

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD JUNE 4, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A special meeting 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, 2008, and was called to order by President Richardson at 7:30 p.m. Clerk Hoover was appointed Recording Secretary.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon the roll being called, the following Trustees were physically present at said location: Trustees Burke, DeJesu, Raclaw, Schaller, Struck, Trustee Vonder Haar, and President Richardson

Absent: None.

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 attended 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 Martin, Village Clerk Hoover

Others Present: Village Attorney Bateman

3. NEW BUSINESS

A & B: Introduction by President Richardson

President Richardson described for the Board the special circumstances which warranted review by the Board. He summarized the proposed demonstration by the Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow/PUSH to be held at DS Arms, a business in the Village's business park and gun manufacturer, on Saturday, June 14th. He stated that the demonstration is a result of the tragic killings in Chicago. He stated that Perennial Strategies did a great job for the Village last fall and recommends retaining them once again to protect the Village's reputation. President Richardson also discussed the issue of possibly hiring a media consultant.

A & B: Board Discussion

Board discussion followed and their respective views varied.

Trustee Burke stated not only does the Village need to protect its residents but they also need to protect its image and attract new businesses. He stated that he would support the use of a consultant to manage the process. However, he stated that he cannot see the need for a media consultant.

Trustee Schaller stated that he doesn't want the Village to have to defend itself in reaction to a planned visit by Reverend Jackson. He stated that in his opinion the Village already learned a lot from the first experience last fall and he has a difficult time justifying another expenditure. Trustee Schaller stated that Lake County Sheriff did a great job last time and that they should be aware of the current activities planned by Reverend Jackson. He stated that the Village

President and Village Administrator should also be available during the demonstration. Trustee Schaller suggested that the Village meet with DS Arms to advise them on how not to react to the situation. Trustee Schaller stated that the exposure is aimed for the Barrington area, not necessarily Lake Barrington.

Discussion followed pertaining to the relationship between Perennial Strategies and Rainbow Push. President Richardson explained that Lamell McMorris of Perennial Strategies was a former executive employee of Rainbow Push and there would not be any direct benefit to Rainbow Push with the execution of an agreement with Perennial Strategies. He stated that there would be no conflict of interest. However Trustee Vonder Haar stated that such a conflict of interest may be perceived by the public.

Trustee Vonder Haar stated that she does not understand the principal of spending \$10,000 and how it is going to change the behavior of Reverend Jessie Jackson. She still that he could still come here now and then again in the future. Trustee Vonder Haar suggested letting the Lake County Sheriff handle the situation, keep a low profile, and stand back.

Trustee Raclaw stated his concern for negative press relative to recent community mishaps, such as the marijuana incident and local murder. He stated that he is worried about exploitation. Trustee Raclaw stated that he is not in favor of hiring a media consultant however the Village could use some assistance from an experienced consultant an analogized it to maintaining an insurance policy.

Trustee DeJesu stated that she is neither in favor of hiring a media consultant nor spending \$10,000 to hire Perennial Strategies. She stated her concern about the consultant's association with Rainbow/PUSH. She stated that the perception is that DS Arms is located in Barrington and the Village of Barrington has not and does not plan to do anything to protect their image. Trustee DeJesu stated that as a real estate professional she does not believe and is not convinced that people would not move here due to this demonstration. She stated her concern that the Village's actions may be perceived as trying to hide something such as illegal activities by the arms manufacturer. She stated that DS Arms is a legal business and the Lake County Sheriff should handle the situation.

Trustee Struck stated that the media expense is not warranted and that he would be comfortable with the Village President writing a statement on behalf of the Village. Trustee Struck stated that hiring Perennial Strategies is appropriate and it should be noted that the consultant is not being hired to change the Reverend Jackson's actions or behavior. He stated that a consultant would be an investment and less of an expense to the Village's brand and image. He stated that the consultant would shift the focus on DS Arms and less on the Village itself. Trustee Struck agreed with Trustee DeJesu as to the lack of efforts by the Village of Barrington. Trustee Struck stated that the consultant would be hired for their specific knowledge for a specific task/activity to achieve a specific goal. He acknowledged that \$10,000 is a lot of money however it is hard to quantify expenditures to protect the Village's image from killings, drugs, and murder.

Discussion followed. Trustee Vonder Haar stated her concern of setting precedence. She stated that there were not any negative real estate market consequences in the Lakeland Estates subdivision since the local murder and the Village has an overall low crime rate. President Richardson a fictional Chicago Tribune article and expressed his continued concern for negative press. He added that Reverend Jackson asked the Village prior to the last demonstration for a resolution critical of DS Arms which the Village stated was a legal business. He stated that the need for assistance is a matter of opinion and each Trustee's tolerance for risk. Further discussion followed about the retainer, focus and point of view, lack of press coverage from the last demonstration, and attributes of the consultant.

Attorney Bateman stated that the Board needs to make a policy decision. Trustee DeJesu raised her concern about the business' activities of which Administrator Martin responded that

the business secures a license each year confirming the use as a manufacturer and distributor. Attorney Bateman stated that the Village does not have the expertise locally to oversee the legality of this type of business. He stated that the Village does have Home Rule power to prohibit the arms business as a zoning matter. Attorney Bateman stated that there was a problem with the previous owner by the Federal government but now there are not any known illegal activities. Administrator Martin stated that the business is a wholesaler to law enforcement and the military. He stated that they are not a retailer.

Discussion followed pertaining to possible future visits by Rainbow/PUSH. Trustee Burke stated that he believed that after two non-events in a row, Rainbow/PUSH would be discouraged from coming back to our community.

Administrator Martin stated that Lake County Sheriff Chief Eckenstaller is planning coverage for the demonstration to be held on Saturday, June 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 at DS Arms. He stated that Reverend Gregory Livingston reported to the Village that 15 to 20 busloads of school-aged children would be participating in the demonstration, which is a concern to Lake County Sheriff. Administrator Martin stated that DS Arms' owner Dave Salvagio has not decided if they would be present on a non-working day or not yet. If they are present, the owner may be putting up a stage with microphones and have police officers and business associates to speak about the nature of the specific business and customers of DS Arms. Administrator Martin stated that he warned the owner not to react illegally (i.e. dumping manure) as it would not be tolerated by the Village. He stated that most of the area businesses would be closed and three local fire departments are all aware of the demonstration and will have staff on hand for medical treatment.

Attorney Bateman stated that Rainbow/PUSH is demonstrating at the closest gun manufacturer to their location. He reported on the previous experience of his colleague with Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow/PUSH at a school district demonstration in Decatur, Illinois. He stated that Perennial Strategies would be there to prevent a similar situation from escalating.

A. CONSIDERATION OF RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH PERRENIAL STRATEGIES GROUP

Board Action

A motion was made by Trustee Struck and seconded by Trustee Burke to approve an agreement with Perennial Strategies Group for strategic advocacy and liaison services and approve a \$10,000 lump sum retainer payment.

Upon roll call the vote was:

Yeas: Trustees Burke, Raclaw, Struck, and President Richardson
Nays: Trustees DeJesu, Schaller, and Vonder Haar
Abstain: None
Absent: None

President Richardson declared the motion carried.

B. CONSIDERATION OF RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH A MEDIA RELATIONS FIRM – TO BE DETERMINED

Board Action – None.

5. CLOSED SESSION – None.

6. OTHER

7. **ADJOURNMENT**: A motion was made by Trustee DeJesu and seconded by Trustee Raclaw to adjourn the meeting. The voice vote was unanimous, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Hoover
Village Clerk
Recording Secretary