

Call to Order:

President Cagle called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Eric Anderson, Debbie Gallagher, Karen Johnson, Linda Matthias, Sarah Michehl, Cathy Cagle

Commissioners Absent: Jason Heisler

Staff: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Amy Olson, Manager of Planning and Development, Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Michehl moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All were in favor.

Matters from the Public: None

2023-2024 Proposed Budget Review

Executive Director Herbster thanked Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services and staff for their work on preparing the proposed budget for 2023-2024. Herbster noted the District exceeded its expectations of what was budgeted for the 2022-2023 fiscal year and is in good standing financially and services provided. Herbster noted the District was awarded \$600,000 from the OSLAD grant. Funds may not be received until next year or the year after.

Staff presented the following highlights of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Executive Director Herbster

- Taxes collected were under 50% of the budget.
- A deficit of \$8.7 million; \$5.7 million of the deficit is allocated to Haligus Park, to the Mickey Sund, and Court replacement projects and \$3 million carryover from unfinished projects or projects not started and pushed to upcoming fiscal year.
- A request was made to change the merit pool from 4% to 5% for full-time staff.

Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services

- The budget notes a decrease in fund balances for IMRF, PDRMA and the Audit funds.
- Wages were higher than last fiscal year. Many summer staff will be returning to work this year. Four additional full-time positions, 3 Parks Services staff and 1 Risk Manager are included in the proposed budget.
- Costs for Inclusion services are rising
- Camp wages should level off this year with the \$15/hour minimum wage
- Projected Beginning Fund Balance is \$14,998,066
Projected Ending Fund Balance is \$6,201,951
Operating Coverage fund balance \$4,050,885

- Commissioner Anderson expressed his disagreement regarding the excess of reserves in the and suggested financing projects with roll-over bonds, Superintendent Becke explained the need for these reserves is for unforeseen issues and emergencies. Executive Director Herbster added the reserves also support ongoing capital projects.
- Commissioner Anderson requested the excess funds for the Racket Club be moved back to Capital projects. Commissioner Gallagher noted the upcoming audit will show the need. Executive Director Herbster stated the funds can be transferred back after the audit is completed. Commissioner Andersons asked for this to be noted in the Budget.
- The board noted the spread sheets were difficult to read. Superintendent Becke will work to provide less columns on the fund reports to show only two years prior, as requested by the Board.
- Superintendent Becke will make the following changes to the proposed budget. Transfers will be made to the Capital Projects Fund; an additional \$600,000 from the Corporate Fund, \$840,000 from the Recreation Fund and \$200,000 from the Racket Club Fund. These changes bring the Corporate and Recreation Funds into compliance with the Fund Balance Policy. An increase from 4% to 5% will be made to the merit pool. Executive Director Herbster will email the bottom-line results to the Park Board for their review.

Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Kurt Reckamp:

- Recreation staff continues to work on projected revenue and expenses with a 38% profit
- Senior Programming is breaking even
- Bus Purchase for Senior trips
- Staff is working on new programs and on this year's special event

Superintendent of Park Services

- Parks Services looking to hire three staff to assist the Natural Resource Manager
- Truck purchases have been included in the proposed budget
- Staff will be working on interior and exterior projects this year -Commissioner Gallagher noted that the community appreciates and is proud of our parks. Some top comments from the survey were about taking care of the parks. The new signage and plantings are great. Superintendent Jakubowski added there will be more new signs and planting added this upcoming year.
- Commissioner Michehl noted the equipment purchases were down and wanted to be sure the Natural Resource Manager is supported. Jakubowski noted he is making sure the Natural Resource Manager has what is needed and that a new (used) vehicle has been added to the budget.
- The staff is looking to purchase used vehicles with low mileage as Enterprise has been backlogged and cannot provide the District with leased vehicles that are needed.

Park Development and Planning Manager, Amy Olson

- Free standing solar lights with motion detection for parks
- Haligus Park: Planning for additional community engagement. Have the boundary survey completed this summer and begin engineering this upcoming fall. Commissioner Cagle suggested including a public art concept in the plans. Director Herbster noted this will be part of the process.

- Commissioner Gallagher requested a better location for the playground at Lippold Park. Amy Olson, Manager of Planning and Development, stated she is looking into a new plan for the playground.
- Commissioner Gallagher asked about the plans for Shamrock Hills. Executive Director Herbster stated community input meetings will be planned to get feedback for uses of the property.
- Commissioner Gallagher requested adding an electric charge station, solar power and security lighting to the plans for Haligus Park. Commissioner Cagle suggested adding a public art concept to the plans. Executive Director Herbster stated this will be included in the process. Manager Olson added engineering will begin in the fall. Herbster noted a boundary survey needs to be completed prior to engineering work.

The Board agreed to place the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget on display for 30 days, schedule a Public Hearing on April 20 and place the Proposed Budget on the agenda for approval at the Regular Park Board Meeting on April 20, 2023.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Matthias. All were in favor.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
 President Secretary