

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Commissioners present: Auker, Brooks, Conry, Hogan, and Ludwig.

Commissioners absent: none.

Staff present: Brunner, Gerke, Gramer, Henkel, Herman, McCammond, and
Tucker.

Guests present: Larry Hewitt, City of Byron and Attorney Dave Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

There were no board or staff additions to the agenda.

LUDWIG MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE
THE AGENDA. BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES,
AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan began the public hearing for the proposed bond sale. There were
no comments from the commissioners. There was no oral or written testimony from the
public.

AUKER MOVED AND CONRY SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN
THE PUBLIC HEARING. CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES,
BROOKS – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

Two corrections were noted in the minutes. In the October 14, 2015, minutes,
Commissioner Conry should have been recorded as “absent” in the beginning of the
minutes. In the October 19, 2015, minutes, “Auker” needs to be added to
“Commissioner” in a statement he made on page 6.

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BROOKS MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2015, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2015, AS AMENDED. LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

The correspondence was noted.

BROOKS MOVED AND CONRY SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015. Shawn reported that the golf course is well ahead compared to last year at this time. AUKER – YES, BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan reported that he heard that Decatur Park District is closing golf courses. He commended the golf staff for doing a great job.

Commissioner Ludwig reported that Commonwealth Edison should be installing the lights on the bike path during the first week of December.

President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:11-7:18 pm-He noted that staff has reviewed the new Employee Handbook and it should be ready for board approval at the December meeting. Commonwealth Edison has asked the District to participate in a re-forestation plan they have or will be establishing as they trench for their new transmission lines. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:18-7:19 pm-He noted that there will be a meeting with Split Rock on December 15th to further discuss the

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Jarrett Prairie Center museum renovation. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:19-7:23 pm-We will be working with the Byron Schools on developing a butterfly garden at the middle school. Andy Gramer, Clubhouse Operations-7:23-7:29 pm-He noted that he is working with Byron Park District on developing a program for junior golfers. Matt Henkel, Golf Course Maintenance Department-7:29-7:33 pm.

President Hogan opened the floor to Attorney Dave Smith and City Engineer Larry Hewitt to discuss the hotel agreement. Dave stated that as Basil Cascio's attorney, Basil would like to simplify the agreement regarding exchanging properties as part of the hotel agreement. Larry noted that after reviewing past discussions, Basil would like to own the property on which the hotel is developed as an investment. Banquet facilities were discussed. Basil would like to move forward on a land trade agreement. Director Tucker noted that when discussions ended, it was left with Basil deciding the acreage to be negotiated and traded. Dave stated that there are other investors interested in building a hotel and banquet facility. Commissioner Brooks stated that she needed a clearer understanding of the proposed agreement and the players involved. Dave stated that Basil is looking for a developer for condos, a hotel, and a banquet facility. Dave noted that the agreement will include the board's approval of all plans. Larry stated that they will re-draft the agreement and bring it back to the board. Larry and Dave departed the meeting.

President Hogan stated that the board needed to discuss the potential tax freeze situation again. He noted that 80% of the state is already frozen so it's very likely that

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this bill will pass. If the District keeps the levy where it is now and ComEd is assessed at a higher rate, the District will not get additional funds. Discussions continued regarding raising the levy for a year and then lowering it back to where it is after the freeze is in place. Proposing a referendum in the future was discussed. More discussion followed.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 15-4. BROOKS – YES, CONRY – NO, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – NO, AND HOGAN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2016 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 15-5. CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BROOKS – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:42 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(1) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY, UNDER SECTION 2(C)(5) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE DISTRICT, AND UNDER

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SECTION 2(C)(11) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PENDING, OR PROBABLE AND IMMINENT, LITIGATION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT. LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, AND HOGAN – YES,

LUDWIG MOVED AND BROOKS SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:19 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. AUKER – YES, BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:20 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BROOKS – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ludwig, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

JL/mg