

McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

2.0 INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

2.1 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Scott A. Puma, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Finance & Administration
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Education
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Laura King, Chief of Police
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager

Others Present: Orrin Bangert, Harvard
Randy Stowe, Harvard

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Scacci led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

4.0 RECESS TO PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2021 COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

4.1 Motion to recess for the purposes of a Public Hearing of the FY 2021 Combined Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #20-971

A motion was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee Thomas, to recess for the purposes of a Public Hearing on the FY 2021 Combined Annual Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #20-971. A roll call vote gave the following results: Fritz-yes, Cook-yes, Brandt-yes, Thomas-yes, Campbell-yes, Henning-yes, Scacci-yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Scott A. Puma, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety
Andy Dylak, Director of Finance & Administration
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Education
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Laura King, Chief of Police
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager

Others Present: Orrin Bangert, Harvard
Randy Stowe, Harvard

4.3 Public Comment on the FY 2021 Combined Budget & Appropriation Ordinance
Orrin Bangert of Harvard stated he heard this budget was less than the previous year and he would like to see a larger budget rather than a smaller budget.

4.4 Motion to Close Public Hearing and Reconvene Regular Meeting
*A motion was made by Treasurer Henning, seconded by Secretary Campbell, to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.
Motion passed unanimously.*

5.0 RECONVENE & PUBLIC COMMENTS I

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District was reconvened to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Scacci on the evening of Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Brookdale Administrative Offices, 18410 US Highway 14, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

5.1 Roll Call

Trustees Present: Vern Scacci, President
Dave Brandt, Vice President
John Henning, Treasurer
Carolyn Campbell, Secretary
Bill Cook, Trustee
Patrick Fritz, Trustee
Linda Thomas, Trustee

Counsel & Staff Present: Scott A. Puma, Legal Counsel
Elizabeth S. Kessler, Executive Director
John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety

Andy Dylak, Director of Finance & Administration
Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation & Natural Resources
Wendy Kummerer, Director of Marketing & Education
Anne Basten, Executive Assistant
Jenny Heider, Human Resource Manager
Laura King, Chief of Police
Brad Woodson, Natural Resource Manager
Val Siler, Land Preservation Manager

Others Present: Orrin Bangert, Harvard
Randy Stowe, Harvard

There were no additional public comments.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Review of the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Item 13.3 Consideration of Resolution #20-15 Professional Services Agreement with McGrath Human Resources Group.

Secretary Campbell stated that she thought the board was going to talk about the different options available for evaluation and asked what the study was to be used for?

Vice President Brandt was concerned that the item was not budgeted. He also noted that the draft contract included organizational issues and he does not know of any. He emphasized that the contract should be the District's standard contract language for professional services. He also asked that any motion made should include more detail as to the scope of services. He once again asked for the name of the government contact who recommended this firm since he had not yet received an answer from the January 16, 2020 meeting.

Secretary Campbell asked for a consensus of purpose of the Culture Assessment and the format that will be used.

Executive Director Kessler shared that staff has asked her questions regarding the process being used to select the firm in which she responded that the Board of Trustees can elect to waive the District's Board of Trustees approved purchasing policies and procedures through a simple majority vote during a scheduled public Board of Trustees meeting.

President Scacci stated that he had started the process in July or August and had brought it to the Board of Trustees in October and that Trustee Cook had requested that someone be brought in to talk about the different types of assessments and what the board could and could not do. President Scacci offered to reach out at that time and found out that the board could move forward and got an informal indication that the board members wanted to move forward and that there was an obligation and responsibility to proceed. He questioned why there was pushback.

Vice President Brandt stated that he thinks that what is being moved forward is a witch hunt and the atmosphere is toxic.

Secretary Campbell reemphasized that there has been no board discussion setting the need or consensus for the process or format.

President Scacci quoted Dr. McGrath that this proposal is only for a Phase I and would not automatically move into a Phase II. He also stated that his two legal sources were Attorney Rock and Attorney Yaeger.

No other Board members made any comments on this topic when asked.

Item 12.9 - Resolution #20-13 IGA with Algonquin on bridge replacement and streetscape.

Secretary Campbell asked for more information on the bridge replacement to which Land Preservation Manager Siler reported that this was a huge benefit to the District and that the Village is working with our Planning Department staff. The bridge will be prebuilt and placed and the Village will include the pedestrian ramp to the road below and has agreed to maintain the ramp while the District will maintain the trail. The Village needed the bridge to be raised and it was designed to fit in with their new streetscape design.

Item 13.5 - Grant Updates

Executive Director Kessler reported that this item was originally intended to update the Board of Trustees on the application status however an amendment to the resolution was recommended. Director of Operations and Public Safety Kremer explained that a change in the portion of the trail being submitted for one of the grants was needed due to a lease issue on the first portion approved by the Board of Trustees. The water issue is the same on both portions of the trail and both portions need to be improved so a switch is recommended. The repairs would be in the FY 2022 Budget.

6.2 Discussion on FY 2021 Legislative Program

Executive Director Kessler asked Trustees to review the information provided via separate email on the FY 2020 Legislative Program and to let her know if there are any items or topics that they would not want to move forward in the FY 2021 Legislative Session.

7.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Kessler reminded everyone that Festival of the Sugar Maples is coming up on March 7 & 8 and 14 & 15. She thanked the board members for attending the 2020 Conservation Congress. Feedback on the event is still being collected and will be shared when the congressional conversation summary data is provided to the Board of Trustees for acceptance at the March meeting.

Executive Director Kessler reported that the Attitude and Interest Community Survey had begun the previous week.

Executive Director Kessler, President Scacci, and Treasurer Henning met via phone with a few of the representatives from the nature hospitality group. There is no final proposal at this time and no further communication has been received by the second group.

Executive Director Kessler will send out a request to establish a date to orient board members on the Administration and Finance Division and asked if the board was interested in being a part of the District's on-line simulated technology training program. Potential dates will be sent out for a meeting within the next 60 days.

Executive Director Kessler shared that she had followed up in writing with the Village of Ringwood several times since their meeting on the stormwater issues and that staff has received the CAD drawings through the Village and is the process of reviewing.

Executive Director Kessler updated the board on a meeting with the Coyne Station neighbors which resulted in the District removing a blockage and having a drain tile repaired.

8.0 OTHER

President Scacci made a statement to Orrin Bangert that if we had more money, he would put it in the budget and make it available to which Mr. Bangert stated that he would like to see the Board of Trustees demand the money it is eligible for.

9.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS II

There were no public comments.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Brandt, seconded by Treasurer Henning, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote resulted in all ayes.

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m. February 20, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn Campbell (Mar 25, 2020)

Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

Mar 25, 2020

Date






2.20.2020 Committee of the Whole Public Meeting Minutes File

Final Audit Report

2020-03-25

Created:	2020-03-25
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"2.20.2020 Committee of the Whole Public Meeting Minutes File" History

-  Document created by Anne Basten (abasten@mccdistrct.org)
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