BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Commissioners present: Baker, Breen, Remhof, and Vincer.

Commissioners absent: Patterson

Staff present: Brown, Brunner, Dahlberg, deOliviera, McCammond, Ross, and Tucker.

Guests present: Kevin Wills, Bernardi Securities and Jeff Ludwig, District Beekeeper

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

President Vincer stated that Agenda Items 14A, 14B and 14C – Executive Session can be removed from the agenda.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer opened the floor to Kevin Wills of Bernardi Securities, the District’s Bond Counsel, to present this year’s bond sale information. He explained that his firm distributes term sheets to 25-30 banks including local banks. Two bids were received. Byron Bank came in at a 4.40 % interest rate, People’s National Bank in Kewanee came in at 4.18%. It was stated that the district is not required to award to the lower bidder, and Commissioner Remhof noted that Byron Bank is an important fixture in the community; it would be good to keep local based on this and the meaningful relationship the district has with Byron Bank. Further brief discussion followed.

BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINACE No. 24-2 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2024, OF THE BYRON FOREST

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DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AND FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS. PATTERSON – ABSENT REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Kevin Wills departed the meeting at 6:26 pm.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMBINED REGULAR AND BUDGET WORSHOP MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2024. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted.

President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the Financial Reports. He stated that the General Fund was doing well for end of year. The Golf Fund is doing well also and had a nice October. It is expected to fall back for the winter months.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2024. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer reported that the sewer line repair on German Church Road is stalled out; it is not off the table, but it is moving very slowly. He noted that he has referred the matter to outside counsel. There is a lot of disconnect with moving parts and change of zoning. Discussion followed.

President Vincer reminded the board of the upcoming IAPD/IPRA State Conferences, brief discussion on this followed.

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President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports.

Todd Tucker, Administration Department-6:34-6:43pm - He reported that he and Russ have been working on reviewing details for the Nardi Preserve Protection in Illinois Nature Preserve. He stated that The Prairie Fire Invitational went well again this year for the fifth year in a row. He informed the board that he has been working on a purchase agreement for $22,000 for the three-acre parcel located on Route 2 at the South Mill Creek Preserve. He said that when it is finalized, he will present it to the board for approval. Discussion followed.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-6:43-6:48pm – She reported that the field trips are now done for the year and the fall weather was outstanding except for a couple of wet and chilly days. She noted that she went to the Board Retreat for the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, and it was productive with facility training. Herself and members of her staff are now certified to teach these programs at the district and around the region. She discussed the home school programs and outlined photos from this with the Board.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-6:48-7:02pm-He reported that the there are several brush projects that are currently on going at the District’s Preserves. With seed collecting going well into the fall months, the prescribed burn did not take place and will likely not before winter hits due to the wet conditions. He noted that he has been trouble shooting the bobcat mower frequently and more discussion on repairing replacing that followed. He reported that the sled hill was mowed and ready for the first snowfall. He recognized the district’s seeding volunteers, the Jenson’s, on their efforts of their on-going seed collecting. Thirty barrels were able to get filled. He stated that they are still

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purchasing seed but collecting it is also important because doing so and mixing it with the purchased seed is a lot cheaper. Commissioner Remhof acknowledged Russ, his staff, and the volunteers for their hard work on this.

Scott deOliviera, Golf Operations-7:02-7:14pm-He started off by thanking Mike Brown and his staff for their work in the success of the golf club’s second annual Cross Country Scramble. He reported that the clubhouse and PrairieFire are starting to get busy with winter activities. The golf course is now closed for the season, but the clubhouse has started with their limited winter hours. He stated that record rounds occurred in October with the beautiful fall weather and less tee times being available. Commissioner Remhof asked if any data shows days where rounds are low, Jason Wombacher responded that the month of July was a good example of rounds diminishing as weather is a contributing factor and there were a lot of stormy, windy days. Scott reported that the Pavilion has also done well with rentals. Commissioner Baker asked if the facility is booked until the end of January with events, Scott confirmed that it is. PrairieFire business and revenue is expected to pick up quite a bit with the cooling temperatures. Commissioner Baker brought up PrairieFire public relations and this was briefly discussed. Director Tucker stated that it is not a bad idea to consider a dream scope of what the future of the golf facilities could be and how to get even more revenue there. More discussion on this followed.

Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-7:14-7:24pm-He reported that the course is now closed for the season. He noted that his department blew out the irrigation system with no issues, he then outlined his photos of this process with the board. He reported that he and his staff repainted all the hole signs and his plans for getting the tee boxes aerated and the greens winterized for the season.

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A plan is in place for winter projects to be completed, such as re doing the culvert on Hole 7 and turning a very rough, non-irrigated area that is out of play into prairie.

Open bids on irrigation system renovations for the golf course were discussed. Mike reported that the results came back from 2 contractors that bid on this, and Liebold Irrigation Inc. won the bid with a Rain Bird system for much lower than the anticipated $3 million. Mike noted that Liebold has a great reputation for being the best installer in the area. More discussion on this followed.

President Vincer addressed the policy manual revision update for facility rental benefits for commissioners that was tabled in October. After further discussion, it was decided to table this as well for November and will be discussed again at the next December board meeting.

The standard operating procedure and a new contract was proposed to the board regarding and updated agreement with the district and Jeff Ludwig for beekeeping.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW INDEPENDENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT’S BEEKEEPER, JEFF LUDWIG, AND THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTSRICT’S BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND DIRECTOR TODD TUCKER ALONG WITH THE UPDATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES POLICY FOR BEEKEEPING. BAKER – YES, REMHOF – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The board briefly discussed the ongoing IAPD Director Search. President Vincer stated that this agenda item, 12B, may be removed from the December board meeting agenda.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 24-3, AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES IN 2024 FOR ALL FOREST PRESERVE PURPOSES FOR THE BYRON FOREST

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PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

The budget was briefly discussed.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 24-4, THE COMBINED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 2025, AND ENDING

ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The open bid irrigation system results were further discussed. Commissioner Remhof asked if there is an incentive by approving this now, and Mike stated that with material prices subject to change it is best now to act sooner rather than later.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO AWARD THE IRRIGATION REPAIR BID FOR PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF COURSE TO LIEBOLD IRRIGATION INC FOR THE AMOUNT OF $2,382,000.00. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:10 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/kr