



Westmont Park District Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Ronald J. Gunter Administrative Center
55 E. Richmond St., Westmont, IL 60559
April 20, 2022 6:00 pm

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

President Karesh called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

Agenda Item #2 Roll Call

Present: Comm. Karesh, Comm. Moffett, Comm. Pecard, Comm. Zapinski

Absent: Comm. Conneely

Staff Present: Bob Fleck, Executive Director, Sharon Macak, Superintendent of Finance, Joel Hymen, Superintendent of Revenue Facilities and Technology, Dustin Kleefisch, Superintendent of Recreation, John Chorney, Parks and Facilities Foreman, Alice Krampits, Senior & Special Events Coordinator

Guests: Linda Bishop, Aimee Briles, Jeff Kraus all of Wintrust Bank, Bill Belmonte

Agenda Item #3 Pledge of Allegiance; was led by President Karesh

Agenda Item #4 Budget Workshop

a. Wintrust Baking and Investment Opportunities Presentation, Linda Bishop, Aimee Briles, Jeff Kraus

Director Bob Fleck introduced Linda Bishop. She has worked with us for 6 years and has been an important resource. She will speak about ERC rates (earnings credit rate) and Balance Accounts. Linda provided an informational handout with definitions, fund rates, public funds MMA rates and examples of estimated investment interest earnings. She noted there is a checking account balance requirement; this program helps offset service fees. Currently rates are at a low level and are not paying as much as in the past. For the Park District \$700,000 seems to be the “sweet spot”/required average balance. Increases are expected in June. You need to know your balance fee vs. what you invest. Rates will increase and fluctuate.

Commissioner Karesh asked what average fees we pay now. Superintendent of Finance Sharon Macak noted a recent federal rule change that no longer restricts how many transactions you can make. It used to be six times per year. We average \$471 in service fees.

Aimee Briles spoke next about investment balance options. Three options were noted regarding CDs, checking accounts and money markets. Aimee noted that for option 1 the goal is to make more in net interest vs. expenses; as it goes up, you make more to invest in a CD product.

Options 2 & 3 are from the money market into an investment fund. Note the projected earnings on the far right of the chart; all are FDIC max safe and there is a collateral agreement for accounts that exceed \$7 million that is covered by FDIC. (interest bearing and non-interest bearing) Commissioner Karesh commented that the challenge is finding balance and what vehicle to use to earn the most. Commissioner Zapinski asked what the driving force is for current rates. Aimee replied that it is inflation. Director Bob Fleck asked about changing rates as related to the required balance of \$700,000; do we keep looking at the balance? Linda Bishop answered that you will have to keep an eye on it and weigh lower fees vs better interest rate, or you may want to push more money into the money market. She also stated that there is a new banking computer program that

automatically looks at this information for the bank. This is unlike the past where Sharon and Linda would have to watch the balances and rates.

Jeff Kraus spoke about another option through Wintrust's investment office. This option offers alternatives outside the bank, meaning brokered CDs. The bank buys CDs from other chartered banks. This enhances what you have and can provide additional yields. CDs would have a better rate, but are longer periods of time and can be laddered. These differ from a regular bank CD. Banks have to buy the CDs on the spot! There are 183 chartered banks. This model portfolio is approved for municipalities to follow. Jeff provided a handout detailing the information which includes a list of participating banks. Director Bob Fleck asked if regular bank CDs go up, do these go up as well? Jeff answered, yes, over three to six months. You eliminate risk, but it is a guessing game based on current data. Director Bob Fleck asked a question for Commissioner Conneely who was absent. What are the fees for buying outside CDs?

There are no fees, no holding fees. There may be a fee for an inactive account. Brokered CDs require a minimum of \$250,000. It is not a single CD. Director Bob Fleck commented that all of these options could work for us. He thanked the Wintrust presenters for attending the meeting.

President Karesh decided to call for a dinner break. A card was passed around for the Board members to sign honoring Ron Lehman for 50 years of service as a board member for Channahon Park District.

The meeting continued. Director Bob Fleck commented that no decisions are needed now. Also, we can pay off the 5-year note for the maintenance garage.

b. Budget Presentation and Discussion

Director Bob Fleck began presenting the tentative budget. The final budget will be adopted in August. Board members and staff had an informational packet to follow. He gave a history of EAV, noted funds capped at \$2 million, corporate and operating funds are most flexible. Non-capped funds are SEASPAR/ADA/Bonds. CPI is 1.4%, a 2.66% increase. We have a new bond at \$4+ million. There was an increase in wages, and he noted that the corporate fund did grow, but we are conservative. Since the last meeting, he proposed an increase \$220,000 for disc golf, and \$120,000 for the new building from ADA/Special Recreation. The window project for the museum is moved forward as is the WiFi project and digital sign. Commissioner Karesh suggested we make the digital sign a priority.

Golf Fund- golf carts are coming, future restoration for drop tee on #4.

Fitness Club- Cash neutral, no new equipment this year. Equipment has not been used much for the past two years. Commissioner Karesh commented that he wants more marketing for the Fitness Club.

Corporate Fund - fall bond proceeds required to be shown for IRS purposes; passed through so it will not be taxed for 25 years. No grants this year. There are wage and fuel increases.

Budgeting/Staff Development - other funds may be subsidized. The balance is \$576,000

Recreation Fund - Commissioner Pecard asked about July 4th. Director Bob Fleck explained costs have increased by about 20%, however these costs are passed to the Village of Westmont for reimbursement.

IMRF - Fund is consistent with last year. Commissioner Karesh commented that IMRF is now 97% funded.

Cash Fund - rollover fund, used for investment

SEASPAR - parking lot projects; we do not want to carry over funds in this account. \$120,000 is earmarked for the new building. Director Bob Fleck concluded by noting that the capital project fund matches the column on the budget sheet for projects for the 5 year capital improvements.

Discussion on the Tentative Budget Proposal

Commissioner Pecard asked if we can reconsider netting for the baseballs at Veterans Park. Commissioner Karesh said costs could be \$180,000. We should explore this and review more options. Can we find \$75,000 to work with and have WYBA add some money? Is this a want or a need? Director Bob Fleck said the poles are not sleeved, it is not structurally stable; we cannot do that or add a net or metal to the backstop. Commissioner Pecard added that people complain and baseball needs something new. Young people are moving in and baseball is popular. This netting would be good for the future of our baseball program. Director Bob Fleck commented that there are specialized sports facilities that do have netting. He added our registration numbers probably won't change much. Does it warrant the expense? The Board consensus is to look at options. Additional items noted by Director Bob Fleck: Park Patrol Fund is subsidized by the Corporate Fund. The Golf Course Fund is doing well. Revenue is lower due to improvements. There are increases in beverage sales and lessons. Wages are increasing. Fitness Club utilities are locked in. We anticipate a repeat of the current year.

Director Bob Fleck continued by reviewing the 5 year plan spread sheet. He noted that the Insurance Plan is 100% HMO. We are projecting \$188,000 for insurance including the incentive for those that don't participate. (\$100 individual and \$250 family for monthly stipends.) Employee contributions are 14%. Commissioner Karesh asked if we should consider changing that. Director Bob Fleck suggested leaving it as is. Other places are offering different insurance options as incentives for employment. Commissioner Karesh asked about fuel. Director Bob Fleck explained that we get fuel from the new fuel depot at the Village of Westmont's south fire station. There is a FOB and code for each vehicle. This saves us money and there is less tax. The Village of Westmont does not charge any additional fees to the District. There is also a security system in place at the fuel depot. Director Fleck asked if everyone was in agreement with the additions to the spreadsheet. He added that he will investigate backstop netting.

Agenda Item #5 Adjournment

President Karesh asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Pecard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Moffett. President Karesh asked for a roll call. All ayes. The Special Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Alice Krampits
Recording Secretary in Lenore Farmer's absence