MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE  
BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Held in the North Barrington Village Hall  
March 21, 2017

Members Present: Karen Darch - Barrington; Paula McCombie - South Barrington; Chris Mitchell - Lake Barrington (Alternate); Amy Nykaza - Barrington Township; David Parro - Tower Lakes; Al Pino - North Barrington

Members Absent: Martin McLaughlin - Barrington Hills; David Nelson - Cuba Township

Staff Present: Janet Agnoletti - Executive Director; Jenn Zales - Program Coordinator

Others Present: State Senator Tom Rooney (R-27 Palatine); Al Stefan - Robinson Engineering; Meredith Tucker - Citizens for Conservation

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pino at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call attendance with all members present except McLaughlin and Nelson.

DISCUSSION WITH INVITED LEGISLATOR

State Senator Tom Rooney  
Rooney thanked the Board for inviting him to speak, and the BACOG delegation for meeting with him in Springfield. He offered to discuss any topics of interest, and acknowledged that he is often asked about the state budget. He reported that while there is agreement on the need for a budget, few are willing to compromise. Supported by his experience as a mayor, he emphasized his commitment to local government authority and stressed that there are no current threats to reduce the Local Government Distribution Fund (LGDF).

In response to Pino’s question about how bills, such as SB 1451, seem to reemerge in subsequent legislative sessions, Rooney said that a bill is almost never “dead” – at the beginning of each new session, bills may be introduced that are nearly identical to bills from previous sessions. He explained that while technically a bill must pass through committee, every session there are approximately 10-12 “shell” bills that pass out of committee as shells, to which language is added on significant topics afterwards. Typically, both parties have control over a number of shell bills they can make available to their members. He said he is opposed to the small cell facilities bill as currently written.

Rooney expressed support for the state-wide ban on coal, HB 2958, and responding to Darch’s question about the status of pension consolidation, he said that he has a bill on this issue stuck in the Assignments Committee, which is the Senate’s equivalent to the House Rules Committee. He reported that there is significant opposition to the idea of pension consolidation, such as from pension managers.

Concerning a property tax freeze, he pointed out that there are different interpretations of who would be included, i.e., schools or all taxing bodies, and said that the agreement around a two year freeze with exemptions for bonds and interest payments has dissolved and now there are two general proposals: 1) a five year property tax freeze with a raise in income taxes or 2) maintaining income tax rates and instituting a two year freeze after which every municipality unwilling to extend the freeze for three more years must hold a referendum to extend it. He does not favor either, because the real problem is out of control spending.

Responding to a question from Pino about whether workers’ compensation is included in the Senate’s
“grand bargain” set of bills, Rooney explained that of the 13 bills, only five really mattered to the business community. Of the three that were agreed upon, the Democrats removed two. Left with only one of these bills, Governor Rauner withdrew his support. Pino asked if “causation” remains in the workers compensation bills, to which Rooney replied that there seems to be some agreement about including the notation of “aggravated injury”.

COMMUNITY REPORTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Stefan - Robinson Engineering
Stefan reported that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) as the MPO is expected to change how it allocates funding for surface roads, by stopping sub-allocations and determining funding based on need. He distributed a CMAP report on the status of its local surface transportation program and explained that the planned change may hurt suburban communities. Stefan agreed to Pino’s request to provide the Board with updates.

Meredith Tucker – Citizens for Conservation
Tucker detailed that milkweed is essential to monarch butterflies because monarch larvae only eat milkweed and monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed. She urged the Board to spread the word to residents about the importance of protecting and planting native milkweed. In response to several questions from Parro, Tucker said that milkweed is not a major allergen because most native varieties have a heavy, sticky pollen that does not become wind-borne. She also confirmed that monarchs are not endangered, but that their migrations have been decreasing over time. She will provide a short article for member newsletters and websites on allergen issue.

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2017
On a motion by McCombie and a second by Parro, the minutes of February 28, 2017 were unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORTS FOR MARCH 2017
On a motion by Darch and a second by Nykaza, the Treasurer’s Reports for March 2017 were unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Pino, on behalf of Chairman McLaughlin, reported that the Finance Committee has recommended an annual review for BACOG rather than an audit, a savings of $600. The Committee also will bring a recommendation for the firm to provide the review, having received two estimates for conducting a review (with a low cost of $1,950); these issues will be discussed at the April Board meeting. He also reported that the committee has authorized Agnoletti and the legal services necessary to research incorporation and federal nonprofit status. She will present her findings to the Policy and Long-Term Planning Committee at the March meeting.

POLICY AND LONG RANGE COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairwoman McCombie noted that the committee’s next meeting is on March 28 at 5:30pm in South Barrington.
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
Agnoletti told the group that a detailed report on the March Lobby Days will be distributed, and she reported that the BACOG delegation stressed to legislators opposition to SB 1451 as written. Pino suggested BACOG form a committee to determine whether the bill can be modified so that the placement of small wireless facilities generates reasonable revenue for municipalities. Darch replied that the Illinois Municipal League (IML) is working to negotiate an outcome favorable to municipalities and, in response to a question from Parro, said that BACOG members should pass the model ordinance developed by the IML. Darch said she had no further report on statewide issues in light of Senator Rooney’s report.

Concluding that the placement of these facilities was likely inevitable, Pino stressed that it is important to focus not on opposing the bill, but on fixing it. Consensus was reached that BACOG will write letters on behalf of all members, expressing its opinion on the issue to area legislators, members of relevant legislative committees and the IML.

Agnoletti asked for feedback on a request by Governor Rauner’s office for BACOG to hold a town hall meeting for the governor. The majority consensus was that if BACOG organizes the meeting, it should take place over the summer, and the best month would be June.

WATER RESOURCES INITIATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORT
Zales reported that BACOG was holding a Level 2 water testing event at the beginning of April in conjunction with the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) Public Service Lab. Beginning this year, BACOG will collect a $15 administrative fee to offset staff time and shipping costs.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT
Agnoletti discussed the emergency management training to take place on April 19 and April 25. She emphasized the importance of members’ emergency management staff to get involved and reported from Lake County that participants should include no more than one elected official, one emergency management coordinator, one representative from both fire and police staff, and one other person. Mike Dacey at Lake County had not heard back from BACOG contacts he had emailed about the April 25th exercise, and Agnoletti will request his email list in hopes of resolving the problem.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Agnoletti reminded the group that the next Lobby Day is on April 26 and that those who want to participate should let her know as soon as possible. Pino urged members to send a representative to at least one lobbying event per year.

Agnoletti also reported that BACOG is reaching out to approximately 100 owners of business parking lots in the Barrington area to educate them on alternatives to coal tar and other high PAH sealants. She is facilitating the scheduling of Skype-with-a-Scientist sessions between the Illinois State Water and Geological Surveys and Barrington 220 students as part of BACOG’s on-going groundwater video and education program.

Discussion moved to the topic of the proposed Plum Farms development in Hoffman Estates along its border with South Barrington and Agnoletti asked for feedback about the role BACOG might take. There was discussion but no clear consensus. Agnoletti said she will work with the school district and the most affected members.
PRESIDENTS’ AND SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS

Lake Barrington
Mitchell had nothing to report.

Barrington Township
Nykaza had nothing to report.

Barrington
Darch commended Village of Barrington staff on its response to the spill of methylene diphenyl diisocyanate on Northwest Highway and reported that the Village had its highest sales tax revenue ever in 2016.

North Barrington
Pino had nothing to report.

South Barrington
McCombie reported that the Village is redoing its comprehensive plan and that two restaurants will open in the Arboretum.

Tower Lakes
Parro had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT
On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Darch the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenny Zales