MINUTES OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**Regular Monthly Meeting – March 1, 2023**

***CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

Park Commissioner, Jeff Blazey called the Park Board meeting to order on February 1, 2023, at 2:11 pm. The meeting was held in the Park Office. Park Commissioner Wendy Monroe, Park Director Larry Easterly, and Office Manager Shannon Aquino were also present. Park Commissioner Ben Yoder was absent.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on February 15, 2023. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

# *OLD BUSINESS*

**Liquor License** – Mr. Easterly contacted the State Department of Liquor Control to inquire on our license and the ability to sell alcohol on Sundays. He was told we have a license to sell beer on Sundays, but not wine.

**New Tractor** – Mr. Easterly recommended the District purchase the new Kubota tractor, noting it likely won’t be delivered until October 2023. He did not receive any delivery information back from John Deere concerning their tractor, however, their quote was considerably more expensive. Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve the purchase of a new Kubota tractor, not to exceed $30,000. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

**Drake Rd. Property –** Mr. Easterly reported he contacted the Lutmers regarding selling their property to the District. The Lutmers noted they loved our plan for the property and our collaboration with the Warren County Soil and Water Department, however, they have decided to hold off selling their property until the neighboring 70 acres sells. They noted a developer is interested in purchasing the 70 acres – with the expectation of building seven homes, selling between $700-$800,000. Mr. Easterly notified the Warren County Soil and Water Department, and both agreed to keep an eye on the sales status of the 70 acres.

**Seasonal Employees** – Mr. Easterly noted he was concerned about finding qualified employees for the Customer Service Attendant position – stating the $13 pay rate will likely not be sufficient. His recommendation was to increase the hourly rate to $20/hour. Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve a wage increase for the seasonal Customer Service Attendant position to $20/hour. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

**Emergency Siren** – Mr. Easterly received a letter from the Franklin Township Fire Department. They are requesting permission to install an outdoor warning siren inside the front entrance to Carmody Park. Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve the Franklin Township’s request for the township to install an outdoor warning siren at Carmody Park. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

**Solar Panels** – Ms. Blazey researched the potential to lease District land for solar panel use. He noted if the land leased is greater than 100 acres, the lessee would need to install a substation. If less than 100 acres, the lessee could simply hook into the current electrical structure. Mr. Blazey believes both the Shaker and Loeb properties would be idea for a potential project like this – both being under 100 acres each with easy access to electrical. The current lease rate is $1,500/month per acre. He mentioned the timing of the potential project would be a year to 18 months from now. Mr. Easterly stated he would review the deeds on each of the properties to ensure there are no restrictions that would prohibit such an activity. Ms. Monroe noted this would be a big commitment and isn’t interested in encumbering District land for this purpose at this current time.

###### *NEW BUSINESS*

**Landen Deerfield Walking Trail Asphalt Quote–** Mr. Easterly noted he received a quote from JK Meurer for paving the walking trail at Landen Deerfield Park. The quote was for $61,200 and more then he wanted to spend on the project. Mr. Easterly examined the yellow portion of the trail and noted that portion did not need to be repaved, however, could just be patched. The District is expected to receive a donation of $40,000 from Deerfield Township to help absorb the cost of this project, with the District picking up the remaining cost. Mr. Blazey made a motion to approve a contract for the repaving/patching of the Landen Deerfield walking trail – not to exceed $49,000. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote.

# *EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Mr. Blazey made a motion to enter executive session at 2:38 pm pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. By individual roll call vote, Ms. Monroe – yea, Mr. Yoder – absent, Mr. Blazey – yea. Attendees included Park Commissioners Wendy Monroe and Jeff Blazey.

# Ms. Monroe made a motion to adjourn out of executive session back into the regular meeting at 3:07 pm. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. By individual roll call vote, Ms. Monroe – yea, Mr. Yoder – absent, Mr. Blazey – yea. Regular monthly meeting resumed at 3:07 pm.

###### *ADJOURMENT*

Ms. Monroe made a motion to adjourn at 3:08 pm. Mr. Blazey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a majority voice vote. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm.