

Special Meeting
January 7, 2019

A. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

At the call of President Sue Gulas, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019, in the Board Room of the Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 5:00pm.

The Pledge of the Flag was led by Vice President Mutz.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: McGuire, Clement, Mutz, and Gulas
Commissioners Absent: Tatro

C. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK - 3 minute time limit

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

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Old Business

- a. Ordinance No. 831 – Ordinance providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of increasing the limiting rate for the Joliet Park District, Will and Kendall Counties, Illinois, to the voters of the Park District at the consolidated election to be held on the 2nd day of April, 2019

Deputy Director Brad Staab stated that the Joliet Park District has had a budget deficit for the last couple of years and staff has been working on rectifying the situation. Mr. Staab noted one major factor effecting the Joliet Park District operations is that many of the revenue facilities are weather dependent and the weather has not been cooperative for the past few years. Mr. Staab noted another factor is the aging infrastructure of the Park District. The Park District will be 97 years old in 2019 and several of buildings are over 50 years old and need significant renovations and repairs. Mr. Staab stated that staff has analyzed the current budget concerns and recognizes that a potential tax rate increase would be the best solution.

Matt Pehle, Finance Director, presented a financial overview of the Park District. With all the needs of the Park District both capital and operational, the Park District would need over \$5,000,000 additional per year for the next 50 years. The estimate monthly tax impact of the proposed limiting rate increase of 0.2558 is \$7.10 per \$100,000 of a home's market value. Mr. Pehle noted that the taxes the Joliet Park District receives is significantly lower than comparable park district. Local property taxes fund about 32% of the Joliet Park District's operations compared to other park districts property taxes funding 50% of their operations.

President Gulas stated that staff and the Board have been discussing the current state of the Park District for over a year and how to handle the needs of the Park District. Staff has done a phenomenal job band-aiding the facilities however it has gotten to the point where the Park

District is too far behind on Capital Improvements. President Gulas stated that there will be Open House meetings for the public to attend regarding the limiting rate increase referendum. Dates are: January 19, February 21, and March 12.

Commissioner Clement stated that the tax rate increase is needed however it's up to the voters to decide.

Commissioner McGuire stated that the Park District has never gone out for a limiting rate increase referendum and it seems to be time to go out to the voters.

President Gulas made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 831 – Ordinance providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of increasing the limiting rate for the Joliet Park District, Will and Kendall Counties, Illinois, to the voters of the Park District at the consolidated election to be held on the 2nd day of April, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGuire and carried as follows:

Ayes: Gulas, McGuire, Clement, Mutz

Nays: None

Absent: Tatro

E. ADJOURNMENT

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by President Gulas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clement and it carried unanimously. The time was 5:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Talarico
Recording Secretary