

**Vernon Hills Park District
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
December 2, 2010 – 5:30p.m.**

1. Call to Order. The Special Meeting of the Vernon Hills Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Ballowe at 5:40pm at the Larry Laschen Community Center located at 294 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL.

2. Roll Call. Present: Commissioners Doerhoefer, Meline, Kessler and Ballowe. Staff – Jeff Fougerousse and Marla Pineiro. Others present: Residents Sarah Royalty-Treds

3. New Business

A. Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

In November the Board approved by resolution an estimated levy of \$3,398,758 (not including bonds) to be extended in 2011. This estimate represents a 7.07% increase over the previous tax year. The increase is based on the rising cost of living, an increase in Park District residents and the expansion and improvement of Park District facilities.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2010 are \$1,901,800. This represents a 107.5% increase over the previous year. This large increase is based on the park districts decision in 2009 to refinance the district's 1998 bond issue. The remaining 10 years of payments were reduced to 4 years saving the park district over \$950,000 in interest payments.

The levy estimate is commonly referred to as a balloon levy. A balloon levy occurs when a taxing body intentionally asks for more money than they estimate they will receive. This is a common practice because taxing bodies must determine their levy amount using only an estimate of their district's EAV growth. When the Lake County Clerk's office extends the final 2010 levy they will cut back to the state imposed tax cap any levy estimate that exceeds the cap, however, if a levy estimate is too low the clerks office will not increase their request.

4. Public Comment

Resident Sarah Royalty-Treds of 280 W. Coreys Court shared that she was present to get an understanding of why the tax levy increase was so large. Superintendent Pineiro explained that the large increase is due to the fact that the Park District re-financed a bond issue to take advantage of low interest rates. Ms. Royalty-Treds appreciated the explanation.

5. Adjournment

Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:48pm.

Jeff Fougerousse, Park Board Secretary

James E. Ballowe, Park Board President