

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 17, 2019 – 6:40 PM  
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

1. Wanda Roberts-Bontz, Deputy Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, K. Swanson

**TOTAL PRESENT     24**

R. Simmer

**TOTAL ABSENT         1**

President Swanson stated, "I will open it with an announcement because you are both County Board Members and Forest Preserve Commissioners and you have United Way pledge forms that were distributed earlier. And, those are due, Catherine? Oh, she's tied up. Do you know when they are due; are they due immediately, ASAP?"

Ms. Przybyla stated, "I would like to have them before the holiday, if possible."

President Swanson added, "So if you can fill them out, you can make a cash donation or you can make a payroll deduction and Catherine's got those details as well. And as long as I am looking this way, our colleague, Jess Wehrle, is going to be leaving us; headed for sunshine instead of snowflakes. What are you thinking? But, I would just like to say on behalf of all of you we are very appreciative of all of her work in supporting our work."

2. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the November 19, 2019, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)**

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of comments from your respective Chair. Um, end of year giving is still underway. We have a campaign called [keepqcoutdoorsy.org](http://keepqcoutdoorsy.org). It's very simple, if you go to the Forest Preserve website, the big beautiful button in the corner that says 'donate'. If you push that, you'll see a great video. And you are given the choice of some projects to support thanks to

Scarlett Behrends for letting me know that we are now at \$575.00. And I assume there's a lot...it's higher than that?"

Mr. Craver stated, "It's six grand."

President Swanson clarified, "Wait, its \$6,000?"

(Group Laughter)

Mr. Craver stated, "Oh wait, I mean, uh, err, uh, \$600.00."

President Swanson interrupted, "I think we've just heard a pledge from Mr. Craver for about \$500,425.00, and I think that's great."

Mr. Craver added, "Sorry, I apologize."

President Swanson added, "So, we are getting them updated, but..."

Mr. Craver interrupted, "We have about \$800.00 today."

President Swanson continued, "So through [keepqcoutdoorsy.org](http://keepqcoutdoorsy.org), you can choose whether to support a new swing set at Illiniwek, Bee Hives at Loud Thunder, or the new invertebrate in the new exhibit; which we are going to hear about with Mr. Jackson in the future. That's very exciting, uh, and your gifts are very much welcomed. So, I encourage your attention to those things. Uh, if you haven't gotten all of your Christmas shopping done, there is a beautiful Snow Leopard ornament from Niabi; proceeds from which benefit the zoo. Uh, also the winter camp and appreciation dinners have been scheduled. Indian Bluff is offering its gift certificates and various specials. You'll want to talk to the golfers in your life. And staff is getting training on a new Point of Sale system; which will link into our philanthropy efforts and track the people who are friends of our wonderful public resources. Those comments aside, seeing no other requests for public comment, I will reserve and give members a chance to comment later in the meeting. I don't think that made it on to the meeting. As I said, we've got a speaker coming here in just a minute."

5. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the Forest Preserve General Fund claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$834,788.22, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Maranda moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the Resolution regarding the Designation of Banks and other Depositories, as presented. Commissioner Oelke seconded.

(Note\*\* The Certificate of Authority is in .pdf format and begins on the next page)

## Resolution

### Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Re: Designation of Banks or other Depositories

**WHEREAS**, Louisa A. Ewert, County Collector and County Treasurer, of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois, and being appointed Treasurer, of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District by the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of the County of Rock Island, State of Illinois has pursuant to the terms of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 70 ILCS 805/8b, requested this Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County to designate a Bank or Banks or other Depository in which the Funds and Public Monies in the custody of the County Treasurer and monies received by her in the collection of taxes may be kept, and

**WHEREAS**, the following designated banks have furnished copies of the sworn Statements of Resources and Liabilities, as furnished to the Comptroller of currency or to the Commissioner of Banks and Trust Companies of Illinois.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY**, aforesaid, that the following named Banks are hereby designated as Depositories in which the funds and monies received by Louisa A. Ewert, County Collector and County Treasurer and in the collection of taxes may be deposited to-wit:

*Bank of Orion; Moline, Illinois*  
*US Bank; Rock Island, Illinois*  
*Quad City Bank and Trust; Moline, Illinois*  
*First Midwest Bank; Moline, Illinois*

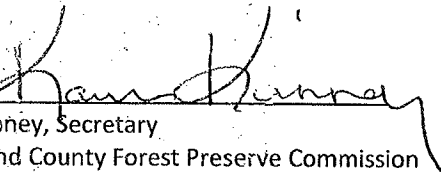
*First Trust and Savings Bank; Hillsdale, Illinois*  
*Reynolds State Bank; Reynolds, Illinois*  
*CBI Bank & Trust; Buffalo Prairie, Illinois*  
*SENB; Moline, Illinois*  
*Blackhawk State Bank & Trust; Milan, Illinois*  
*American Bank of Rock Island; Rock Island, Illinois*  
*First National Bank; Moline, Illinois*  
*Midwest Bank; Andalusia, Illinois*  
*Kone Employees Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Moline Municipal Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*QC Postal Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Service Plus Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*DuTrac Community Credit Union; Moline, Illinois*  
*Commerce Bank, Kansas City, Missouri*  
*PFM Asset Management LLC, Chicago, Illinois*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each bank herein designated as a depository for such funds or monies shall furnish the said Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of Rock Island County with a copy of all Statements of Resources and Liabilities which it is required to furnish to the said Comptroller of Currency or Director of Financial Institutions of the State of Illinois while acting as such Depository and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if such funds and monies are deposited in a bank herein designated, as Depository, the amounts of such deposits shall not exceed sixty-five (65%) of the Capital Stock and Surplus of such Bank and such County Treasurer shall not be discharged from responsibility for any such funds or monies deposited in any bank in excess of such limitation.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS**, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kai Swanson, President  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

**ATTEST:**   
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Morthland moved to approve the FY2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as presented. Commissioners O'Brien and L. Moreno seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

9. President Swanson stated, "I now invite Mr. Jim Taylor of Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Associates along with our esteemed Auditor, April Palmer to present the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) Audit and answer any questions that you may have. Mr. Taylor, the floor is yours."

Mr. Taylor stated, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to present again here. Uh, um, you've got a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in front of you that you've just voted on. I just want to make a few comments and April may also, um, on this report. First of all, it's a lengthy 95 page report. One of the reasons there is so much material in here is that the district does submit this report every year to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for their Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting; which it has received several years in a row, here, and that's a few pages back in the front of the report. I've just passed the letter of transmittal, uh, so it was received for last years and this will be submitted again this year. And, the expectation is that it would receive the award again. So, as I said, it's a lengthy report. I do want to point out; there are several letters in here, um, under the financial section, the independent Auditor's Report. I just want to make a

couple comments on that, that it is an unmodified opinion. So, it's a clean opinion on the results of our audit of the District's finances of the report that's in front of you there and then just a couple of comments on the results of the finances for the year. Uh, and again, under the financial section page 3, the statement of financial position for the governmental activities. So just to point out a couple of things you are seeing, one of the...cash is \$6.3 million. That is all covered, all collateralized. So, nothing at risk there as far as the cash amounts. You see, in the capital assets, obviously, last year there was an issuance of a bond. And, now that's going to be spent down. For the Loud Thunder, the spillway project we've got quite a bit of construction progress and for the detail, page 20 gives you the detail on that. So, the total assets are \$23 million. In the Liability section, there are a few more accounts payable because of that project. But really the biggest change there is like payments down on the bonds is overall increasing the pension liability about \$1 million. It's detailed in the back there too, in the foot notes. I wanted to comment that's not all because of the increase in the amount of the Liability. It's also the investments as of the end of December; which is when this was valued at as of December, 2018. Um, we are as good as they have been at that point in time. So, that contributed to the amount of the Liability increase. And then that with the net position, just to point out the net investment in capital assets. So all of the capital assets of the District minus the debt is just over \$9 million there that is most of the net position. The unrestricted amount you can see the right...you can see that's a negative number. What that negative number is about half of what it was last year. So, there has been a significant improvement in that number and overall net position. Um, about \$10.3 million there and it's down to about \$200,000 from last year. So, on the next page we'll spell that out for you. We'll just give you kind of an overall...expenses for the year were up about \$400,000 and revenue was up about \$200,000. And so, the negative for the year is about \$200,000 more than it was last year. But, included in that \$206,000 negative number is \$836,000 of depreciation that governments are required to record on the entity wide stages here in the front. So that includes depreciation; whereas if we go to the next by fund basis, this does not include depreciation in here. This is more on a cash basis of the revenue and expenses. Overall the General Fund, just to look at the health of that of the fiscal year on page 6. I'm on page 6 now of the financial section. General Fund on far left is \$1,387,000 as of this point in time. I am looking at as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, equates to about 7 2/3 months of expenses; which the benchmark is 2-4 months or so to have. Obviously, the more you have the better. Uh, and it is an improvement from last year. You see the capital projects fund for the, uh, Loud Thunder and on the next pages 9 and 10, you'll see the activity there in that fund and you can see we are spending down the bonds we issued and that's showing the negative on that one. But we are showing a positive in the General Fund. So, that one is better than last year. So, those are the main statements there are. There is quite a bit of detail in the footnotes, uh, page 20 of the fixed assets and page 23 is kind of a recap of the debt and liabilities. And there is quite a bit of disclosure on the financial pensions and the other posted benefits. April, is there anything else that

you wanted to add to the numbers. And, then I'll briefly talk about the other two letters."

Ms. Palmer stated, "Um, nothing numbers wise, uh, more of the layout and just a little bit extra from what I told the committee members last Tuesday. That the letters that I was referring to are in the front of the Audit and you can look in the table of contents. The first one is the letter of transmittal that Mr. Craver assisted with. And writing this to you, it talks about the overall direction of the District as a whole and also gives some details of the management discussion and analysis report; which, um, is paged this time. You'll see in the table of contents its MDN&A pages 1-10. And that's the other report that we go through and spend diligent time writing differences and increases and decreases. Why and what affects OPEC has on us as well as external sources and, um, internal decision that you all make as well. Just pay particular attention to those two letters. That gives you a lot of information and a good synopsis of the entire 95 page report if you do not have insomnia. And then also, in the very back of the audit starting on page, uh, the statistical section starts on page 54 of the audit, um, in the back and that has a good compilation of information. You can see the stats, uh, from years over years. We are supposed to compile a 10 year schedule, so if you don't see a 10 year, um, report back there of things that have happened and changes that have happened over 10 years, that's because it was an add on and so, we just start with the new year. That's a requirement by GFOA to include that. Otherwise there should be 10 years of number of employees, property tax rates, numbers on growth, decreases and such. Also there is good information for some of you that are newer members of the Commission to be able to review a little bit too."

Mr. Taylor stated, "And, just two other letters just to comment on outside of the valid report that you have and, um, there is both...to the Commission, one has a date in the upper left and the other does not. So, the one that does not has a date at the bottom of the first page. I just want to comment on that. As a part of the audit, we have to go and walk through the whole systems of the District and how, um, transactions are recorded who is recording them and who is involved in the processes, a look internal controls. And that's basically what this letter is about, um, so it's a clean letter you see. We don't have any comments of significant deficiencies in internal control. Um, behind that, we just have a list of the government of accounting standards board has been active in pronouncements and new standards. We are just giving you a list of the ones that are coming up. And that seems like that's a never ending list of things that they have coming up. Um, we have always been compliant with those new standards and we continue to be and so I am sure. And, the other letter that has a date at the top is a work communication letter. We are required to get each governing body, each of our every oddity we have...so, um...nothing to really to comment on, necessarily here. Um, if there were any particular issues with this, colleagues or issues with management, those would be disclosed here. We do give you a copy of the county management representation letter. So that is required to be



returned to us in order for us to give you a report. So those are both, um, clean letters there also. So, I think that's, Mr. Chairman, what I have."

President Swanson stated, "Do we have any questions while we have Mr. Taylor here? Please Ms. Palmer."

Ms. Palmer stated, "I just want to take a brief moment and specifically thank Mr. Craver and the Park's Directors. They are always a pleasure to work with and very timely in getting information back to me. My office and my staff, please anytime that you are in the building and during the work day, stop in and say hi to my staff. I can't do all of this alone. And then the due diligence of Mr. Taylor and the folks at Carpentier, Mitchell and Goddard specifically, our lead (internal) auditor, Tammy Bender, I just want to put a shout out to her as well. Because they are a pleasure to work with. Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "The only thing I was going to add was there was a joke about insomnia, and the fact that you two are so diligent in this, let's us sleep a whole lot better at night and I want to thank you for that. So, please join me in thanking our guest this evening."

(Group applause)

10. Commissioner Adams moved to approve Mr. Craver as the District's FOIA Officer for 2020, as presented. Commissioners Mielke and Normoyle seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Cremeens moved to approve the District's Public Comment Policy, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Your questions are welcome, but essentially what we are going to try to do is move the Executive Committee meetings to early in the mornings. And because of that, our default for the Commission is to have Public Comments at the beginning, but that would, that could make it impossible for people to make comments. So, just for the Executive Committee meetings, we are moving the Public Comment more to the middle of the agenda. So, people can come in the morning and be there for a little bit before their entering request for comment. This is just to ensure that our compliance for the Freedom of Information and the Open Meetings Act. But beyond that, if you have any questions about the change, it's only for the Executive Committee."

Commissioner Mielke was recognized.

Mr. Mielke stated, "Um, my only concern would be that, uh, decisions were made pri..uh, after, uh, the public wouldn't have yet donated a comment."

Mr. Swanson responded, "That's a very good concern. That's why they would only after routine budget items. So, transfers of appropriation and that sort of thing. Before any other decisions are made, uh, that's when we would have a public comment. Excellent question. Any other comments?"

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the 2020 meeting dates and holidays of the District, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner Langdon moved to approve the 2020 fee schedule of the District's facilities and services, as presented. Commissioners L. Moreno and Normoyle seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the purchase of two prefabricated structures from Design Homes at \$280,569.00, as presented. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

Commissioner Reagan was recognized.

Mr. Reagan asked, "Were there any Illinois companies that were to offer us proposals?"

President Swanson stated, "Mr. Craver."

Mr. Craver stated, "No."

President Swanson stated, "No."

Mr. Craver added, "Uh, we did our due diligence, posted it out on the website and solicited it to different manufactures throughout the State and in this region and...no."

President Swanson stated, "I would like to take this time to take the chance to thank Mr. Craver and his team. In order to keep the costs down, we have a great deal of expertise among the employee base of our district. So rather than have the pre-fab contractors do all of the work, some of it we are taking on ourselves because we have those skills and competencies within our own district. So, I want to thank you for that, Mr. Craver."

Commissioner Morthland was recognized.

Mr. Morthland asked, "Purpose of the structures?"

President Swanson answered, "Oh these are the glamping cabins that were a part of the original bond issue to increase interest and revenue at Loud Thunder. Any other questions?"

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke

**TOTAL YES 18**

D. Cremeens, D. Mielke, R. Morthland, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL NO 4**

Motion carried.

15. **Comments from Commissioners: (None)**

President Swanson stated, "I would like to note for our newest commissioner, Ms. Sargent, that at a time that is convenient for you, Mr. Craver gives an outstanding orientation tour of all of the facilities. And that can be broken up into segments so that you can see a little bit about the workings of all. And, if it's been a while since your own orientation tour, I am sure Jeff would have nothing he'd like better than to take you around or maybe join Ms. Sargent or others and see what's happening in our district and facilities. Any other comments anyone would like to share for the good of the cause?"

16. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioners Normoyle and Sowards seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "I wish everybody wonderful holidays and the days ahead. Yes, Mr. Vyncke."

Mr. Vyncke asked, "I want to remind everybody to shut their computers off."

President Swanson stated, "Oh, yes! Please, for the good of our colleagues, please shut down your computers and close them up. Thank you very much, Mr. Vyncke."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, January 21, 2020, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

WLRB:rw