Minutes of the Joint Meeting  
of the Executive Board of the Barrington Area Council of Governments  
and the South Barrington Village Board  
Thursday, January 12, 2012  
At the South Barrington Village Hall

The meeting of the South Barrington Board was in progress, and the BACOG Executive Board members joined the meeting. Chairperson Kathleen Leitner called the BACOG meeting to order at 8:31 pm. Present from BACOG were: K. Leitner – Tower Lakes; F. Munao – South Barrington; K. Darch – Barrington; G. Dawson – Barrington Township; R. Abboud – Barrington Hills; R. Kellerman – Deer Park; A. Pino – N. Barrington; D. Nelson – Cuba Township. Absent: Lake Barrington. Staff present: J. Agnoletti. Also present: Members of the South Barrington Board of Trustees, press, members of the audience.

Munao welcomed the BACOG Executive Board members to South Barrington and asked Leitner to talk about the purpose of the joint meeting. Leitner gave a summary of discussions and outcomes from the Policy and Long Range (P&LR) Committee meeting on December 13, 2012, and the Finance Committee meeting on January 5, 2012, where a majority of board members were present. She said the proposals developed by the committees that will be heard by the Executive Board at their meeting January 24th represent significant cost reductions and refocus the organization’s focus. They include: 1) budget will be reduced by 25%, from $246,000 to about $185,000, and South Barrington’s dues will be reduced 32%, to about $24,000; 2) major cuts that are proposed include moving the BACOG office to the Barrington Hills village hall with no rent, replacing the part-time GIS Analyst with a PT GIS technician/intern, elimination of the Barrington Area GIS program, and miscellaneous other line items; 3) the dues assessment policy will change to eliminate the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) component and it will be calculated on a base for every member with the balance shared equally by the six largest municipalities.

It was noted that the offer for space at no cost is subject to the Village of Barrington Hills approving this arrangement and the BACOG Board will not be able to formally approve the 2012-13 budget until the space arrangement is official and an agreement is in place. Leitner said starting the reduced budget in the new fiscal year would be best and we are already operating on a reduced spending plan in the current fiscal year. The three options discussed by the Finance Committee for assessing dues (A, B and C) were reviewed and explained and it was noted that it is option A that is being recommended by the Finance Committee, as described previously. Munao said though he would have liked to see a larger cut he believes this is a good compromise and this will be a trial year with space covered by Barrington Hills because we have to figure out what comes next. The BACOG board also will have to figure out their work priorities, and Leitner said that is exactly the plan for the next several months and to reach a consensus of the members.

There was a comment that legislators do not come to BACOG meetings enough, and members explained that the Legislative Committee meets with great regularity with legislators in their home offices on behalf of BACOG, in addition to legislators being scheduled once or twice a year at the board meetings; this schedule can be changed if that is a desired priority. Leitner talked about the work program and priorities of BACOG that has come from discussions at the P&LR Committee meetings. Focus will continue to include a monthly forum for members and protection of our Barrington area brand; groundwater supply, water quality and education; and some aspects of legislative work although this component needs to be refined; the work program will eliminate aspects of GIS/mapping/research and legislative work, and it will add emergency management and possibly other work elements as the board
determines. Dawson talked about the need to continue to host legislative events like the joint breakfast we have every year with LCML where we meet with legislators from all of Lake County as well as our local legislators from Cook, McHenry and Kane Counties, and it’s important for our BACOG officials to attend as well. He noted this year’s event will be February 4th at 8:45 am and invited SB trustees to go.

Munao talked about the organizational work program and the need to associate costs with each component. Nelson entered the meeting. Agnoletti said there are no costs for “program” except for staffing each component. Munao mentioned the groundwater attorneys group and costs, and Leitner said these attorneys are volunteers. Agnoletti said part of her job is to leverage resources such as the attorneys’ services who serve on the groundwater attorneys group, Dr. Kurt Thomsen’s services and the state water survey professionals’ expertise for the groundwater project, that this is how our major projects get accomplished without “program” money.

There was discussion on getting information about BACOG’s work to members who are not involved in committees. Munao suggested that trustees be assigned to BACOG committees and report to the village and township boards as to what occurs in committees, and that this should be on board agendas. Leitner welcomed more participation by South Barrington trustees and encouraged regular reporting from village and township committee members and alternates to the presidents and supervisors.

Munao suggested there be fewer reports by community groups to the BACOG board at regular meetings. He also said he needed more time to report on emergency management on a BACOG agenda. Leitner said the board could decide to limit public input on the agendas, but the basic structure of committees doing the work outside the board meetings and then reporting and asking for action from the board is fundamental. She said it would be very time-consuming to replace this structure with all work being done during the board meetings instead. Darch suggested having the committees could give a few presentations at board meetings for informational purposes in addition to mere reporting.

Leitner said the next step will be reporting and recommendations from the P&LR Committee and the Finance Committee at the January 24th board meeting to solidify these conversations. Pino said he would like to see mundane matters such as group insurance addressed as well as the higher level issues; there was agreement, and electricity aggregation and road salting/chlorides in the groundwater were also mentioned. Kellerman and Munao noted they would like to see issues more village-oriented. Nelson said he believes in regionalism and the taxpayers expect their officials to participate and support it as well.

Leitner asked the South Barrington board to consider rescinding the resolution to withdraw from BACOG. Munao presented three options to his board: 1) act on the resolution from the December 2011 meeting proposing to withdraw from BACOG; 2) defer the resolution to another date; or 3) remove the resolution from the table from any further action. South Barrington Trustee Joe Abbate moved (3) to remove the resolution from any further action, seconded by Trustee Steve Guranovich, and unanimously approved on a roll call vote by South Barrington village board.

The boards thanked each other for the joint meeting. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. with all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Agnoletti, Executive Director