

Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the 19th Hole Restaurant, Cambridge Road Kewanee, IL 61443 Thursday November 19, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Present: President Andrew Verstraete, Commissioners Jim Powell, Jim Heberer, Steve Brackett, Director Brian Johnson, Secretary Christy Jackson-Ehnle, J.R. Salisbury, Dan Erickson, David Pistorius (First Midstate), Susan Devilder (Kewanee Star Courier), Stephanie Johnson, Ellen Johnson, & Paula Kapacinskaskas, Eric Miner (Blunier Builders), Andy Robinson (Robinson Renovations)

Absent: Jacque Verscha

President Andrew Verstraete called the meeting to order. David Pistorius with First Midstate who presented the Board with the Ordinance No. 350 “An Ordinance providing for the issue of General Obligation Park Bonds, Series 2020, of the District, for park purposes, to pay obligations of the District and for park purposes, to pay obligations of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale to the purchaser thereof.” David Pistorius informed the Board all went well with the bond; Peoples National Bank purchased the bond at the Kewanee Park District this year would be receiving \$529,000.00 around December 11, 2020.

Jim Heberer moved to approve and accept Ordinance #350 for General Obligation Bonds. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The Board was then presented with the proposal of Ordinance No. 351 “An Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2012 of the District.”

Steve Brackett moved to approve and accept Ordinance #351. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

First Midstate will file the appropriate paperwork with the Henry County Offices. The Board thanked Mr. Pistorius and Frist Midstate for their continued help procuring the Kewanee Park District General Obligation Bond.

The minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed and discussed. Jim Powell motioned to accept the minutes as written. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The October 2020 Financial Statements was presented. The Board Reviewed and discussed the Financial Statement. Jim Powell motioned to accept the October 2020 Financial Statement. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The November Bills for Approval were reviewed and discussed. Steve Brackett moved to approve the Bills for November 2020. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Open Business: With no open business to discuss, President Verstraete turned the meeting over to Director Johnson for his report.

Director's Johnson's Report and Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be on Thursday November 19, 2020 at 5:30pm. We will be meeting at the 19th Hole Restaurant to give everyone a little more breathing room. The pandemic seems to get worse not better. Considering the City of Kewanee Offices and the Henry Stark County Health Department Offices closing to the public, I believe that we should make masks mandatory for our meeting. David Pistorius from First Midstate will be joining us to finish up the annual G. O. Bond issue, so if Andy and Christy can get here a little early, they can sign a ton of papers before the meeting. Here we go...

- 1.) **Thank you** — We were sent a letter from Athletic Director at KHS Tim Atwell and the Cross-Country coach, Chad Palm, thanking us on our partnership and the part we played in the success of their student athletes. We also got a thank you from the Kewanee Animal Shelter for letting them use the driving range for their ball drop.
- 2.) **Update of KPD Funds** — I made a financial sheet outlining our funds so you all would be ready to make any decisions that may come up in the meeting on the 19th (i.e.; approving building or handicap doors). Again, we need to be careful how we spend the excess funds in the general fund with

so much of the recreational fund not being used on current activities because of COVID.

- 3.) **Premise and Liability Insurance** — Jim Grier has proposed coverage for the 2020-2021 year on premise and liability from ICRMT, the carrier we have had for several years. The premium was up \$1,248.00 but with the COVID discount they provided, the total premium is \$41,119.00 which will end up \$2,244.00 less than last year. Jim is not coming to the meeting, but will be there upon our request, just let me know.

Jim Powell motioned to keep the 2020-2021 premise and liability insurance with ICRMT. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- 4.) **Bid Openings** — We opened bids on the handicap front doors and the new maintenance building on October 27, 2020. I did prepare a bid recap sheet to you all and a copy of all bids as I received them. I also noted some facts about the bid on the side of the page. I am sure you will have questions and comments. There also may be some of the bidders at the meeting.

With rental equipment Dan Erickson said that he could tear down the old building on Irwin. Jim Powell motioned to have Jonathan Frantzen to work December & January also to help Dan. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. Three in Favor. Jim Heberer Nay. Motion Passed.

Jim Powell motioned for Dan to tear down the building and use United Rentals for the equipment needed to tear down the building. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. Three in Favor. Jim Heberer Nay. Motion Passed.

Jim Heberer motioned to have Blunier Builders to build the maintenance building \$84,315.00. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Eric Miner (Blunier Builders) quoted \$28,530.00 for the inside of the build the stem wall, walls built, add a finish chemical storage on inside, not the concrete floor. Jim Heberer motioned for Blunier Builders to do the inside walls of the maintenance building. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Jim Heberer asked Dan about down spouts and gutters. Eric quoted \$1,800.00 to put the down spouts and gutters on. Jim Heberer motioned to have Blunier Builders to put on the down spouts and gutters on the

maintenance building. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Jim Heberer motioned to have the bids for the Handicap doors for the 19th Hole Restaurant until they have more information on the doors and get a bid for 1 and 2 doors. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

5.) **Ratliff Brothers** gave us a bid of \$22, 680.00 to get the building torn down, trees and concrete removed and the dirt work to get prepared for the building itself

6.) Some questions and requests_

a.) Jim made a motion in the last board meeting to get a price on guard rail for #17 tee off area. Interstate Fence came in with a bid of \$5,250.00 for 100 foot of guard rail.

Andy Verstraete motioned to have Interstate Fence to put in the 100 foot of guard rail for the 10 #17 tee off area for \$5,250.00. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

b.) Interstate Fence also came in with a bid of \$14,790.00 to complete the south end of Windmont Park fence to match the new fence we just put in. **Replacing the south end fence at Windmont Park was discussed and tabled at the meeting.**

c.) Andy dropped off some job descriptions to Boog who brought them in to me and asked for them to be put on the agenda. He has them all except for the secretary 's position which I am assuming will be added later.

Job descriptions were discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

d.) Boog asked for Pay scale for park positions be brought up for discussion. He is suggesting a max out salary for the Director of \$70,000.00, Parks Supervisor \$55, 000.00, Golf Course Superintendent \$65,000.00, and Asst Golf Course Superintendent of \$35,000.00. I am assuming that the Secretary position may need to be added into this. Boog also said he would be bringing up moving some holidays around for the full timers and use them for Christmas break.

Jim Heberer motioned to accept the pay scale max for the Director \$70,000 Parks Superintendent \$55,000 Golf Course Superintendent \$65,000

and Asst Golf Course Superintendent \$35,000. Jim Powell seconded the motion. Three in Favor. Steve Brackett Nay. Motion Passed.

e.) Boog also wanted to bring up direct deposit of payroll checks at the Kewanee Park District for employees.

Director Johnson asked attorney Justin Raver about employee paycheck direct deposit, he said that you can suggest everyone to have an account, it is discrimination to make them have one. Jim Powell ask Brian to check and ask who wants direct deposit.

f.) Boog wanted to know if we can start tearing out some of the old benches on the golf course and keeping the plate for a future use.

Dan Erickson said that he could take out the bad ones and keep the plates.

g.) Boog also asked if Brian, JR, and Dan could get debit cards for the gasoline that they use.

Jim Heberer motioned to get Visa cards for Brian, JR, and Dan for fuel. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

h.) Boog also wanted to know the difference in 2019 vs 2020 season tickets.

	2019	2020
Single	31	13
Family	42	28
Seniors	88	55
Other	21	29

i.) **Russ from M&M Golf** cars to see what the trade in value would be for the older beige carts in case we decided to purchase more carts. We already know a new cart will be \$4,700.00. He said the 2001 beige carts will trade in at \$1,200.00 and the 2004 beige carts will trade in at \$1,400.00.

Purchasing golf carts was discussed and tabled at the meeting.

j.) **Dianne Packee** sent an e-mail asking if the Salvation Army could do a kettle bells at Windmont Park Lighting on opening night? The Salvation Army 's funds are struggling because of the COVID.

Andy Verstraete motioned to let the Salvation Army to have kettle bells at Windmont Park lighting on opening night. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- 7.) **Windmont Fountain** — I have contacted the families of people that we have memorial monies from to gain their permission to use those funds for a new fountain and marker for Windmont Park. I have heard back from all of them and have the go ahead except for one family who said no. I also need to add a couple of corporate sponsors to the plaque to cover all the costs of the project. Memorial Fountain - \$7,875.00 — Rock & Cast Bronze marker - \$3,750.00 for a total of \$11,625.00. I have \$12,497.37 earmarked out of donation account to cover costs of project. What do you think?

Jim Heberer motioned to get the fountain for total \$11,625.00. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- 8.) **Windmont Park Oldeen Memorial** — I visited with Jon Ponder at Lacky Monument to come up with something that would look good next to Rob Oldeen 's bench at Windmont Park for Ron Oldeen & Family. Waiting on Bob and family to make a decision to move forward if they like it and you approve it.

Jim Powell motioned to move forward and put the memorial where the family wants it to be. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- 9.) **Windmont Internet** — Mike Perva advised me to talk to Geneseo Communications to see what they would charge for service to the shelter house there. As you can see for direct broadband service it would cost \$2,950.00 to install and \$140.95 per month. Obviously not the way to go.

- 10.) **Fore Better Golf**—I have been in contact with Fore Better Golf who told me that 10, 000 new scorecards would be \$825.00 plus shipping. I have scorecard samples on the way. They are working on tee marker signs but I have not received a quote yet.

- 11.) **Ken Gutschlag** stopped by with the bill for the new transformer at Northeast Park and the labor that went along with it. \$2, 110.00.

Jim Heberer motioned to pay the billed invoice to Ken Gutschlag. Jim Powell seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- 12.) **Jim** asked me to have an end of the year inventory list done for the

19th Hole Restaurant. Enclosed.

13.) **EE Baker Trust** amount enclosed.

Director's Johnson's Retirement

President Andy Verstraete asked Brian where he got his 191,196 ERI early retirement figure from, he said Jon Renner the IMRF ERI representative and explained to the board the benefits of ERI and that it is to help the park district. Brian also gave the board information about the City of Kewanee employees that are retiring with the IMRF ERI and explained the information about the seven employees that are eligible for retirement. Brian is the only one currently eligible for ERI at the Kewanee Park District, he explained the ERI retirement cost that he had given the board from Jon Renner. Brian suggested starting a new Director at \$50,000 and other employee benefits that would cut costs. Brian said at the last meeting that Andy said that he had enough time to retire. Brian explained that ERI takes a jump when you turn 60 and another when you turn 62 if I retire without IMRF ERI I would not hit either one of these tiers and honestly cannot afford to retire without this program. I sure love this job and need three more years to reach these tiers. I am not asking to retire because I do not like doing what I am doing I am asking to retire because the Kewanee Park District can reform, save money, and look forward to the future. This program was offered to me five years ago when it was offered to Steve Salisbury and Gary Erickson, I turned it down because of insurance reasons now I am ready to accept the offer as a great business plan for the Kewanee Park District. The information that was handed out explains that it is good for the park district and the next pages in the pamphlet are from the City of Kewanee of what was offered to seven of their employees and if they all take it, it is going to cost them over a million dollars. Brian said that is not taking taxpayers money that is being responsible with taxpayers' money you are going to save money in the long run by getting the older workers out of the work force and bringing in the younger workers. I brought it up to the board at the last meeting and they said they need more information on it, and think I gave a pretty good recap of this and I hope the board takes advantage of this. Andy asked Brian so you would start the next

director at \$50,000 Brian said it took him 25 years to get to \$67,000 I do not think starting off a person at \$50,000 is bad at all, especially in Kewanee IL. Andy said the next director would be at \$50,000 and he don't see how this guy is going to run a 3-million-dollar operation making that. The ERI offers good for the employee and for the park district it is a win win for both sides, the ERI recommends that you replace the cost with 80% of the cost. Brian mentioned how he worked up the scale just like every worker we have. Andy mentioned that without the health reimbursement account that the starting wage would be 42,000-43,000 you are not going to find someone for that amount and have a degree high tier person to do this, no way. Brian said what do you offer and if there is a \$70,000 cap what would you start them off at plus benefits? Andy said you would have to look at their background, education, experience. Steve Brackett mentioned that we do not have that information I do not think we can move forward to anything right now; we would have to investigate this your channel sizes of park districts our size and see what they are being paid. Andy said you are not going to find someone for \$50,000 and do a great job and be knowledgeable of everything. Andy said you are not saving money it looks like it, but it is not in the long run. Brian said that this is an opportunity for us. Brian said I have been here 29 years I personally deserve this opportunity that is also good for the park district. Brian said If you do not give me this ERI to get to a tier I can manage I will still have to stay another 3 years. Andy made a motion for a list for a new director, no second. Motion died for lack of second.

With nothing further to discuss, President Verstraete entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Heberer moved to adjourn. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Meeting adjourned.