

The West Fargo Park Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at West Fargo City Hall. Members present were: Sharon Odegaard, Ken Zetocha, and Kathy Scully. Commissioners Jeff McCracken and Todd Rheault were absent. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Odegaard.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve the order of the agenda.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting as presented. All board members present voting aye; motion carried.

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

Approve Bills – \$424,090.21
Monthly Report

Commissioners Zetocha, Scully, and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Tim Nissen (West Fargo Hockey Association) came to discuss the summer ice concerns. Business Manager Germundson handed out a chart which showed a substantial decrease the past two years compared to the first four years of summer ice. Mr. Nissen said the loss of camps and 3 x 3 leagues are some of the reasons for the decrease in hours. Business Manager Germundson said the Park would save at least \$30,000 next year if summer ice would not be installed. Commissioner Odegaard said it is not beneficial to the taxpayers to lose so much money. Commissioner Zetocha expressed concern over the downward trend of rented hours. Commissioner Odegaard recommended the WFHA to come back with a plan next month.

Lee Dobrinz (JLG Architects) summarized the Rivers Bend Activity Center bids (Phase 2). The low bids were:

Hammers Construction – \$364,000 (General)
Dakota Metal – \$34,600 (Mechanical)
Laney's – \$33,700 (Electrical)

Mr. Dobrinz recommended approving the low bids. The completion date is November 1, 2015.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve the low bids as presented for a total of \$432,300. Commissioners Scully, Zetocha, and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Recreation Manager Belisle gave an update on the recreation programs.

Business Manager Germundson presented an overview of the 2015 budget. The total mills levied for 2015 will be around 31.5 which is a decrease of over 1 mill. The value of one mill for 2015 is \$98,510. Total expenditures will be \$7,243,550.

Business Manager Germundson recommended changes to the employee health insurance plan. The primary reason for a change is to be proactive with the annual substantial increases in health premiums. High Deductible plans have an estimated 25% lower premiums compared to Traditional plans. Business Manager Germundson recommended all of the money saved in premiums for 2015 to be put into employee's Health Savings Accounts. The Park will see tremendous financial savings over time as the Park reaps a majority portion of the annual premium savings. In researching this potential change, Business Manager Germundson said the City of West Fargo, Moore Engineering, and Bell State Bank are a few local companies that have or are switching to this type of insurance plan.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to:

- 1) Change the Personnel Policy under the Benefits section to employees will pay 25% of the premium with a Single Policy.
- 2) Change the "traditional" health insurance plan to "high deductible" health insurance plan.
- 3) Commit 100% of the money saved in health insurance premiums to be put into the employee's Health Savings Account for 2015 with the Park paying the same contribution percentage for Single and Family policies.

Commissioners Scully, Zetocha, and Odegaard voting aye; motion carried.

Business Manager Germundson discussed the poor summer ice rental numbers for the Veterans Memorial Arena. Typically the month of June is strong and then rentals decrease dramatically in July and August. The current WFHA Vets Arena contract expires on May 31, 2015. Unless drastic changes are made, Business Manager Germundson does not recommend installing summer ice for 2015. The preliminary budget reflects approval of this summer ice recommendation.

Commissioner Zetocha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scully to approve the 2015 preliminary budget as presented with total expenditures of \$7,243,550 with the public hearing to approve the final budget to be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 10, 2014 at West Fargo City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned.

Chair Sharon Odegaard

Clerk Justin Germundson