

Belvidere Township Park District
Board Meeting
December 8, 2020

Minutes

The Belvidere Township Park District Board of Commissioners board meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Roll call was taken. Those present were Mary Marquardt, Paul McCaffrey, Jean Twyning and Mark Muccianti. Sam An arrived at 5:15 p.m. Also present were Mark Pentecost, Todd Bex, Rick Wulbecker, Kim Kirkpatrick and Debbie Kent.

Meeting Agenda

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 meeting agenda, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Debbie Kent provided the financial report showing November income and park district cash balances as of November 30, 2020.

The district received its final tax distribution and interest for 2020 totaling \$117,479.90.

Bills for Payment

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the bills for November 1-November 30, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Rick Wulbecker commented that The Boone County Shopper published some positive feedback regarding the holiday parade through Belvidere Park on Friday, December 4th. Channel 23 and Channel 13 showed the parade during the 10:00 p.m. news.

Public Input

Public Input was available via Zoom. There was no one for Public Input.

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Director's Report

Mark Pentecost continues to work with Boone County Conservation District and the school districts to compile a joint reply to the County regarding suspending Impact Fees.

The first draft of the Appropriation Bill and Ordinance for 2021 will be presented at the January 12, 2021 board meeting.

Commissioner Twyning circulated an article out of the National Recreation and Parks Agency magazine regarding Land/Cash fees. She felt there were some very good points and it was easy to understand. She suggested that a copy of the article could accompany the letter that will be presented to the County.

Mark Muccianti put together a comparison between Rockford Park District (Winnebago County) and Belvidere Park District (Boone County) showing the property tax rates by State and County; Impact of exceeding inflation; and the EAV and Levy.

Superintendent of Parks Report

Todd Bex commented that his department is down to one employee at this time due to Covid. It has been a challenge with maintaining the ice at the rink.

Superintendent of Recreation Report

Rick Wulbecker mentioned that the district has received so many ice rink rental requests that staff has added additional time blocks. It was suggested that he collect e-mails, addresses, phone numbers so he has a contact database for rentals in the future.

Superintendent of Human Resources Report

Kim Kirkpatrick and the safety committee will be updating our procedures regarding quarantining due to Covid.

There have been four employees that had false unemployment claims filed against them. Kim is working with PDRMA, so we don't have to pay these claims.

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Superintendent of Administrative Services

Debbie Kent encouraged the board to visit our website to see the addition of ice rink rentals on-line. It will allow them to see the time blocks that are available or unavailable. The unavailable time blocks are from booked rentals, public skate, Fury Hockey and Open Shoot.

2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Levy Ordinance 20-12-01

Mark Muccianti wanted to give each commissioner 5 minutes to speak individually, uninterrupted on the proposed Levy Ordinance. After each commissioner has had the opportunity to voice their opinion, there will be another round and each commissioner will be given 2 minutes.

General comments:

- Jean Twyning commented that history has proven that our property taxes have lagged behind. The public should take responsibility and tell us what they want. Overall, comments that she has heard is that they are happy with our services and parks.
- Mary Marquardt agreed with Jean's comment that our taxes have lagged behind. She is against Belvidere Park District being compared to Rockford Park District.
- Sam An asked what does him voicing his opinion do. People want more but don't want to pay for it.
- Paul McCaffrey stated the Executive Director has done his job and it is the job of the commissioners to do their homework before the meeting. The difference in the levy is an increase of \$100,000.00.
- Mark Muccianti stated he is struggling with the levy increase. He has challenged staff to think differently and he hasn't changed his opinion on that. While he was circulating his petition for the April 6, 2021 election, he asked for feedback on how individuals felt about the park district. He feels it is important to know what the community wants and doesn't feel we have a grasp on that. We should provide a good product at a low cost. There has got to be a way of getting feedback from the community.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the Annual Levy Ordinance 02-12-01, seconded by Sam An. A roll call vote was taken with Jean Twyning, Sam An and Mary Marquardt voting yes. Paul McCaffrey and Mark Muccianti voted no. Motion carried.

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Centennial Plaza Project

The contracted portion of the Centennial Plaza project is complete. Swedberg and Associates has presented an Application and Certificate for Payment on the project. There is a retainer of \$5791.00 which warranties the turf establishment for one year from the contracted completion date of November 20, 2020. There will be a dedication in the Spring of 2021.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the first application and certificate for payment attached to the memo in the amount of \$61,759.00 to Swedberg and Associates, Inc. for contracted work completed to date on the Commissioners Grove/Centennial Plaza Project, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with Jean Twyning, Mary Marquardt, Paul McCaffrey and Mark Muccianti voting yes. Sam An was not present for the vote. Motion carried.

Executive Session

At 6:32 p.m. Jean Twyning made a motion to go into Executive Session under section 2(C)(1) of the Open Meetings Act for the discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or education setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body . Seconded by Mary Marquardt. A voice vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

Regular session reconvened at 7:57 p.m. Roll call was taken. Those present were Mary Marquardt, Jean Twyning, Sam An, Paul McCaffrey and Mark Muccianti. Also present were Mark Pentecost and Debbie Kent.

Jean Twyning made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,197.50 plus the amount of savings from Workers Compensation once the rate is available to be placed in a Deferred Compensation Medical Expense Account for Mark Pentecost for the calendar year of 2021, seconded by Mary Marquardt. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Kent