



## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Library District's Review of the Proposed Lake Zurich Road Realignment Project and the Intergovernmental Agreement**

At a Special Meeting held at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 23, the Barrington Public Library District's Board of Trustees voted to cease negotiations with the Village of Barrington on a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement, relating to the re-routing of Lake Zurich Road to intersect with U.S. Route 14 (Northwest Highway) at the existing traffic signal at Berry Road. The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement included the permanent sale of a parcel of Library District land of more than 2.5 acres from the Library to the Village for highway purposes, as well as a request for additional Library District land of more than 2.5 acres to be used as a temporary construction easement for the length of time of construction. The final vote on the motion to cease negotiations with the Village was 4-2, with one abstention.

This document contains answers to some frequently asked questions about the proposed Lake Zurich Road realignment project and Intergovernmental Agreement, and the Library Board's review process in this matter.

### **What was the Village of Barrington requesting of the Barrington Public Library District regarding the proposed Lake Zurich Road realignment project?**

The Village of Barrington had proposed that Lake Zurich Road be re-routed from its current intersection with Northwest Highway to intersect instead with Northwest Highway at the Berry Road traffic signal at the Library's entrance. In order to accomplish this reconfiguration, the Village asked that the Library District enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to sell a substantial portion (over 2.5 acres) of Library District land. After the purchase, the land would be owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Village of Barrington.

### **How much property did the Village and IDOT want to purchase from the Library District?**

The Village sought to purchase 2.53 acres of land outright of the Library District's property, in addition to another 2.7 acres to be used as a temporary construction easement for the duration of construction. The Library District currently owns 12.319 acres of property, and this purchase would reduce the Library District's property by 20.5%.

### **What were the Library District's main concerns about the proposal?**

The Barrington Public Library District serves 14 communities and unincorporated areas over a 72 square-mile area. It owns only one piece of property and maintains only one library facility to serve its population of 44,157 community members. The Library is situated in a desirable location in the Village of Barrington, centrally located to all of its patrons throughout the Library District.

Taking into account the responsibility the Library Board has to all of its Library District constituents and taxpayers, the permanent sale of a large amount of property has significant impact on the Library District's operations and options, present and future, for many generations to come. The Library's essential safety and operational concerns are:

- Impaired use of the remaining land
- Increased proximity of Library building to highly trafficked Route 14, as well as the newly rerouted Lake Zurich Road
- Increased difficulty in entering and exiting the library's parking lot, which sees an average of 1,000 visitors daily
- Negative experiences for Library patrons
- Lack of control over design and execution of the end result
- Destruction of the Library's park-like setting

### **How would the sale have impaired the Library District's use of the remaining land?**

The Library District's property already has several existing limitations for expansion, including the location of the Berry Road entrance, the location of the water tower, as well as the elevation on the east side of the property. However, there is clearly decided value in maintaining options for expansion for future generations.

The Library District's professional advisors have noted that the functionality of the property would be altered by this proposed sale, by not only decreasing the size of the property, but also significantly changing the shape of it.

If the sale had occurred, the Library District would have permanently and severely limited its ability to expand the library building and services at this site for future generations. As the population that the Barrington Public Library District serves continues to grow, and library services continue to evolve, the loss of this property would be significant.

### **How did the Library Board make the decision whether or not to sell the District's land?**

The project as presented to the Library Board underwent many iterations and required a great deal of outside analysis, from the Library's architect as well as civil engineers and landscape architects. This professional input was in addition to numerous meetings with the Village and IDOT, as well as conversation at several Library Board meetings. Throughout the lengthy review process, the Library Board received public comment, primarily from residents who regularly travel Lake Zurich Road and who reside in the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as constituents throughout the District. All of this input was weighed during negotiations.

April 24, 2018