

COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES
TUESDAY, June 28, 2022
FRANKFORT, IL – FOUNDERS COMMUNITY CENTER
6:30 p.m.

President Barz called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Attendance: Commissioners Ruvoli, Barz, McCarey and Ponton; Executive Director, Gina Hassett; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Commissioners Gentry

Guests: Belinda and Jessica Olszewski

- I. LWSRA Contributions – A contribution of ¼ cent, .0025%, of the Districts EAV is currently given to LWSRA in addition to the annual payment for operations and bond payments. Both are paid out of the ADA Fund. The agreement that requires that the District give a 1/4cent of the levy to LWSRA will expire in 2023. The agency is asking that all 7 Districts continue to contribute the ¼ cent so that they will have the funding for capital projects and ongoing maintenance. Collectively the 7 member Districts contribute \$97,600 annually through the ¼ cent agreement. The current agreement was for 10 years and LWSRA is asking for 10 years again. The member Districts want to do the agreement for 5 years if they all agree. The caveat is that it is all agree or it doesn't go through. There are 2 member Districts that are very small and may have a hard time convincing their Boards to agree. Gina recommends continuing with the ¼ cent only if earmarked for Capital and large projects. LWSRA provided a sample of projects they are looking into and Commissioner McCarey would like to see what the estimate for each one is. Commissioner Barz feels the Board should go agree and so did Commissioner Ruvoli did too. Commissioner McCarey was undecided. Commissioner Ruvoli thinks agreeing would protect the original investment by the member Districts. Resident Belinda Olszewski commented that her daughter has been back to attend programs since the pandemic restrictions were lifted due to the change in the policies of LWSRA. Some of their policies have changed. There no longer is the staff that can feed a participant if they are in a full day program and Mrs. Olszewski would have to return to the facility to feed Jessica. She would like the agreement to be for one year to see what LWSRA actually spends the money on.
- II. Tax Rate Increase – There were two spreadsheets in the Board packets showing Election cycles and area properties that might be available to be purchased under different scenarios. Any purchase would need a tax increase. A referendum would need to be filed by September 1st for the November 2022 election. The next would be in May 2023. If the Board moves ahead for the 2022 election then Gina and staff would do the information story to the residents, but it would consume most of their time between now and then. Consulting firms quoted \$60K -\$70K to do resident engagement, public relations, final plan and surveys. Staff cannot conduct the surveys. Gina felt that there is a lot of community support. General consensus is that Fall 2022 is the better chance to pass a binding referendum. The Fire Protection District might do a referendum. Discussion of the pros and cons was held. Gina will work on getting a survey done.

Discussion of all the below was held.

- A. Operating – The District is at capacity and future plans need to be discussed.
- B. A portion of Chelsea School District 157C was discussed with the former superintendent for the District's utilization. Not known if it is still available and if

they want to sell or lease. Or even if several years down the road would they just demolish it.

- C. Borg Warner – Gina has not heard if it under contract yet. She reached out to them to inquire if the land would be available for July 4th parking. She will ask about a contract. They will return her call tomorrow. BW does video monitor the area.
- D. Roma is not for sale that anyone knows. There are several lots and some green space about 12 acres and \$60,000 in property taxes. They have A C.
- E. Hallmark had recently changed the for sale sign. Gina called the realtor but has not heard back. It is 10.5 acres comprised of two parcels, \$80,000 in property taxes and is not air conditioned.
- F. FPDs Laraway property is 11 acres. President Barz suggested that a trade of this parcel for Roma or Hallmark. \$1 million is what is needed to come out even.
- G. The lots west of the Village Hall might be available soon and would be an ideal location on Route 45.

III. Educational/Networking Opportunities -

- A. Chamber Golf Outing – July 20 Gina reserved a foursome
- B. LWSRA Golf Outing - August 12/19 Gina reserved a foursome
- C. NRPA Conference – Sept 20

IV. Miscellaneous –

- A. Founder Center – The Air Conditioning system in the gym broke down this past week. An assessment of the situation is being done to determine if any part of it can be salvaged and what the emergency cost would be. Staff is looking into using other facilities for programming. It is estimated a new one could have a wait time of 40 weeks.
- B. Splash Pad – One of the motors burned out on a chemical feeder. It was replaced and the acid feeder was tweaked. Remote access is now available. Discussion was held.
- C. Paving – The previously approved paving projects will begin in the next few weeks.
- D. Will County Covid Funds – Gina received word that some Covid funds will be available specifically for Park Districts. Training sessions on what the District could receive money for will be held.
- E. Special Use – Church group rents the Founders Center for at least a year. They want to post an A-Frame sign to advertise that they hold services there. They applied to the Village for the sign and were told that there needs to be a Special Use Permit for an R-2 zoning. Gina will be discussing further with the Village. Gina is looking for documentation to confirm or refute.
- F. The pond in Sandalwood Subdivision had a person testing for mosquitos per Commissioner Ruvoli. Nobody knew who authorized it and Gina will ask the Village.
- G. Gina was informed by the State that the grant for the splash pad is still not done and a new person (at least the 4th one) has been assigned to it. The person said she is confident that FPD will get the money but couldn't say when.
- H. Olde Stone Property – The park property has been a topic of discussion by this Board for months. The HOA wants it to be developed and the Board is not planning on it based on proximity to a current park. It could just be a green space. It was suggested

if every resident signed off on it then it could be sold. Gina thinks that doing a swap for another parcel might be the better solution.

- I. Chrystal Brook Playground – It is complete now but not signed over to the District. It is about 15 acres including a pond.

Gina thanked all for coming out to the Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting.

- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION ***President Barz made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real estate 5 ILCS 120/2(5); Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); imminent or pending litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(2)(c)(1); and finances. Commissioner Ruvoli seconded it. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 7:40 p.m.***
- VI. OPEN SESSION – With nothing further to discuss, ***President Barz motioned to end the Executive Session, return to Committee and adjourn. Commissioner Ruvoli seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote at 8:08 p.m.***
- VII. ADJOURNMENT – June 28, 2022 Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand
Board Minutes Secretary