



**Railroad Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017**

The Rochelle Railroad Advisory Board met on October 26, 2017, in the lower level conference center at City Hall, 420 North 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

I. Call meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Jason Anderson.

Present: Bob Wingate, Malcolm Patterson, and Ken Wise. Others present were Jason Anderson, Adriana Milan, Mayor Olson and Councilman Bearrows.

Absent members: Randy Wakenight.

II. Approval of Minutes – “A motion by Mr. Wingate and seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the minutes from January 26, 2017, April 27, 2017, and July 27, 2017”. Motion passed by voice vote.

III. Public Commentary – Mayor stated that we need to fill the Railroad Advisory Board vacant position perhaps we should reach out to US Silica and ask one of the individuals to participate. Jason will contact and report back to Mayor.

IV. Review of Financial Results – Revenue report from BJRY reviewed by Jason Anderson. City of Rochelle Rail revenues is on track to reach the \$2M mark in 2017 (does not include expenses)

V. Old Business

A. City of Rochelle Railroad Expansion – Project Co-Op Extending rail south of John’s Creek and North East of CHS.

- a. **Bridge Design and Construction** – EDA approved the permit to phase project.
- b. **IDNR** – Has approved the permit and approval drainage model.
- c. **IDOT** - Has officially notified us of \$ 2.6 grant application process.
- d. **USDA** – Council approved the pre-approval loan application for additional rail expansion to the south.
- e. **Purchase of additional Rail Right-of-Way/Land Options** –
 - Additional 4 acres needed for rail right of way east of CCS for transloading yard to the east
 - Additional 200 ft. are needed for rail right of way from John’s Creek to Elva Rd. Will approach farmer to pursue the agreement.

- 10/23/17 during executive session Jason approached City Council regarding the purchase of 26 acres currently under option with GREDCO to be assigned over to the City. The request was denied, Jason was directed to get an exact cost of the purchase of this rail right of way.
- Loan Extension for ROW – On 10/23/2017 Council approved extending the loan guarantee for another year.

B. **Class I Interactions** – Conversations with BNSF are in process to move interchange traffic to cease the use of the Ryder yard when the contract expires in April 2018.

- a. **UP Global III** – Malcolm stated that starting next week they will be doing some “cold connect” moving produce by intermodal to the east coast. Approximately 80 cars to block switch.

C. **Transloading Yard development** – Construction was pushed to start next spring. Additional 4 acres to the East of CSS need. Jason and Richard Ohlinger will negotiate with Soy Capital. Potential to add 3-4 other sand companies.

D. **BJRY**- A the possibility to use the Nippon Sharyo yard might be an option for additional storage space. Railcar volume has been steady; Ryder’s volume has decreased but has been made up by Americold’s increase. In the last months, percentages of rail traffic are 80% manifest and 20% unit trains. Opportunity for forward placing cars for Chicago out of BNSF under trial period, for now, regular switch fee will apply.

E. **Interchanges** – Long term plan is to improve the BNSF and UP system by moving their interchanges further apart keeping them away from the diamond, hopefully with the increased rail car load volumes, Class I’s might justify the cost for the investment. Moving the interchanges will also improve safety and reduce the length of time at grade crossings are blocked.

VI. New Business Discussion Items

A. NONE

Next Meeting – January 25, 2018

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr. Anderson seconded by Mr. Wise - at 12:48 pm.
Motion passed by voice vote.

Submitted by,
Adriana Milan