

Special Meeting
January 28, 2026

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 in the Board Room of the Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 8:00am.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call for the Regular Board Meeting

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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. Driving Range Project

Brad Staab, Executive Director, engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding the potential risks associated with financing the driving range project. Mr. Staab advised that the two funding options under consideration are the issuance of a revenue bond or the utilization of existing reserve funds. Mr. Staab stated that there are concerns about the financial impact of the anticipated 2028 water main replacement project on Jefferson Street, including the impact of reducing traffic to one lane and reconstruction of the parking lot.

Commissioner Raasch stated he has concerns regarding the use of reserve funds for the project and expressed a preference for pursuing a revenue bond instead. Commissioner Raasch acknowledged the potential risk of the driving range project, but expressed confidence in the staff, the project and its ability to achieve profitability.

Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance, stated that, in light of the anticipated 2028 water main issue, he recommends deferring the project at this time.

Vice President Tatro commends staff for making sound decisions. At the same time, Vice President Tatro recommends proceeding with the project, as it is expected to generate revenue and increase cash flow that would be available for other projects.

Sean Caddigan, Deputy Director, expressed concerns using a revenue bond for the project would tie up the capital fund and limit the District from funding other facility projects until 2032.

President Gulas stated that she is in favor of proceeding with the project. However, she emphasized that several matters require additional discussion. She noted that the project was not included on the previous capital list. She asked for clarification regarding the staffing structure.

Commissioner Perez discussed the importance of pursuing grant opportunities, securing sponsorships and naming rights, and evaluating staffing needs for the proposed project.

Commissioner Mutz stated he would like to see a driving range developed, but expressed concern about placing constraints on staff or delaying existing needs and projects for several years.

Mr. Staab presented the Board with a list of pros and cons for driving range project at Inwood Golf Course and Wedgewood Golf Course, as provided by Cover the Tees. Both options were noted to have advantages as well as areas of concern.

President Gulas stated that she agrees the project needs to be completed regardless of location and believes it has strong revenue potential. However, she recommended placing the project on a temporary pause to allow for further discussion, clarifying that she is not suggesting a delay of several years, but rather a short-term hold for additional clarification.

Mr. Staab noted that the Board previously requested a recommendation and asked, if the project were to move forward, which location would be recommended. Mr. Staab stated that his recommendation would be Wedgewood Golf Course, citing its location and revenue potential.

When asked for their perspective on the potential project, the golfing staff indicated they do not believe this is an ideal time to proceed and expressed concern about the driving range project delaying needs at other facilities.

The Board provided direction to move forward with the bidding process for 12 bays at each location and to include a 24 bay as an alternate bid for consideration.

E. 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 9:46am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kren
Recording Secretary