



The West Fargo Park Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at the Rustad Recreation Center. Members present were Todd Rheault, Jeff McCracken, Chris Heise, and Ryan Gellner. Commissioner Jake Lauritsen was absent. President Rheault called the meeting to order.

Commissioner McCracken made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heise to approve the order of the agenda with the following change of moving agenda items #4 and #5 up to agenda items #2 and #3 and to approve minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting. No opposition; motion carried.

Commissioner Heise made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gellner to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Bills = \$1,043,154.00
- b. Financial Report

No opposition; motion carried.

#### **Highland Meadows Lot**

Austin Morris (Enclave Companies) inquired about donating an unbuildable 9,594 sf lot for a small park. President Rheault asked the amount of special assessments owed – around \$68,000. Due to the amount of special assessments and proximity of Brooks Harbor Elementary Park, there was no motion to accept the lot from Enclave Companies.

#### **Park Improvement District 2019-1 (Service Club Park)**

Park Operations Manager Mathern reviewed the updated plans and costs. The original estimate was \$790,000. The updated estimate is \$490,000. Commissioner Heise made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCracken to award the contract to Master Construction for Park Improvement District 2019-1 Phase 3. No opposition; motion carried.

#### **Park Improvement Project 2021-4 (Tower Complex)**

Park Operations Manager Mathern summarized the bid. The staff recommendation was to accept the base bid and all alternates for a project cost of \$555,000. Executive Director Erbstoesser gave an update on the Beaton Farm sale. The sale is again running into political issues. This proposed project is essentially funded by the land sale. Commissioner Heise made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gellner to decline the bid for Park Improvement Project 2021-4. No opposition; motion carried.

Park Operations Manager Mathern requested \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to allocate for the Tower Complex since the bid was rejected. These funds will enhance the use of the site. Commissioner McCracken made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heise to allocate \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for Tower Complex improvements. No opposition; motion carried.



John Shockely (Ohnstad Twichell) recommended to reconsider the previous motion in case the Beaton Sale does get approved, then this project would not have to get re-bid. Commissioner Heise made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCracken to reconsider the motion to decline the bid. No opposition; motion carried.

Commissioner Chris Heise left the meeting.

### **General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A**

Finance Director Germundson presented the results of the bond sale. This sale refinanced the Veterans Memorial Pool bond. The net present value of savings is \$242,250. Commissioner Gellner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCracken to authorize the issuance of \$1,890,000 general obligation refunding bonds, taxable series 2021A. No opposition; motion carried.

### **Refunding Improvement Bonds, Series 2021B**

Finance Director Germundson presented the results of the bond sale. This sale funds the Rendezvous Park Maintenance Shop and Maplewood Park projects. Commissioner Gellner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCracken to authorize the issuance of improvement warrants and exchanging them for \$5,775,000 refunding improvement bonds, series 2021B. No opposition; motion carried.

### **2022 Budget Preview**

Finance Director Germundson previewed the 2022 budget. Finance Director Germundson previously met with each commissioner. The proposed mill increase would go from 26.6 mills (2021) to 29.1 mills (2022). The increase is due to large recent and future park improvements at South Elmwood, Meadow Ridge, Service Club, Rendezvous, Maplewood, and North Elmwood. While the General Fund dollars levied will only increase 3%, the overall dollars levied will increase 15%. Informational purposes only, no action taken.

### **Special Budget Meeting**

The August board meeting is on August 11. Cass County needs the 2022 preliminary budget by August 10. The special budget meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4 at 12pm.

### **Stockyards Park Dedication**

Executive Director Erbstoesser recommended cash in lieu for this site due to the area is heavy industrial and not a good fit for park amenities. Instead, funds received would go to nearby Armour Park for improvements. Commissioner McCracken made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gellner to accept cash in lieu for The Stockyards. No opposition; motion carried.



**Reports**

Executive Director Erbstoesser: beaton farm sale update, athletic facility use guide, tour of parks

Rec / Rustad Manager Belisle: options for Rustad outdoor pickleball courts

Facility Manager Olson: nothing to report

Park Operations Manager Mathern: nothing to report

**Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Rheault", written over a horizontal line.

President Todd Rheault

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Germundson", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk Justin Germundson