

Truth in Taxation Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
November 15, 2011

Board President Libby Baker called the Gurnee Park District truth in taxation hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. Commissioners present: Libby Baker, Vicki Paddock, Jim Goshorn, Gerry Crews and Michelle Klemz. Commissioners absent: none. Also present: Susie Kuruvilla, Executive Director; Jeff Reinhard, Supt. of Parks; Lisa Sheppard, Supt. of Recreation; Mike Szpylman, Supt. of Business; Jennifer Gilbert, Marketing/PR Manager; David Phillips Speer Financial Inc.; Steve Becker, Landscape Supervisor; and Suzanne Gage, Administrative Assistant. Please refer to the attendance record for other visitors.

The President stated that the truth-in-taxation hearing notice was published in the *Daily Herald* on November 4, 2011. The proposed tax levy for 2011 is \$5,330,052, a 6% increase from the 2010 tax extension. The levy for the corporate and special purpose funds is estimated at \$4,433,153, which is 7.3% higher than the previous year. The total estimated debt service levy is \$896,899. Since the total increase in estimated tax levy including debt service is estimated to be higher than 5%, a truth-in-taxation hearing is being held at this time. The proposed 2011 tax levy is based on an estimate of \$1,351,571,245 of Equalized Assessed Valuation, which is a 6% increase from the 2010 EAV. The new construction amount is estimated to be \$57,378,025. The consumer price index for 2011 is 1.5%. It is important to keep in mind that the percentage increase in the tax extension amount is an estimate at this time and it is only due to the increase in EAV mainly as a result of new construction in our community. The estimated tax rate for 2011 is .394, which is the same as the 2010 tax rate.

President Baker opened the floor for comments from the public. Resident Jerry Kolar, 3641 Highland, Gurnee, spoke. He asked, "Where did you come up with \$57 million in new construction in this community?" The Director answered that the Park District does not know at the time of the levy, what the new construction amount will be, so the figure is an estimate. The Township Assessor does not have the information to give the District at the time of the levy. The amount of the levy will decrease when the actual extension amount for new construction is received from the County Clerk's office in April. She stated that when preparing the levy staff only knows what the tax rate is currently and tries to maintain that tax rate.

Mr. Kolar also asked "When will you lower the tax rate?" She stated that we don't levy by the rate, but by a dollar amount. Mr. Kolar said he'd like to see the tax rate go down. Susie noted that the District has taken Mr. Kolar's past advice and initiated the Capital Replacement Fund several years ago so that money is set aside each year for future capital repairs and replacements. "We have not gone for a referendum and have no intention of doing so", she said. Mr. Kolar said that the value of his home has gone way down, as has everyone else's. He asks the District to save money and conserve, although he is not advocating layoffs. He stated, "People are hurting out there, especially the elderly". Susie stated that the District is mindful of that and is putting aside money so that we can replace aging playgrounds, etc. when necessary and not have to come to the public for the funds. She thanked Mr. Kolar for his comments. There were no further comments from the audience.

Motion was made by Vicki Paddock seconded by Jim Goshorn to adjourn the hearing at 6:50 p.m. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Paddock, Goshorn, Klemz and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. The hearing was then adjourned.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Baker immediately thereafter. A second roll call was taken. Commissioners present: Libby Baker, Vicki Paddock, Jim Goshorn, Gerry Crews and Michelle Klemz. Commissioners absent: none.

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 18, 2011 as presented was made by Michelle Klemz and seconded by Gerry Crews. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Paddock, Goshorn, Klemz and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the vouchers list dated 11/10/11 in the amount of \$483,289.86 and the supplemental vouchers list dated 11/15/11 in the amount of \$43,328.38 was made by Jim Goshorn and seconded by Michelle

Klemz. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Paddock, Goshorn, Klemz and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

The financial and treasurer's reports were reviewed.

There were no visitor comments.

Landscape Supervisor Steve Becker introduced Steven Brown and his father, Peter. For his Eagle Scout project Steve cleared weeds and buckthorn out of the Timberwoods Park pine tree line that was about 350 ft x 50 ft across. He made three different 6-foot mulched pathways through the tree line. The project was completed on October 8 from 9 am to 3 pm. 11 scouts and two adults helped. Steve Becker said it looked so good that the Parks staff continued the project. He said they did an awesome job. Commissioner Klemz said it made a significant difference. Steven Brown thanked Jeff, his Scoutmaster, and all the scouts that helped as well as Steve Becker for providing the supplies. President Baker thanked Steven and presented a certificate of appreciation to him. He received a round of applause.

Dave Phillips from Speer Financial Inc. presented the results of the sale of general obligation limited tax park bonds. Four bids were received. The winning bid came from Libertyville Bank & Trust at an interest rate of 1.50%. There was good local participation in the process and they were able to increase the bond issue up to our debt extension base ceiling.

A motion was made by Gerry Crews to approve Libertyville Bank & Trust to issue the bonds at an interest rate of 1.5% Motion seconded by Jim Goshorn . Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Klemz, Paddock, Goshorn and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Goshorn to approve Ordinance #11/12-4 for the issuance of \$749,635 in general obligation limited park bonds series 2011 of the Gurnee Park District and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest of said bonds. Motion seconded by Michelle Klemz. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Klemz, Paddock, Goshorn and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Jeff Reinhard commented on the Parks report. Vineyard Park playground is coming along. The tot lot equipment was installed today and 99% of the artificial turf has been completed. Poured-in-place is also scheduled for this week. Some drainage issues have been corrected. All of the other equipment will be in by the end of the week and the swings the following week along with site cleanup. Jeff also noted that the security camera system is now operational at Viking Park both inside the building and outside in the park. Signs will be installed shortly.

Lisa Sheppard commented on the Recreation report. She announced that Matthew Vanderkamp was awarded the IPRA Recreation section Marcy Adams Spirit Award. She noted that it's a great honor and well deserved. The Board was very pleased for him. The Aquatic Center report was in the board packet and Lisa noted some of the highlights. Season passes and daily admissions were up from last year. The Cattail Café revenue was discussed. It is a service and the thought is that it simply needs to break even. We must be sure customers are happy and that we continue to strive for that, Susie said. Commissioner Goshorn asked whether technology could allow you to text a grilled order and be notified when your item is ready. Lisa said they would explore that idea. There was discussion of concerns about campers at the pool as far as overcrowding and/or behavior problems. Lisa discussed some of the ways to change this perception in the future. Campers went to the HCPAC twice per week this year between noon and 2:30pm. There were no major rescues this summer. Mosquitoes have been a problem in the evenings and staff may consider shifting special events to earlier in the evening. The insurance reimbursement was received for the storm damage in July.

Mike Szpylman commented on the Business report. The implementation manual for Vermont Systems recreation registration software has been received. Contracts are signed and the dates for staff training are in place.

Jennifer Gilbert commented on the Marketing report. The winter brochure is nearly complete and will arrive in homes the first week of December. Brochure bids will be brought to the next board meeting. Staff is considering

offering a contract renewable for 3 years. She reviewed the successes of recent e-blasts. She was congratulated on making successful inroads with local sponsors.

Susie Kuruvilla discussed the Directors Report. She gave a Strategic planning update and stated it continues to go very well. Two advisory committee meetings have been held and one will be held tomorrow. There are 11 community members as well as the Executive Steering Committee serving on the committee. Eight initiatives have been identified and staff has identified about 10 objectives under each initiative. All of the feedback will be gathered and presented in draft form for the January meeting. Commissioner Klemz said the members are a great mix of people representing different facets of the community. In order to continue the relationship, Susie will ask if they'd like to stay involved as advocates and she would provide updates each year to keep them informed.

The Board discussed some of the new objectives in the plan and gave some suggestions.

The 6-month update of current year goals and objectives was reviewed. Many of the objectives have been completed.

Park re-dedication dates have been chosen for Betty Russell and Vineyard Park playgrounds. Both will be held in the spring on Tuesday, April 24 and May 8 respectively. The Thursdays of each week will be rain dates.

The Director noted that Aquatic center fees would be set after a meeting on November 15. The Board will be informed at the next meeting.

She also noted that the Holiday Train would be coming December 3 at about 5p.m. Donations of food and money benefit the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The Parks staff assists the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce with this event. The Director encouraged board members to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Jim Goshorn to approve the Categories of Services as presented. Motion seconded by Gerry Crews. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Klemz, Paddock, Goshorn and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Michelle Klemz to approve the annual levy ordinance #11/12-3. Motion seconded by Jim Goshorn. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Klemz, Paddock, Goshorn and Baker. Nays: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

In other business, the Director noted the following:

- The IPRA/IAPD Conference will be held in Chicago January 26-28.
- Susie Kuruvilla will be taking vacation from 12/10-1/5.

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Klemz and seconded by Vicki Paddock. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Libby A. Baker, President

James G. Goshorn, Secretary