

CITY OF SUNBURY
EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
April 3, 2025

Call to Order

Mike Ringle called the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District meeting to order on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Ringle asked the members of the Eastern Delaware Joint Recreation District Board of Trustees ("Board") to stand and be sworn in. With the exception of Ms. Sobota, all other members were sworn.

Roll Call

Those answering roll included Mr. Greg Elliott, Ms. Jody Grieger, Mr. Bernard Kooi, Mr. Todd Musacchio, and Ms. Halli Watson. Ms. Maria Sobota attended the meeting virtually but was recorded as absent. Others in attendance included Sunbury City Administrator Daryl Hennessy and Mike Ringle from the law firm Bricker Graydon.

New Business

Mr. Ringle provided an overview of Ohio laws related to virtual participation and noted that absent an adopted policy by the Board, any member attending virtually cannot vote on matters before the public board.

The Board then took nominations for officers from the floor. Ms. Halli Watson volunteered to be Chair, Greg Elliot volunteered to serve as treasurer, Bernie Koi volunteered to be Vice Chair, and Jody Grieger volunteered to be the secretary. A motion was made by **Elliott** to close the nominations and approve the selected members for their positions. The motion was seconded by **Kooi** and approved 5-0.

Select members from an exploratory committee formed to assist with the creation of this Board were invited to speak. Sunbury Mayor St. John began by sharing his expectations for the Board and outlining some of their responsibilities. He emphasized the urgency of their work and the community's perceived interest in a recreational center. He noted the collective political jurisdictions participating in this Board represent a population of almost 20,000 people. He encouraged the Board to meet with YMCA leaders and others to learn more about the data and financial modeling required to support their work. He also noted the importance of meeting with previous joint recreation district trustees who participated in the first attempt at establishing a community recreational center back in 2006.

Galena Mayor Kinnell addressed the Board, expressing his support and commitment to assisting in the success of the recreation district. Finally, Berkshire Township Administrator Tyler Lane thanked the Board for their service and offered his support and any assistance they may need to move forward.

Mr. Ringle reviewed Resolution 2025-01 to establish by-laws for the Board. Including in this discussion were the review of officer duties, appointment and replacement of members, terms, quorum public notices, and other related matters. The Board agreed to assign the Sunbury Municipal Building address, 9 E. Granville Street, Sunbury, Ohio, 43074 as the initial principle address. Following this discussion, **Watson** moved to approve Resolution 2025-01, and it was seconded by **Elliott**. The motion was approved 5-0.

Next, the Board considered Resolution 2025-02 to establish a public records policy and retention schedule for the Board. Motion by **Elliott** to approve Resolution 2025-02 and seconded by **Musacchio**. The motion was approved 5-0.

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Mr. Ringle reviewed Resolution 2025-03, a proposed fiscal year 2025 budget and appropriations plan with the Board. The resolution also authorizes the Board treasurer to solicit applications for public depositories. Mr. Ringle explained that funds may be distributed to the Board upfront or reimbursed by the participating jurisdictions via a separate intergovernmental agreement. A more Board-driven process for establishing future budgets was recommended. Permitted uses in the proposed budget include administrative costs, legal fees, insurance, and consulting services. Motion by **Elliott** to approve Resolution 2025-03 and seconded by **Watson**. The motion was approved 5-0.

Next the Board considered the pursuit of insurance and liability coverage proposed in Resolution 2025-04 and authorized officers to seek appropriate coverage. The Board discussed the option of bolting-on coverage to existing insurance policies with either Sunbury, Galena, or Berkshire Township. Additional research will be needed to determine the best option going forward. Motion by **Elliott** to approve Resolution 2025-04 and seconded by **Kooi**. The motion was approved 5-0.

The Board discussed Resolution 2025-05 to authorize the engagement of legal counsel with Bricker Graydon to support the Board. Mr. Ringle reviewed the proposed engagement agreement noting the use of an hourly billing model with no retainer. The proposed budget ceiling is \$10,000 for 2025. This is the same firm that assisted the community with the joint recreation district in 2006. The engagement may be terminated at any time without penalty to either party. Motion by **Watson** to approve the legal services agreement and seconded by **Elliott**. The motion was approved 5-0.

The final piece of actionable items in front of the Board included the consideration of Resolution 2025-06, the adoption of an investment policy. Motion by **Elliott** to approve Resolution 2025-06 and seconded by **Musacchio**. The motion was approved 5-0.

In other business, Mayor St. John reviewed a preliminary purpose statement, responsibilities, and timeline document that was prepared for the Board by the exploratory committee assisting with this effort. He stressed the importance of data collection, developing a financial plan, and early outreach to other local jurisdictions with joint recreation districts. The Board was encouraged to discuss the preliminary planning document. Board members discussed the urgent need for a local community center, noting the area's lack of recreational facilities. They proposed reaching out to YMCA leadership before their next meeting, gathering public input on recreational needs, and studying models from nearby cities. The group also emphasized exploring funding options and leveraging construction industry contacts for early feasibility and design input.

The Board scheduled their next meeting for May 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Sunbury Town Hall.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board, **Watson** moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded **Elliott**. The motion was approved 5-0.