

**MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PARK BOARD
COMMISSIONERS OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK HELD A
MEETING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019
8:00 AM AT WEST RIDGE CENTER IN THE BOARD ROOM
636 RIDGE RD, HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035**

Present: Commissioner Bernstein, Vice President Ruttenberg;

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Director Dunn, Interim Director Becker, Assistant Director Maliszewski, Assistant Director Henriques; Manager Sassorossi, Manager Fiori, Manager Acevedo, Manager Pierce, Manager Grill; Senior Accountant Warsaw; Staff Accountant Rosen, Accounts Payable Administrator Lakoske; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski;

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

The October 2, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting minutes were approved. The meeting proceeded with the 2019 Property Tax Levy-Collections 2020.

2019 Property Tax Levy – Collections 2020

The presentation of the tax levy was conducted by Interim Director Becker. Interim Director Becker explained the process, preparation and approval of the Truth in Taxation Resolution as well as the adoption of the Tax Levy Ordinance at the December 12, 2019 Board Meeting. The 2019 Truth In Taxation Resolution reflects a 4.58% increase over the 2018 tax extension. Commissioner Bernstein asked to include a breakdown of the 4.58% which should contain the CPI and the expected growth information.

2020 Budget – January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Interim Director Becker lead the Finance Committee and attendees through the budget document beginning with an overview of the 2020 Budget - Year of Planning. The 2020 budget encompasses the continued efforts towards completing GreenPrint 2024, funding for capital projects and the District's continued commitment to meet the community's needs. The 2020 Budget reflects a surplus of \$813,457 after transfers and bond issuance. This led to a discussion of the prior year transfers. Commissioner Bernstein requested 5-year historical data of the District's transfers/surplus and deficit. It was suggested to present to the board as follows, the Operations (General/Rec/Special Rec funds) will end 2020 with a surplus, however capital expenditures will create a deficit and with the issuance of debt the District will end 2020 at a surplus. The 2020 Budget focuses on GreenPrint 2024 projects; planning for Centennial Ice Arena's traffic study, planning for playground renovation at Sunset Woods Park and continuing the Highland Park Country Club conversion project. The District is focusing on feedback received from the community from the Interest and Attitude Survey, with an emphasis on adult programming. Staff continues to work on efficiency without sacrificing quality.

The Park District receives 6.9% of the total of the local tax bill. Increases in our tax levy is due to the Park District's anticipation of an increase to the cost of part-time employment as minimum wage increases of the beginning January 1, 2020 and continues through 2025. The District strives to be the employee of choice and values all employees. Commissioner Ruttenberg suggested the Tax Bill chart be changed to indicate 6.9% rather than 7%.

Other Business

A brief mention of the Bond Issuance calendar and reminder of the GreenPrint 2024 meeting scheduled for November 11, 2019.

Executive Director Romes updated the committee on the Ravine 10 project estimated costs. The Army Corps of Engineers will fund 20% of the project costs. Estimated total cost for the District is \$500,000. Commissioner Bernstein requested reducing the budget to \$500,000 rather than the original budgeted amount of \$800,000.

Executive Director Romes discussed the Park Avenue barge issue. The District will be inviting the boating community to discuss repair to the damaged barge at an upcoming meeting.

The Committee asked Staff to determine the number of residents currently enrolled in the Sunset Valley Golf Club Loyalty program and number of golf rounds from this past season.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg. The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.