



**Railroad Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2012**

The Rochelle Railroad Advisory Board met on January 26, 2012 in the lower level conference center at City Hall, 420 North 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068. The meeting was called to order by Scott Rozanas at 12:03p.m.

I. Roll Call

Present at the meeting were Board Members: Malcolm Patterson, Lenny Reynolds, Randy Wakenight, Bob Wingate, and Ken Wise. Others present were Dennis Berg-Councilman, Jeff Leon-WRHL, Chet Olson – Mayor, David Plyman – City Manager, Ed Rice-Councilman, Scott Rozanas-Business Development Manager, and Katie Wolf-Economic Development Administrative Assistant

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ken Wise and seconded by Bob Wingate to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III. Review of Financial Results

Scott Rozanas reviewed with the board the financials of the City Industrial Rail (CIR). With the addition of Nippon Sharyo and Coated Sand Solutions it is estimated that there will be a 33% increase in rail volume from May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013. The rail volume is expected to double or triple in the next three years with the addition of these new companies.

IV. Comments from the Public

No comments from the public.

V. Status Report on Projects in Progress

A. Nippon Sharyo

The Japanese Rail company, Nippon Sharyo, continues to move forward and keep on schedule with the work. They have been pouring a lot of concrete and working on the rail inside the building. The City of Rochelle has completed their portion of the rail for this project.

B. True Grit

Coated Sand Solutions (formerly True Grit) anticipates building rail in the spring. Currently CSS is working to get timelines in place for rail and road work that will need to be completed in the spring.

C. Atwood Property

Fehr-Graham & Associates is putting together some drawings currently for the four, 2,000ft. rail tracks on the Atwood Property. The work on these tracks is expected to begin in the spring of 2012.

D. Quiet Zone

Councilmen Dennis Berg reported that a Public Works Committee meeting was held on December 8th 2011 and Quiet Zones were discussed. Sam Tesreau provided the study that was done in 2007 on Quiet Zones. Funding is the main issues right now. Once the funding can be secured, more detailed work can begin on addressing Quiet Zones. City Manager Dave Plyman is working on ways to allocate funding in the budget for Quiet Zones. This topic will continue to stay on the radar screen for the council.

VI. Old Business

Lenny Reynolds noted that the Creston Road Crossing has been repaired and is back in service. Bob Wingate commented that the BJRY has invested in a new, bigger engine that can handle the sand cars. Scott Rozanas reported that the City of Rochelle purchased a Railroad insurance policy (1 year policy) to bump up the coverage the city carries. Scott will continue to research this in the coming year. A rail attorney from Chicago reviewed our railroad and made some recommendation for administration and insurance coverage.



VII. New Business Discussion Items

A. Long Term Strategic Plan

The board spent time reviewing the strategic plan for the RAB, including the mission statement for the City Industrial Rail. “The mission of the City Industrial Rail (CIR) is to serve our community as a tool for economic growth, by providing rail-served clients the unique, competitive advantage of “dual access” to Class 1 railroads.” Action steps will be given at the next meeting on how to best begin implementing this strategic plan.

B. CIR Capital Projects

Scott shared with the board that he has been working on developing a list of capital improvement projects for the CIR to cover the next five years. The list that will be submitted to the City Manager’s office is: a) the city’s purchase of land strip from GREDCO, b) lay track on that land, c) create a rail yard north of Coated Sand Solutions, d) signalize the CIR crossing on Caron Road for safety, e) cement road extension –south, f) BNSF crossing at Caron Road replaced, g) BNSF crossing at Wiscold Drive repaired.

C. Steamplant Road Crossing

The board also discussed the Steamplant Road Crossing which is considered to be a dangerous crossing due to the confusing nature of the intersection as a result of the dual railway crossing. The board discussed several options: a) dual signalization, b) closing of Steamplant Road – by dead-ending on the west side of the BNSF crossing, c) leave as is. The board is going to continue to gather information on this topic such as traffic counts at that crossing, how the industries would be affected, and talk with the BNSF to get their thoughts on closing the crossing. This information will be shared at the next meeting.

D. Next Meeting March 22, 2012

It was noted that the next meeting will be March 22, 2012 at 12 noon.

VIII. Comments from the Board

The board commented that the top priority right now needs to be continuing to addresses capacity issues.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Randy Wakenight and seconded by Malcolm Patterson to adjourn the meeting at 1:08p.m.

Submitted By,

Katie Wolf

Katie Wolf
Economic Development Administrative Assistant