

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH BARRINGTON  
Tuesday, August 19, 2014 7:00 p.m.  
South Barrington Village Hall 30 S. Barrington Road South Barrington, IL

**CALL TO ORDER**

President McCombie called the special Board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Clerk Wood took roll:

Present: President: Paula McCombie

Trustees: Joseph Abbate, Therese Cohen, Steve Guranovich, Bernard Kerman,  
Louis Matuska, Anthony Stagno

A quorum was present. Also present were Village Administrator Bob Palmer, Village Building Officer Ray Wolfel and Village Attorney Donald Storino.

President McCombie welcomed the audience to the new meeting hall. Bill Rose donated \$400,000 for expansion of the old Village Hall and the Village now has this fabulous meeting place in Rose Hall. President McCombie said how very fortunate the Village was to receive Mr. Rose's donation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President McCombie asked if there were comments or questions on any issues other than the Sunset Ridge dam, which was the second agenda item. There were none.

**ORDINANCE O-2014-1029 Ordinance of the Village of South Barrington, Cook County, Illinois to Waive Bid and Accept Proposal of Pir Tano Construction Company, Inc. for the Emergency Repair of Tennis Club Drive in the Village of South Barrington, Cook County, Illinois**

**MOTION to WAIVE BID AND ACCEPT PROPOSAL FROM PIR TANO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR OF TENNIS CLUB DRIVE** was made by Trustee Abbate.

**SECONDED** by Trustee Cohen.

There was no further discussion. Roll call was taken:

**AYES:** Abbate, Cohen, Guranovich, Kerman, Matuska, Stagno

**NAYS:** (None)

**ABSTAIN:** (None)

**ABSENT:** (None)

Motion carried.

**SUNSET RIDGE FARMS DAM/WEIR**

President McCombie asked Attorney Storino to recap his comments from last Thursday's Board meeting, as the majority of tonight's audience was not then present. Attorney Storino stated that in his opinion, the pipe and weir at the covered bridge are within the right-of-way, and hence a Village responsibility. In fact, the Village has already assumed the task to repair the dam/weir, and has tasked the Village Engineers to figure the needed repairs as soon as possible.

Resident Laura Wooten interrupted to ask Attorney Storino to also include the canopy in his opinion of what the Village must repair. Attorney Storino replied that the canopy is in the right-of-way, and therefore Village responsibility, however it is not part of the infrastructure of the road. It is an architectural structure that the Village could choose to either fix or take down.

President McCombie invited the audience to address the Board, and to sign in as they spoke. (After each speaker, she thanked them for sharing their concerns, and asked if anyone else wanted to question or comment to the Board.)

Paul McClelland, resident for 18 years, noted that he had spoken at last Thursday's Board meeting, and said that he wanted to clarify that he is not here to blame anyone. He stated that he was present tonight to get the dam/weir fixed, and not to talk about the bridge canopy. He described the repairs he and resident Harry Swenson had seen done earlier today, which has greatly diminished the water loss. He thanked the Board for acting quickly to help with this stopgap, and asked them to continue the repair with one of the engineer's plans. President McCombie reported that the engineers met this afternoon and are now looking at a fifth option for repair.

Harry Swenson, resident, said that he agreed with Mr. McClelland's comments. He thanked the Board for finally doing something. Mr. Swenson briefly described a plan he devised to fix the problem, and offered the Board a detailed drawing of the potential solution, offering to help with any questions about it.

Allen Frank, resident, said it seemed to be a simple project and it needed to be repaired soon before the fall rains. He asked for a time estimate for completion. President McCombie replied that if the area could be dried, the repair could be finished as soon as next week. Mr. Frank asked if the Village could continue to get bids on the other options for fixing the weir, and the Board said they are. President McCombie assured the audience that the Board is very serious about fixing the dam.

Laura Wooten, resident, asked about the timeline and why there were different time limit estimates. Building Officer Wolfel explained that if repairing something already there, the Village can do the work and then the paperwork. If new work is planned, the Village must permit it before starting the work.

Dennis Ichimoto, resident, mentioned the previous repair done on the pipe and asked why that former contractor is not fixing his work? Also what would be done to ensure the problem does not happen again in the future? President McCombie replied that the current problem is not part of the previous repair. Building Officer Wolfel explained that what is failing now is fifty years old. He added that the repair that was done under the road will probably last another 30-40 years.

Deborah Ellis, resident, stated that when the water overflows the road, it washes away their driveway. Building Officer Wolfel said that he has looked at that particular problem in the past and that it is a culvert problem that the resident did not want to fix. He said their private driveway is not in the public right-of-way. Ms. Ellis said that she was told their driveway was part of the bridge system. Attorney Storino stated that if it is a private driveway, the Village cannot take responsibility for it. Ms. Ellis said that the bridge was designed to overflow into their drive.

Bernie Rosenthal, resident, asked to change direction for a moment and thanked the Board for the new recycling carts. She said that the discussion has sounded like people think that the Village built the bridge; she thought that Bill Rose built it. It was clarified that Bill Rose's

company did build the bridge. Ms. Rosenthal explained how Homeowner Associations are typically formed in a subdivision development, but that a HOA was never done in Sunset Ridge.

Greg Ellis, resident, said he recently talked to a worker down at the bridge who was there about dismantling it; he asked if the Village was planning to do so? It was determined that the worker was someone whom resident Mr. McClelland had contacted and asked to give a quote to take down the canopy. Mr. McClelland stated that if it turned out that the Sunset Ridge residents owned the weir and the bridge, and most people were in agreement that they did not want to pay for insurance and maintenance, he was doing the homework to find out the costs. In response to the question if the Village plans to dismantle the bridge, President McCombie said that there are no such plans presently, and Trustee Abbate added that it would depend on the overall cost of maintenance. President McCombie suggested that if it ever came to that point, the Village could hold a referendum to see if they want to spend tax dollars to keep the covered bridge, there could be a special taxing area for residents, there could be fundraisers, etc.

Mr. McClelland said that he was just doing homework by asking for an estimate for demolition, that he did not know anyone in favor of taking the covered roof down.

Discussion briefly ensued on whether the lake was low from leaks in the weir or if there was a larger problem with the source upstream, such as the beaver problem of the past. Building Officer Wolfel stated that there were no known problems elsewhere. President McCombie asked to have the Village Engineer look into the possibility.

Ken More, resident, expressed confidence that the Village would find an appropriate solution. He asked if there were any proposals to assess Sunset Ridge for the work done, adding that he did not think that would be appropriate. President McCombie stated that the repairs to the weir would be on Village expenses, not on Sunset Ridge residents - other than their property taxes, as with those of all residents, going into Village funds.

Kevin McCarthy, resident, asked for clarification if the Board had officially accepted the Village Attorneys' opinion, as it is the Board making the decisions. President McCombie stated that yes, the Village is definitely accepting the responsibility for the weir.

Laura Wooten, resident, asked that the next Board meeting have an ordinance saying that the Village takes responsibility for and ownership of the weir. Attorney Storino said that there is no ordinance to accept a public road, but that he would put his opinion in writing. Building Officer Wolfel pointed out that the key point of the Attorneys' opinion is that the weir is within the public right-of-way and therefore Village responsibility; not all weirs in the Village are on public property.

Trustee Matuska stated that other subdivisions also have lake issues such as weeds, diminishing fish levels, etc. Those problems are handled by the homeowner associations, not the municipality. Sunset Ridge's situation is unique to not have a HOA, but that does not mean such lake issues would be Village responsibility.

Tricia Saile, resident, requested some minor repairs to the bridge to replace some boards and a missing stair. President McCombie said she will have the matter looked into.

President McCombie asked if there were any more comments or questions. As there were none, she stated that the Board hopes the new plan will be a workable solution and that the fix would be done by next week. She invited the audience to feel free to contact herself or any of the Trustees.

Mike Sronkoski, resident, asked if the bridge had any historical status. President McCombie said that she did not know of any, but that resident Laura Wooten had mentioned it in a letter she had written.

Laura Wooten, resident, said that when she applies for historical status for the covered bridge, it would halt any demolition plans but not repairs. She listed other problems at the bridge such as slanting posts, rust, etc. She gave her address to the audience for anyone who would like to join her in petitioning for landmark status for the bridge. She said that Mr. Swenson and Mr. McClelland had been making repairs to the bridge that future grants for a historical site may take care of.

Harry Swenson, resident, asked the large audience of neighbors to please refrain from throwing branches in the lake, as they do cause problems.

Paul McClelland, resident, announced that Sunset Ridge has never had a homeowners association, and that from what he gathers from neighbors, he expects they never will have a HOA.

Trustee Abbate noted that a HOA is a great tool to get issues together and have them resolved, and that having an HOA may have saved them a lot of time with this problem.

Laura Wooten, resident, said that they will address the issues at the Village Board meetings and through Village staff because residents should be able to call the Village and get information, etc.

President McCombie said that the Village is trying to attend to their needs, but that it is often easier with a HOA when the issues are for the neighborhood rather than an individual. Building Officer Wolfel commented that Sunset Ridge is the only subdivision without a HOA, and that he works with HOA presidents on a daily basis, as they have the voice to speak for their subdivision.

Billie Miller, resident, spoke to the assembled audience about the Sunset Ridge beautification group.

Erin Ding, resident, thanked the Board for paying for the repairs on the dam. She asked about the house next door to them, where a giant tree has fallen and been left there. President McCombie asked Building Officer Wolfel to look into the matter tomorrow.

President McCombie asked for any additional citizen comments; there were none. She asked the Board if they had any additional comments.

Trustee Kerman thanked the audience for attending. He noted that the Board has several new Trustees and a new Mayor, and that he hoped the audience does sense that the Board is working to fix the problem.

President McCombie thanked the audience for attending and invited the residents to call if they thought of additional questions or comments. She also invited them to attend more Village Board and Committee meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** was made by Trustee Cohen.

**SECONDED** by Trustee Stagno.

There was no further discussion.

By unanimous voice vote, the motion carried; the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m., and the audience applauded.

These minutes were approved this  
\_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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Donna Wood, Village Clerk