

FOREST PRESERVE BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 10, 2016

PRESENT: Committee members, S. Ballard, M. Burns, D. Cremeens, K. Maranda, E. Langdon, R. Simmer.

ABSENT: S. Doye.

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Burns, District five Commissioner; Jeff Craver, Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; April Palmer, County Auditor; Carrie Kerr, Treasurer's Office; Jerry Clyde, Human Resources Director.

President Ballard called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Budget Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, in the County Board Office on the second floor of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

Roll was called:

S. Ballard, E. Langdon, M. Burns, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens. R. Simmer arrived after roll was called at 3:10pm.

Total Present 6

S. Doye.

Total Absent 1

President Ballard called on Mr. Craver to present the budget for the 2018 fiscal year for Forest Preserve General Fund, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund and the Development of Forests and Construction Fund.

Mr. Craver brought everyone's attention to the Schedule A packet, and briefly went over the summation of the previous year's fund balances. The Development Fund and the Liability Fund are budgeted to generate surpluses. The Development Fund was created to generate money to fix the spillway and for other capital improvements to the parks. Liability has had some cash flow issues over the past few years. The Committee will note that there are some adjustments being made to the levies on the funds, some are decreased and some are increased. There will be more detail further into the packet. Are there any questions regarding the Schedule A?

There were no questions regarding Schedule A.

President Ballard called for a motion approving Schedule A for the 2018 budget.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve Schedule A for the 2018 budget. Mr. Langdon seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver moved on to the revenue, and reminded the Committee that revenues are estimated very conservatively. The District is very weather dependent. Good weather brings people out to enjoy the parks and spend money. If the weather is too hot or it's raining, then people stay indoors. Late springs, early winters and flooding are other factors. Since there's no predicting what the weather will do, revenues are set conservatively. The Personal Property Replacement Tax, which used to be budgeted directly into the IMRF and zoo funds, is now being budgeted in the General Fund with budgeted transfers out of General Fund and into those funds. The reason for this is because those funds are restrictive, so if there is a surplus then it is harder or impossible to use those surplus funds where they are needed the most. It's a more appropriate way to handle those funds. Also starting in fiscal year 2018, would like to do away with the 50¢ and 75¢ transfer into the Golf Course Improvement Fund for the ninth and eighteenth holes. That practice was originally intended to provide funds for building a new club house. However, that was accomplished about six years ago, so being able to use those funds for operations is a much better use of those funds. The cart rental transfers into the Golf Course Improvement Fund will continue, so the District can save up for when the current golf carts need to be replaced. That shouldn't be for several years, but it's expensive to replace a fleet of carts. The District will need to raise fees for the next season also, so be prepared for that. The zoo fund's property tax levy has decreased, however, the train ticket fee is budgeted to increase one dollar next season. That would make the train ticket \$3.00. The Hotel/Motel revenue is getting more consistent, so those numbers were increased in the budget to reflect that. In the IMRF fund property tax is the only revenue source, so that had to go up to meet the increased expenses due to the ERI. In the Liability Fund the property tax is also the only revenue, so that levy had to increase to meet increased expenses. FISSA Fund is the same as IMRF and Liability, though that increase is smaller. Regarding the Development of Forests and Construction Fund, fiscal year 2018 will be the second year. It was created to address the Lake George spillway repairs, and other capital improvements for the District's preserves. Are there any questions on the revenues?

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the revenue portion of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the revenue portion of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver moved on to the expenses, and stated that there were changes in the Administration budget. Website upgrades have been budgeted for. The District's website was created several years ago, and is a bit outdated. The zoo has been working with Mindfire, and Mindfire will be coming to do a presentation next month regarding performing services for the District as a whole. There are also funds in there for a District Planning document. It's been several years since the District updated the park plans. A four percent increase for exempt personnel is also budgeted, with the exception of myself because I feel that decision should come from this Committee.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the 4% salary increases for all exempt employees, including Mr. Craver, as was discussed previously.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the 4% salary increases for all exempt employees, including Mr. Craver. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver moved on to Illiniwek, and stated that the decrease in benefits is due to a retiree coming off the insurance plan. That is also happening for Loud Thunder's budget. There is budget for some equipment purchases to replace older, failing equipment also. The Loud Thunder budget also has some equipment purchases budgeted, as does Indian Bluff. Dorrance Park's budget is much the same as it is this year. The zoo's budget reflects the salary increases that are needed to comply with the new salary minimum of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The significant increase in the animal care budget for the zoo is an additional animal handler that the Society has agreed to reimburse the District for the expense.

There was a brief discussion regarding the union status of the animal handler position, and the desire to ensure that the position would only be around as long as the Society was willing to fund it, which is two years.

Mr. Craver went on to state that there were also vehicle purchases budgeted for replacing very old vehicles at the zoo. Advertising and Professional Services from Mindfire are also included in the budget. There will also be some adjustments to the insurance benefits, and those estimates are reflected in the budget also. Moving to the IMRF budget. Take all the employee salaries and multiply that by nineteen point four, and that's the number. Liability Fund has the IPARKS premium budgeted, some miscellaneous workers' compensation liability and a few other items. Hopefully, the District will be able to build up some reserves in that fund. The FISSA fund takes all the employees' salaries, multiply by point seven six five, and that's the number. The Development of Forests and Construction has \$25,000.00 budgeted for repairs at Dorrance Park, and the rest is allocated to the spillway project. The \$25,000.00 is to combine with URICRA fundraising for repairing and improving the facilities at Dorrance Park. Would like to put in \$25,000.00 for the next three years to go towards those projects. That would total \$75,000.00, and is about twenty percent of the estimated costs of the project. Are there any questions regarding the budgeted expenses?

There were no questions.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the budget for expenses for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

MOTION: Mr. Langdon moved to approve the budget for expenses for the 2018 Fiscal Year. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 3:43 PM.

Submitted by:

Cassie Sullivan

Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant