

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE
BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Held in the Barrington Village Hall
November 22, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Karen Darch - Barrington; Paula McCombie - South Barrington; Martin McLaughlin - Barrington Hills; Amy Nykaza - Barrington Township; David Parro - Tower Lakes; Al Pino - North Barrington; Kevin Richardson - Lake Barrington

Members Absent: David Nelson - Cuba Township

Staff Present: Janet Agnoletti - Executive Director; Jenny Zales - BACOG

State Legislators Present: Representative David McSweeney; Representative Anna Moeller; Representative Ed Sullivan

Others Present: Joe Abbate - South Barrington; Tom Crosh - Citizens for Conservation; Al Stefan - Robinson Engineering

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pino at 7:04 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call attendance with all members present except for Barrington Hills.

DISCUSSION WITH INVITED STATE LEGISLATORS

Presentations

Representative David McSweeney (R-52, Barrington Hills)

McSweeney thanked retiring Representative Sullivan for his service and said he had been a leader in the Illinois General Assembly (IGA). He also thanked Rep. Moeller and praised the experience she brings to her role.

He reported that the IGA will meet next week and stressed that legislators should be working on a budget. He identified three specific areas where the lack of a budget is particularly problematic: Medicaid, pension reform, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Medicaid is the state's biggest expense and more federal funding is needed. Without a budget, the IGA can't act on Medicaid reform. Concerning pension reform McSweeney mentioned Senate President John Cullerton's bill which would allow government workers to choose between keeping the compounded 3% cost of living adjustments or continuing to count pay raises in calculating retirement benefits. He believes pension debt needs to be re-amortized and pension liability updated. On the topic of the ACA, McSweeney pointed out that in the absence of a budget, spending for this program has increased from approximately \$35 billion to over \$39 billion.

McSweeney commented that the current political environment in Springfield is not good and stressed that a tax increase should not be allowed during the upcoming "lame duck" session. He said that while this area has done a good job of holding the line he supports a statewide property tax freeze. He also supports term limits though there is no likelihood of passage. He concluded that the best approach is to work together, across the aisle.

Representative Anna Moeller (D-43, Elgin)

Representative Moeller pointed out that although Democrats lost their supermajority in the recent election, in the past the supermajority did not always function so she does not expect a drastic change. She believes that the checks and balances in a bipartisan government facilitate valuable discussion. She acknowledged that the budget gridlock is having a serious impact on universities and schools and has fueled uncertainty for local governments, but reported that she does not expect a cut to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), which would add pressure to increase property taxes, a scenario that she would never support.

Turning to the recently approved “[Safe Roads Amendment](#)”, Moeller believes there will now be more pressure on legislators to seek alternative sources of revenue to help balance the budget. Although forcing the state to be more fiscally responsible is important, the cuts to programs such as social services have already had a devastating impact on some of her constituents. She hears from her constituents that they support a balanced budget, but not the turnaround agenda.

Moeller concluded that she supports reforms, including workers’ compensation reform, but that it has to be done in a way that makes sense without hurting people. She noted that SB550 regarding lead in drinking water, an interest of BACOG’s, is currently in Environmental Committee.

McLaughlin entered the meeting at 7:30pm.

Representative Ed Sullivan (R-51, Mundelein)

Representative Sullivan stated that his immediate concern was the ComEd “[Future Energy Jobs](#)” bill which began with the goal for supporting the nuclear power industry in Illinois as well as alternative energy sources but now has many other provisions which on balance will increase residents’ utility costs.

He pointed out that the results of national elections will impact the state and that local communities may not be able to pick up the slack if there are changes to the programs such as the ACA and Medicaid. He feels that economic growth is critical and that major reform cannot take place all at once.

Concerning the possibility of a lame duck session of the IGA before January 11, 2017, Sullivan said the next two years will not be productive if the IGA next convenes for its regular session on that date. He also mentioned that if Governor Rauner allows a vote on [HB 6628](#), which would prohibit State departments from contracting with, and require Illinois to divest pension system funds from, any company that takes federal contracts to build a wall on the border of United States and Mexico, it will likely result in a very unproductive 2017.

Questions

Darch asked about whether an override of the Governor’s veto of [SB 2964](#) concerning prevailing wages may pass. Sullivan replied that he was confident that the House would not vote to override the amendatory veto.

Richardson asked at what point the lack of progress concerning the pending reality of insolvency and cuts to social services cuts will impact the state’s bond market by downgrading its credit rating. McSweeney replied that a downgrade is quite possible but that he does not support increasing taxes because lawmakers have not reduced spending. He continued that a tax increase would drive residents to leave the state.

Asked by Richardson whether there is a willingness to reform entitlements if it would mean more services, Moeller replied that she hasn't seen evidence that cutting services would necessarily lead to savings. He noted the need for quality education for the future of the state, and Moeller replied the state's regressive tax structure makes it difficult to solve problems on the state level. Sullivan pointed out that a decrease in the value of the state's debt is quantifiable, and that continued gridlock will downgrade the state's credit rating.

McCombie asked whether a pension bill passed in 2014 could allow fire districts to take funds from municipalities in the case of a pension funding shortfall. McSweeney said there was no mandate that requires some communities to have to fund others. Darch referred a 2010 pension reform law that created a Tier 2 benefit structure which contains an intercept for municipalities with municipal pension funds, allowing a pension board to direct the Comptroller to redirect municipal funds to pension funds. Discussion concerning the rules governing how the pension intercepts will work will continue in 2017. Darch suggested the implementation of this provision may need to be delayed through a 2017 bill.

In summary, Pino stressed the need for legislators to come together. He thanked the legislators for their participation in the meeting, and Sullivan in particular for his many years of service.

COMMUNITY REPORTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no community reports or public comment.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

On a motion by Darch and a second by McLaughlin the minutes of September 27, 2016 were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2016

On a motion by Parro and a second by Darch, the Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2016 were unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

On a motion by Parro and a second by Darch, the Member Notification per "Policy on Dues Payment Schedule" was unanimously approved.

Agnoletti reported that the BACOG treasurer will send members reminders before due dates and noted that BACOG's 2017-2018 fiscal year begins July 1, 2017.

WATER RESOURCES INITIATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORT

Programs

Agnoletti reported that during BACOG's Private Well Water Testing on October 5, 2016, of the 270 test kits that were purchased, 246 were returned for testing. This year, 13 percent tested positive for bacteria which is at the high end of normal. She stressed that these results indicated the importance of testing annually.

Concerning data on new and repeating households' water testing, Agnoletti referred to a summary report which shows that while repeat testing is increasing, new testing has declined somewhat. She is working with the BACOG Water Resources Committee to develop ways to encourage first-time testers to participate in the program.

Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWP)

McCombie, the BACOG representative to the NWP, summarized a recent meeting of the NWP during which more evidence was discussed that aquifers are in trouble. Participants also discussed the State bill regarding lead testing in schools.

Pino asked Agnoletti if there will be information from Lake County on the alternative to septic systems called bio-barrier technology, and she replied that this is scheduled for the January board meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

McLaughlin reported there was no meeting.

POLICY AND LONG RANGE COMMITTEE REPORT

McCombie reported there was no meeting.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Darch commented that the Legislative Breakfast held October 6, 2016 was well attended and urged the group to add to their calendars the Legislative Breakfast to be held on February 11, 2017. She reviewed discussion from BACOG's Legislative Committee, highlighting that [SB 2964](#) concerning prevailing wages may not pass and that negotiations will continue on [SB 550](#), which mandates water testing for lead in pre and elementary schools. Agnoletti said the BACOG office sent letters of opposition on these bills.

APPROVAL OF 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Darch reported that the Legislative Committee recommends the BACOG's 2017 Legislative Platform and also recommends that each member bring the recommended platform to their boards for consideration. On a motion by Darch to accept the recommended Platform and refer it to village and township boards for their consideration and comment, and a second by McLaughlin, the motion was unanimously approved. Agnoletti asked members to schedule this item with their boards before January 24th, when the BACOG Board will be asked to approve the Platform.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Agnoletti reported on the October 14, 2016 Tabletop Exercise which brought together around 50 participants. Agnoletti asked for feedback, and all were pleased with the exercise.

Agnoletti told the group that she had requested from the Lake County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) their facilitation of an exercise using the same RR disaster scenario and manual using only VEOCI software to communicate with each other from different rooms, and Mike Dacey who participated in the October exercise agreed. She asked the Board for input on whether to proceed and when. The Board agreed with the suggestion and Darch offered that the event could be held in the Barrington Village Hall; there was consensus to try to schedule it on a Saturday morning or late Friday afternoon during the winter.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #16-07 AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH COOK COUNTY TO ACQUIRE GIS DATA

On a motion by Darch and a second by Parro, the resolution was unanimously approved.

TAX QUESTION - ATTORNEY OPINION LETTER

Agnoletti reported that BACOG had sought further legal opinion at the request of the Policy and Long-range Committee concerning the legal and tax classification of BACOG. Agnoletti confirmed that BACOG is not an incorporated entity with the State of Illinois. It was agreed that BACOG should continue to research the matter. Agnoletti noted there will be substantial costs to pursuing further research from attorneys or tax professionals. She said there are significant reporting requirements for 501(c) incorporated organizations. Richardson offered to obtain an opinion from a colleague who is a tax professional. On a motion by McLaughlin and a second by Pino, the motion to refer the remaining questions to Richardson's colleague was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agnoletti highlighted some of BACOG's recent activity including the annual member dinner, the administrators' roundtable on 10/17/16, the lead testing by residents with Lake County labs, and her meeting with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scheduled for December 14th regarding extension of the monitoring wells contract and the drop in the Cuba Township monitoring well water level. She presented to the Illinois Groundwater Association on October 15th, reviewing all of BACOG's groundwater programs to a good reception. She has scheduled a meeting of the Groundwater Directions Group (Darch, McCombie) for December 8th.

Agnoletti also reported that at the invitation of Citizens for Conservation (CFC) she and CFC board members had met with Congressman Peter Roskam on November 21st about environmental and groundwater issues including the need for long-term funding for monitoring. She commended Jenny Zales for her work on the dinner and legislation to date and reported that BACOG is in the process of reaching out to contact current sponsors and potential 2017 sponsors. McLaughlin asked if the 2016 sponsors had found the program beneficial and posed the question to Al Stefan in the audience who replied that it had been valuable to his firm.

PRESIDENTS' AND SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Barrington Hills

McLaughlin expressed thanks to the Board for their efforts.

South Barrington

McCombie reported on the opening of the ice skating rink at the Arboretum of South Barrington and stated that the Village of South Barrington had incorporated four properties into the Village, protecting their borders.

Barrington Township

Nykaza mentioned that Barrington Township had repaved a parking lot without using coal tar.

Barrington

Darch reported that the advisory referendum question about whether public funds should be used for a proposed project creating an underpass under the railroad tracks by Lake Zurich road and/or to alter traffic patterns shifting traffic from Lake Zurich road to the stop light at Barry Road was approved. She noted that the Village will light its Christmas tree on December 3, 2016.

Tower Lakes

Parro reported that the Tower Lakes 2nd annual Turkey Trot would take place this weekend raising money for bullet proof vests for police officers. He also reported that the Village received a construction permit

for a water project from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and is in process of bidding for a rain garden project. Finally, he discussed that the Village Plan Commission is investigating regulation of short-term rentals and asked other Board members if they have experience in that area. Darch said Barrington allows one-month rentals because of existing corporate rentals.

Lake Barrington

Richardson stated that attendance at the 10th annual barn stomp was down, perhaps because it coincided with the World Series. Lake Barrington is updating its comprehensive plan which should be finalized by the beginning of 2017. He expressed appreciation for the investment Canlan has made to its facility and the businesses coming into the community. The Village is considering combining its Plan Commission and its Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and looking into consolidating the park district into the Village.

North Barrington

Pino reported that North Barrington will hold its Winter Fest on December 10, 2016 and that there has been discussion about consolidating its Environmental Commission and its Health Commission. He concluded with a brief update on several traffic improvements and said the road program is done.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nykaza and a second by McLaughlin the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenny Zales