

**Vernon Hills Park District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
December 18, 2008 – 6:00 pm**

1. **Call to Order.** The regular meeting of the Vernon Hills Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Doerhoefer at 6:05 pm at the Laschen Community Center, 294 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** President Doerhoefer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call.** Present: Commissioners Ballowe, Meline, Peterson, Sente and Doerhoefer. Staff – Larry DeGraaf, Marla Pineiro, Orin Main, Tom Ritter, Cheryl Baron and Ruth Horndasch.

4. Truth in Taxation Hearing

President Doerhoefer announced that the Truth in Taxation hearing for the Vernon Hills Park District's 2008 Tax Levy is now open. At the November Board meeting the Park Board formally determined the amount of money which it estimates will be levied in 2008 for the Park District and extended in 2009. In November the Board approved by resolution an estimated levy of \$3,545,849.00 (not including bonds) to be extended in 2008. This estimate represents a 6.25% increase over the year 2007 tax levy. 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.

A hearing, as we are holding this evening is required to be held in any year that the Park Board determines that the current year's estimated levy will exceed the prior year's extension by 5% or more. Truth in Taxation law requires the Park Board to provide public notice as well as hold a public hearing to inform the residents of its intent to adopt such a levy. This hearing also provides an opportunity for the Park District residents to ask questions or make comments concerning the Park District's estimated levy.

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 EVA growth. When the Lake County Clerk's office extends the final 2008 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.

There being no resident questions or comments, President Doerhoefer declared the Truth in Taxation Hearing for the 2008 Tax Levy Closed.

5. Omnibus Vote Agenda

- A. **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 20, 2008**
- B. **Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 19, 2008**
- C. **Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of December 10, 2008**
- D. **Payables & Payroll through December 18, 2008 in the amount of \$358,968.12.**

Motion by Commissioner Sente to approve items A, B, C & D of the Omnibus Vote Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ballowe.

Ayes: Commissioners Peterson, Sente, Meline, Ballowe and Doerhoefer

Nays: None Motion carries

6. **Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period** – No visitors or guests present.
7. **Financial Reports for the Period Ending Nov 30, 2008** - Financial reports were accepted for file and audit.

8. Reports/Communication

A. **Finance & HR Superintendent – Marla Pineiro** – Report attached.

B. **Recreation Superintendent – Tom Ritter** – Report attached.

C. **Parks Superintendent – Orin Main** – Report attached.

D. **Communications Manager – Cheryl Baron** – Report attached.

E. **Commissioner/Committee Reports and Communications –**

1) **Park District/Village Liaison Committee – Commissioner Sente** – No report.

2) **Park District/Hawthorn School District 73 Liaison Committee – Commissioner Meline** – No report but informed the Board of a letter received from Hawthorn District 73 informing the Park Board that District 73 has remained committed to their intention to pursue a joint project south of the Family Aquatic Center with the Park District.

F. **Board Correspondence** – President Doerhoefer announced that the Board received 2 letters. The first letter was received from Hawthorn School District 73 that Commissioner Meline previously discussed. The second letter is from the Village of Vernon Hills detailing their 2009 Village and Committee schedules.

9. Unfinished and Continuing Business

A. 2008/2009 NRPA Gold Medal Application

Executive Director DeGraaf summarized the NRPA Gold Medal application process outlining that the written portion is worth 75% and the video is worth 25% of the total score. After a brief Board discussion it was decided by the Board to take 2 separate votes concerning the NRPA Gold Medal award. Motion by Commissioner Peterson to apply for the NRPA Gold Medal award in 2009. Second by Commissioner Sente.

Ayes: Commissioners Sente, Peterson, Ballowe and Doerhoefer

Nays: Commissioner Meline Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Sente to update the video portion of the 2009 NRPA Gold Medal application not to exceed \$15,000 in costs. Second by Commissioner Peterson.

Ayes: Commissioners Sente, Ballowe, Peterson and Doerhoefer

Nays: Commissioner Meline Motion carries.

B. Recyclable Container Selection

Supt. Pineiro provided the Commissioners with updated costs for the selected recyclable containers.

Motion by Commissioner Sente to purchase the Great Lakes Specialty Products recycle containers for selected parks not to exceed \$20,000. Second by Commissioner Ballowe.

Ayes: Commissioners Ballowe, Meline, Sente and Doerhoefer

Nays: None Abstention: Commissioner Peterson Motion carries.

C. Intergovernmental Agreement – VH Athletic Complex

Item 9C of Unfinished and Continuing Business has been tabled until the January meeting.

10. New Business

A. Annual Audit Report – Knutte & Associates

Item 10A of New Business has been tabled until the January meeting.

B. Ordinance 6-08, Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Year 2008

Motion by Commissioner Peterson to approve Ordinance 6-08, Tax Levy. Second by Commissioner Sente.

Ayes: Commissioners Meline, Peterson, Sente, Ballowe and Doerhoefer

Nays: None Motion carries.

C. W.W. Grainger Invoices Payable

No W.W. Grainer invoices payable.

11. Adjournment

Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 m.

Larry A. DeGraaf, Board Secretary