

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE
BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HELD AT DEER PARK VEHE BARN**

March 20, 2024

Members Present: D. Robert Alberding - Barrington Township; Karen Darch - Barrington; Brian Cecola – Barrington Hills; Greg Rusteberg– Deer Park; Peter Schallmoser – Lake Barrington; Joe Abbate – South Barrington; Andy Hay – Tower Lakes

Staff Present: Kimberly Saunders – Executive Director; Mary Tarpey – Board Secretary

Not Present: Paula McCombie – South Barrington

Others Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Cecola at 7:10 pm. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2024

On a motion by Hay and a second by Rusteberg, the February 27, 2024, Minutes were unanimously approved by all members present on a roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2024 TRESURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Hay and a second by Rusteberg, the March 2024 Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved by all members present on a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Connectivity Committee: Rusteberg reported that Lake County is going to resurface Cuba Road. He will meet with Cuba Township and find opportunities within the County five-year plan to work together to achieve mutually beneficial connectivity goals. Saunders noted the preliminary list of priority projects compiled by the BACOG Connectivity Committee and reported that the Members will review Lake and Cook County 5-year plans at the next meeting for potential overlap and opportunities for construction and funding. These may also include alternatives to hard sidewalks to create small links to connect small parts of a bigger network.

Legislative Committee: Darch reported that the Legislative Committee met before this meeting. The Committee discussed the Governor’s proposed elimination of the grocery sales tax, the Paid Leave for All Act, and restoring LGDF. Saunders filed Witness Slips in legislative committee hearings in accordance with BACOG’s adopted legislative priorities.

Northwest Water Planning Alliance: There was no meeting this month, so there is no report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS & MEMBER REPORTS

Deer Park: Rusteberg reported that the referendum to maintain Deer Park's 8% sales tax (up from 7.5%) passed. Deer Park had a 49% increase in voter turnout. The Village is planning several changes in Charles E. Brown Park including removing one of the two tennis courts, adding 4 pickleball courts, among other updates to the park. The Village recently hosted "Bunny Bingo" for 200 residents.

South Barrington: Abbate reported that the South Barrington Village Hall is still repairing damage from last month's storms and tornados. There was also heavy damage to a few of the Police squad cars.

Tower Lakes: Hay reported that the new Village Hall architectural plans are out for bid. The Village hopes to hear back from potential architects by April 8, followed by engaging a general contractor for the project.

Lake Barrington: Schallmoser reported that the Village has been quiet since the fall Barn Stomp.

Barrington: Darch reported that the Village recently started the tree removal on Route 14 in preparation for the coming underpass project and will continue until March 31. Jewel Park residents continue to oppose this process. Following the tragic loss of BHS student Marin Lacson, Metra has been out to Barrington schools to educate students and teachers about train safety. There has also been a safety education session held at the White House. Efforts continue to work with the agencies with jurisdiction over each rail crossing in the Village to ensure appropriate safety barriers are in place. Police Chief Dorn's last day is March 29. There will be an open house held in his honor. The Village has hired a new Police Chief. Darch will attend a Safety Conference in Dallas that will focus on Hazmat response following a railroad hazardous material spill.

Barrington Township: Alberding reported the Township is in the process of putting together bid packets for drainage repairs with the funds from the Invest in Cook \$300,000 grant. A substantial portion of these funds will be used to address spring flooding in the "double saucer" in the College Streets, and they hope it will correct 85% of the problem. The Township is helping people with their property tax exemptions and notifications. The Barrington Township Annual Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00p.m.

Barrington Hills: Cecola reported that the Barrington Hills Village Police Chief is retiring on July 15. The Village has hired a firm to search for his replacement. A 1979 Barrington Hills murder victim was recently identified using new technology of DNA evidence.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Saunders reported that there is an area of 38 acres surrounding Hawthorn Woods that may have 20 ft. high ground mounted solar panels installed as part of a commercial solar operation. Although this is not within the BACOG boundary, it is in Rep. Syed's district. Hawthorn Woods and Rep. Syed are opposed to the solar development. Saunders would like to reach out on behalf

of BACOG to support their efforts in stopping this development. BACOG members briefly discussed their own municipalities' opposition to ground mounted solar panels and agreed to support Hawthorn Woods in their efforts to oppose the ground mounted solar panels.

Saunders reviewed some topics for an Emergency Tabletop training: cyber security attacks; opioid overdose, train derailment, electric grid attacks. Saunders will continue to work with Advocate Good Shepard emergency response educators to prepare for a 2024 tabletop exercise.

The 2024 Business Partners Program has secured \$4,000 to date with an additional \$2,000 expected to come in.

Members discussed the Biennial BACOG Dinner scheduled for this fall, in October. The likely date will be October 22. Presenting the Don Klein Award will be a focal point. Staff will investigate event locations in South Barrington and Barrington. Cecola mentioned a possible sponsor for the event. Don Klein Award details and call for nominations will begin in summer 2024.

Both Saunders and Tarpey will be out of the office March 22 – 28 for Spring Break.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Alberding and second by Darch, the meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:25pm. The April 23 Executive Board meeting will be held at Barrington Hills Village Hall.

Submitted by:
Mary Tarpey, Secretary