

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD JUNE 4, 2014**

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake Barrington was held at the Village Municipal Center, 23860 Old Barrington Road, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 and was called to order at approximately 6:04 pm. Village Clerk Peterson was appointed Recording Secretary.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The following Trustees were physically present at said location:
Trustees Burke, Daulton Lange, Mitchell, Raclaw, Schaller, Schofield, and President Richardson.

The following Trustees were allowed by a majority of the members of the President and Board of Trustees in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the President and Board of Trustees to attend the meeting by video or audio conference: None

No Trustee was denied the opportunity to attend the meeting by video or audio conference.

The following Trustees were absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever: None

Staff Present: Village Administrator C. Martin, Village Accountant D. Vernon, and Village Clerk L. Peterson

Others Present: Village Attorney J. Bateman

3. CONSIDERATION OF STAFF REPORT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC ACTS 96-0034, 96-0037, and 96-0038 – VIDEO GAMING ACT

Mr. Martin stated the Board asked staff to prepare a report following last month's discussion regarding a letter received from three local restaurants requesting video gaming. He informed the Board of current Village code prohibiting video gaming and action that would need to be taken to allow it. He reviewed the staff memo which included information regarding controlling locations, revenues-actual and estimated, public safety, and public opinion.

Mr. Bateman explained how home rule and non-home rule authority applies to the Illinois Video Gaming Act, how it applies to Lake Barrington as a home rule community, and the limitations on video gaming.

Trustee Burke, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, noted the Village is recognized for striving to be business friendly and for supporting its businesses. He raised the need to plan on how to address the request from the businesses that felt disadvantaged without video gaming as it involves a larger issue that needed to be examined including the consideration of prevailing attitudes in Lake Barrington and the larger Barrington area. The meeting was called to gain input on what other information and investigation the Board wants in order to be well informed about video gaming before making a decision.

Steve Beard and Bill Wians, owners of The Horseshoe Grill, introduced themselves. Mr. Beard explained he was losing business to restaurants that have video gaming in nearby communities and that he is looking for new avenues to increase income. He requested the Board's assistance and support.

Board Discussion

Comments were made regarding the desire to support Lake Barrington's businesses and community while being courteous and thoughtful for the BACOG area. Two Board members shared information they received from speaking with area restaurants located in municipalities that allow video gaming, and reported that when they raised the topic with people they knew that most expressed unfamiliarity or ambivalence. Information was shared from an Illinois Municipal League article on video gaming. Several Board members expressed support for allowing video gaming. A Board member commented that though he was opposed to gambling, that after reviewing the staff report and learning the advantage for businesses, he was leaning more towards support. He suggested ways the Village could use the unanticipated additional revenues if video gaming was allowed.

During discussion, Mr. Martin answered inquiries regarding potential revenues for the Village and local businesses and licensing at the state and local levels. Mr. Beard shared information regarding the state licensing process.

President Richardson commented that he is more ambivalent than a month ago, but he is still contemplating the request. He noted BACOG is relevant and seeks the same reputational brand. Other communities that support video gaming have branding that reach different markets. He commented that while he supports Mr. Beard and his business he is thoughtful as to the long term considerations for the community. He also questioned if video gaming is consistent with the Village brand though it would bring revenues from people outside of the community.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Beard confirmed that when he opened his business he built an area in the business in anticipation of having video gaming to generate revenue and keep patrons in the establishment. The hard winter season impacted business and that, if allowed, it will take 2-3 months for the state licensing process and machine installation. He requested support from the Village by addressing the topic in a timely manner.

Throughout discussion, Board members conveyed the desire to receive resident input for guidance, and discussion was held on polling residents in a fair and an appropriate way including how to conduct the survey and content for the survey. Following discussion, staff was directed to create a mailer survey. President Richardson ensured the Board that the survey would not be sent without the review and consent of the board.

Mr. Beard thanked the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Mitchell and seconded by Trustee Daulton Lange to adjourn the meeting. President Richardson declared the motion carried, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Peterson
Village Clerk