee Gohl reported on the allegations made by Ms Diane Wamberg regarding the missing signs from the intersection of Routes 62 and Lake Cook Road and the mailing labels used by the HUTPOC group.

Chief Murphy reported that two investigations have taken place. Investigation of the missing signs determined that IDOT had removed the signs from the roadway. Sgt. Dave Kahn notified Ms Wamberg that she could pick-up the signs from IDOT's Grayslake office. President Abboud added that Mr. O'Donnell will receive a response to his request, and that Attorney Wambach will send him a report.

Chief Murphy reported that Detective Kann spoke to the owner of the printing company who printed the HUTPOC flyer. The owner would not reveal the customer's name, but would contact the customer and ask him to call Detective Kann. On the topic of mailings lists, the printer informed Detective Kann mailing lists are available for sale on line and through his company.

See Police Report RD#10-3093. Village Administrator, Robert Kosin, spoke to the Village's printer who advised our mailing list is purged after it is used and never given or sold to anyone.

### Building and Zoning

President Abboud asked the Trustees to speak individually or as a group to the members of the ZBA before next Monday night's meeting on the proposed Lighting Ordinance. President Abboud acknowledged that this is an unusual issue and asked the Board if it had any advice or opinion to speed the process.

Trustee Knoop applauded the ZBA for its work on the Ordinance and its willingness to entertain all public comment. He noted the commissions and boards are valuable for their investigative work.

Trustee Smithe asked if the ZBA recommendation would be before the Board at the next meeting. Attorney Wambach said that first they would need to get the transcript. Trustee Smithe asked if it could be discussed at the June Board Meeting.

Chairman Knight responded that another special meeting could be called, as has been done with the Commercial Boarding issue. He noted that the public comment period for the proposed Lighting Ordinance has ended. He responded to Trustee Smithe's question by saying it would be difficult to complete the process by the June Board meeting, but that he would do his best.

Trustee Smithe suggested that if the Ordinance is not before the Board at the June meeting, the Board should kill it. Chairman Knight responded that that would set a dangerous precedent and would deprive the Village of a very effective process. Trustee Smithe explained that the Village needs to begin the healing process, and Chairman Knight responded that he had tried to explain the process, but that the arguments became politicized and resulted in disrespect for appointed officials. In his opinion, to demand removal would be irresponsible.

Trustee Ramesh opined that the Board cannot hurry the process and advised that the Board has no power to stop consideration. She said the ZBA had worked hard and that the survey shows a need for fine-tuning the language of the proposed Ordinance, which may take as many as five months to complete. Chairman Knight responded that he thought it would not take that long and that a stop motion would pre-empt the motion to the Board and would cater to one group of residents. Trustee Ramesh agreed and reminded the Board she had opposed sending the proposed Ordinance to the ZBA, and that now her opinion was independent of HALO.

Chairman Knight expressed his concern that residents do not understand the process and that many have shown such disrespect. Trustee Ramesh responded by saying she had suggested a welcome packet be developed and given to developers and residents so that they have an understanding of the community. Trustee Gohl said the packet had been developed and that he would bring it to the next meeting.

Trustee Mallen spoke directly to Dave Stieper, Chair of the Planning Commission, apologizing for giving the Commission a “tall order,” without much research. She additionally apologized for the comments directed to the Commission by fellow residents. Chairman Stieper responded by saying he agreed with Chairman Knight regarding protection of the process. Trustee Mallen applauded the commission’s decorum and said that one person’s liberty does not take over another’s liberty. She added that whether it’s bubbling fountains, horses kicking stalls, or excessive lighting, the residents need to get back to being good neighbors.

Trustee Gohl spoke to Chairman Knight and said he would like to see the resulting Ordinance address security and make suggestions for ornamental and or decorative lighting. He added that he thought the ZBA had done a superb job.

President Abboud offered perspective on the situation, noting the serious economic and unemployment issues faced by neighboring communities, such as Rockford. He noted that he votes last, and that he will look at security issues differently than ornamental lighting. He added that if the ZBA made text changes to the proposed Ordinance, he would entertain them. He also applauded the ZBA for their hard work on the Ordinance and said he appreciates their continuing to work on it and the continued availability of both Chairman Stieper and member Ken Bosworth. He offered additional resources, if needed, and requested that if the ZBA brought a report forward, that it separate security versus ornamental. He added that the only decorative lighting complaint received concerned the Park District’s rental house.

Chairman Knight agreed to continue the work of the ZBA and added that perhaps the Welcome Packet would improve the process. President Abboud offered that the transparency of the Village operation is often not understood by the residents, as they sometimes compare the municipality with Congress, which is not so transparent.

Chairman Stieper answered charges that the Plan Commission used Homer Glen as the blueprint for the ordinance. He said the original idea of the ordinance came from East Hampton, New York, not the Dark Sky designation or Homer Glen. The mission of the Commission was to preserve the rural countryside. President Abboud added that several communities had moved in this direction and that the state legislature had passed legislation asking municipalities to be mindful of the need for dark skies. Chairman Stieper noted that the process had been open to the public during drafting, and President Abboud agreed saying that is recorded in the March, 2009 minutes.

Trustee Gohl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p. m. Trustee Mallen seconded. All present said aye.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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**Approved**