

**FOREST PRESERVE BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2020**

PRESENT: Committee members - L. Moreno, K. Swanson, D. Cremeens(via phone), A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, K. Maranda, E. Sowards.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek ranger; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Kurt Davis, IT; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger(via phone); April Palmer, Auditor.

President Swanson called the meeting of the Forest Preserve Budget Committee to order at 9:34 AM on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, in the Rock Island County Building in the third floor chambers, Rock Island, Illinois.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver to go through the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022.

Mr. Craver stated that the District is still able to back date expenses and revenues into fiscal year 2020. There are a couple remaining fiscal year 2020 claims to be put in for August. All but one major expense for the year has been entered. The General Fund could possibly receive another revenue to be back dated for fiscal year 2020, which is the OSLAD grant. However, as the state is behind, that may not get to the District before the allotted 60 days. Liability and FISSA Funds show a small surplus. If the asphalt project for the cart path at Indian Bluff is done in time, then that will be back dated in the fiscal year 2020 expenses. The General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund will have deficits due to the pandemic and how that has affected revenues. Are there any questions?

There were no questions.

Mr. Craver moved on to the included information on fiscal year 2021. Typically, the Schedules B or C are not needed. This is because at the time when the District is doing its budget we are only one month into the new fiscal year. However, this year there is a Schedule B and C because of the revised numbers that were needed for the current fiscal year 2021. Looking at the Schedule B, it is a revised estimate of what the District can expect in revenues. Schedule C is revised expenses. If we have to take a step back in the pandemic, and some facilities need to reduce attendance or close completely, then there have been expenses identified for staff to cut. Mr. Jackson has been asked to put together a Recovery Management Plan for Niabi. Will be reviewing that over the next few weeks, and in September that will be presented. Finally, onto the fiscal year 2022 proposed budget. This budget reflects an anticipated return to something close to normalcy. It is much easier to reduce the numbers once approved than to try and increase them. There is some detail in the budget numbers for fiscal year 2022. The main thing to be aware of with the budget is that the District is putting a hold on a

significant number of capital projects, and putting the DCFI money into the zoo. This will hopefully hold off on having to borrow money to get the zoo through until such time as they can get back on track with their budget. Another major goal is to reduce the IMRF liability by paying off the ERI early. The Civil Division of the State's Attorney's Office was asked to give an opinion on whether or not the District could use surplus FICA funds to pay off the ERI early, which would save the District a significant sum in interest paid to IMRF.

Ms. Normoyle asked to clarify that what this amounted to was getting ahead on the payments for the ERI account.

Mr. Craver stated that, yes, that is what it boils down to. Technically the District still has another four years to pay that ERI account off. The longer there is a balance on the ERI, the more the District will pay in interest. It will take a year after the amount is paid off before the District will see the savings. For instance, if the District pays off the ERI in calendar year 2020, the savings will be seen in calendar year 2022. If the District pays off the ERI in calendar year 2021, the savings will be seen in calendar year 2023. I do not believe that the FICA fund will be negatively affected by using its surplus to pay off the ERI.

President Swanson stated that Mr. Craver had done a great job putting together the budget, and it appeared to be ready to be passed onto the Commission.

Mr. Craver stated that Mr. Jackson had done an excellent job in mitigating the hit that Niabi took to its revenues this year.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget as presented. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

A. Normoyle, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens, L. Moreno, K. Swanson, E. Sowards.

TOTAL YES	6
TOTAL NO	0

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 9:59 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant