

Bryan Muche  
159 Helm Road  
Barrington Hills, IL 60010

February 23, 2015

Board of Trustees  
Village of Barrington Hills  
112 Algonquin Road  
Barrington Hills, Illinois 60010

Village Board of Barrington Hills,

I am concerned with Mr. McLaughlin's, the village president, employment of special counsel to investigate "Allegations of Impropriety" surrounding the passage of the horse boarding text amendment. An investigation led by the village president or board of trustees which targets and investigates only a dissenting political view point while allegations of impropriety have been publicly voiced against members of both sides of the horse boarding debate, suggests that assignment of special counsel is politically motivated and intimidating to just those of an opposing political view point.

Prior to further dividing our community & village government with hiring attorneys and law firms to investigate allegations, I would ask that our village president and board of trustees consider collaboration & cooperation in moving forward in a politically balanced manner.

Questions regarding the Village president's retaining & employing special counsel of Walsh, Fewkes & Sterba to investigate allegations of impropriety:

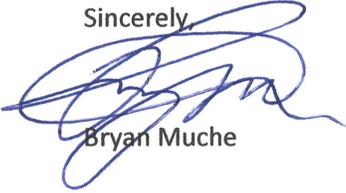
- a) Have these allegations been identified, stated or discussed with the board of trustees?
- b) Who has put forth these specific allegations to the village or village president?
- c) Has there been a preliminary determination or inquiry to determine if these accusations have merit and warrant further investigation?
- d) Has the village or village president in their (or his) discussions or correspondence with the law firm Walsh, Fewkes & Sterba, detailed the allegations and identified the parties that would be investigated?
- e) Have those alleged parties been formally asked to respond to allegations in an appropriate manner and in a reasonable time period?
- f) Are any of the investigated parties compelled to cooperate with special counsel? And, given the potential adversarial nature of the investigation of the parties, their questioning and interrogation, wouldn't it be in their best interest to not participate or limit their participation in this activity, and as such what have you achieved?
- g) Can we reasonably anticipate that someone under investigation of special counsel would retain independent legal representation to preserve and protect their legal rights, with this representation to be paid at the village's expense?
- h) Furthermore, given that the village president has led independent action to remove village legal counsel, an action in conflict with the wishes of the board of trustees, and hire new village legal counsel without the support or endorsement of the board of trustees. Wouldn't trustee's or village

officials be further compelled to retain independent legal counsel (to be paid by the village) to dispel allegations and special investigation?

- i) Should it be determined, in process or at a later date, that these investigations are unfounded, unsubstantiated, politically motivated, and / or an abuse of power, is the village potentially liable if any of these individual's reputation is harmed by this action?
- j) Shouldn't the village president and village board make every effort to explore and exhaust reasonable resolution options prior to incurring additional legal & investigation fees?
- k) Should the village president and village board be especially mindful of their actions in employing a special investigator during a sensitive election period, considering the potential for subversion, undermining and investigatory influence coming from the assignment and activity of a special investigation? If an election candidate's reputation is harmed and / or public opinion is influenced by an unsubstantiated investigation would the election results be suspect and greater consequences levied or potential litigation exposure increase towards the village and the village president?

These are some concerns I have with employment of special counsel to investigate the passed village text amendment involving horse boarding, a politically charged issue that has long divided our community; I would demand that members of both sides of a political issue enjoy equal treatment and scrutiny, a consistent standard for all of our village government officials. I also object to actions that attempt to frustrate & improperly influence due public process.

Sincerely,



Bryan Muche