

Budget Meeting
November 17, 2025

A. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

At the call of the President, Sue Gulas, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting – Budget Meeting in the Board Room of the Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 2:00pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Raasch, Tatro, Gulas, Perez, Mutz

C. Opportunity For The Public To Speak - 3 minute time limit

When given the opportunity to comment no one from the public came forward to address the Board.

D. Discussion

1. January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 Operating Budget

Mr. Brad Staab, Executive Director, listed many accomplishments of 2020-2025.

- Received \$665,000 in APRA from Will County for COVID losses
- Completed Kathy Green Multi-Purpose Center renovations (flooring, lighting, controlled access entry, gym painted, new bleachers, Room 1 renovation)
- Replaced glass at Bird Haven Greenhouse, finishing project that was started in 2014
- Finalized work at Grove Road Park, with full playground installed and walking path
- Signed 10 year, \$1.94MM deal with Redbirds Baseball at Inwood Sports Complex
- Installed turf and updated concession at Inwood Sports Complex
- Renovated dugouts and extended fence at Inwood Sports Complex
- Completed Special Recreation of Joliet & Channahon (SRJC) contract with Channahon Park District
- Successfully exited a poor beverage contract that had negatively impacted the District for years and negotiated a new, more favorable agreement
- Acquired \$75,000 grant for updated playground at Nowell Park
- Received \$250,000 festival grant through the State of Illinois for 2022
- Secured partnership with Busey Bank/D'Arcy as Stadium sponsor for \$350,000
- Installation of new turf field at Joliet Memorial Stadium (\$500,000 in state funding)
- Renovated bathrooms at all three golf courses
- Installed Kobe Bryant basketball court at Nowell Park
- Updated to LED lighting throughout the District
- S&P Bond Rating improved to A- (POSITIVE) up from NEGATIVE in 2019
- Acquired GameTime grants for 7 playgrounds (Parkwood, Nowell Park, Fall Creek, Longleat, Waterford, Jachinowski and John Leach)
- Secured \$879,779 from Cullinan Properties for Rock Run development

- New Pickleball/Tennis courts at Inwood
- Signed naming rights partnership with EMediate Cure at Inwood Athletic Club for \$400,000
- Installed 100' flagpole at Joliet Memorial Stadium
- Hosted Taste of Joliet from 2022 – 2025, with almost \$5MM in gross revenue
- Airport main terminal repainted
- Brought in Cemeno's at the Park to restaurant space
- Set to open Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center in 2026 with full renovation of inside, landscaping, new parking lot, and security fence
- Complete renovation of Inwood Ice Arena – refrigeration/locker rooms/lobby
- New lighting/track/roof/carpet/equipment at Inwood Athletic Club
- Hole # 2 updated at Inwood Golf Course
- Irrigation installed at Woodruff Golf Course
- Installed turf in gym at Hartman Recreation Center
- SRJC Inclusive Playground installed with walking path upgraded
- Wedgewood Ball Shed completed
- Wedgewood/Inwood Parking Lots/cart paths
- Nature Center exterior redone and bathrooms renovated
- Named Large Company of the Year – Joliet Chamber
- Partnered with Northern Illinois Food Bank and AMITA Health to provide meals to community on 11 different dates

Mr. Staab then proceeded to explain that the budget will be reviewed during this meeting, it will then be on a 30-day public display and approved at the December 22, 2025 Board Meeting.

Mr. Staab presented the budget by department to the Board.

E. Action Item

1. January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 Operating Budget – Seeking Approval for 30 Day Public Display

Commissioner Raasch made a motion to approve 30-day public display for the tentative January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 Operating Budget. Commissioner Mutz seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro, Gulas

F. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by President Gulas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Raasch, and it carried unanimously. The time was 3:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kren
Recording Secretary