



**Richfield Joint Recreation District
Special Meeting**

Monday, July 14, 2014

(Meeting Held at Richfield Village Town Hall, Mayor's Conference Room)

The Richfield Joint Recreation District Board met for a Special Meeting and was Called To Order at 7:14 p.m. with Roll Call taken by Mrs. Bluso Rogers.

In Attendance:

Mr. Bob Lucas
Mr. Ralph Mc Nerney
Mr. Pat Norris
Mr. Floyd Ostrowski
Ms. Donna Skoda
Mr. Bill Taylor

Also in attendance:

Ms. Bobbie Beshara, Mayor Village of Richfield
Mr. Mike Lyons, Village Councilperson
Mr. Roger Swan, Village Councilperson
Mr. William Hanna, Legal Counsel
Ms. Corey Ringle, Friends of Crowll-Hilaka and Working Group Member
Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant

Roll Call:

The Richfield Joint Recreation District met for their Special Meeting with an Executive Session on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 6:06 p.m. Roll was taken by Mrs. Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Executive Session:

In attendance in the Executive Session, Messrs. Lucas, Mc Nerney, Norris, Ostrowski, Skoda, Taylor, Bluso Rogers, Lyons, Hanna, Swan, Ringle, Mayor Beshara

MOTION made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Taylor to go into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. per ORC 121.22(G) to consider the appointment of the seventh Richfield Joint Recreation District Board Member.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED: Lucas (Yea), McNerney (Yea), Norris (Yea), Skoda (Yea), Taylor (Yea)

MOTION made by Mr. Ostrowski and seconded by Mr. Norris to go out of Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED: Lucas (Yea), McNerney (Yea), Norris (Yea), Skoda (Yea), Taylor (Yea)

Business:

Board Organization: Update on the appointment of the 7th Board Member:

MOTION made by Mr. Ostrowski and seconded by Mr. Norris to appoint Ms. Kelly Clark as the seventh board member to the Richfield Joint Recreation District to serve a term of three (3) years as specified in the July 10, 2014 Bylaws.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Review of Final Draft of Bylaws

Mr. Lyons distributed a “redlined” final draft of the bylaws. There was general discussion and review of the markups.

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Norris to adopt the bylaws which states *“This is a true and accurate version of the bylaws adopted by the Board of the Richfield Joint Recreation District at its initial meeting on July 10, 2014”* with the signature line.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration:

Funding

Mr. Lucas presented a report and update regarding bonds and levies from the conference call between Mr. Mike Sharb, Bond Counsel, Mr. Norris, Mr. Hanna and Mr. Lucas.

Mr. Lucas stressed that the most significant matter is that a bond levy cannot cover operating and maintenance/repair expenses (OMR) but only for the acquisition of the property and capital improvements.

The OMR must be funded by the Recreation District, Village and/or the Township on an ongoing basis. A separate tax levy could fund OMR. Funds for the property operations could also be generated by the District such as facility and use fees.

Capital funds and OMR funds cannot be combined in the same item on the ballot. There are exceptions but the limitations are very severe.

A bond levy and a tax levy could be on the same ballot but as separate items. But separate ballot issues have the risk that one issue would pass and the other would not. Even with voter education, multiple recreation issues and other levies (e.g. Township Police Levy) could be off-putting for affirmative votes.

Ms. Skoda stated that it would be necessary to bring the campaign strategist to the next meeting to discuss this matter including benchmark polling to address the feelings of the electorate. Mr. Ostrowski stated that a majority of the joint district electorate can pass or fail the levies.

Legal and Legislative Update of the Timeline of Activities:

Mr. Hanna and Mr. Lucas described the calendar of events for a levy. The deadline for filing an application to the Summit County Board of Elections is ninety (90) days prior to the election. The date for the District to file is Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

The following actions need to be completed prior to August 6, 2014.

1. Request the Summit County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the Joint Recreation District and the dollar amount that would be generated by the additional levy. The District Board would need to pass a Resolution of Necessity. Bond Counsel, Mike Sharb would prepare this paperwork. The Resolution of Necessity is forwarded to the Summit County Auditor. After their certification it is returned to the Board.

2. Upon receipt of the certificate, the Board will need to adopt the Resolution to Proceed – Bond Issue. The Resolution to Proceed will contain the ballot language.

The bond levy is for the authority to issue bonds and the bond is a debt / loan that it is not collateralized. The bond will need to contain (a) the amount based on the cost of the property and capital costs, (b) the term for repayment of the bond which is dependent upon the blended life of the assets being acquired, (c) the purpose and reasons for the bond and (d) the interest rate that Bond Counsel will advise upon further at a later date.

The levy for operations, repairs and maintenance has the same steps. As described by Mr. Lucas, it was clear that many converging activities need to be completed in short order; such as best estimate for all costs, campaign strategies, definition of capital and non-capital.

Mr. Chittock stated that Mr. Leslie would be in attendance at the next Special Meeting and it was requested that Mr. Leslie be prepared to provide the anticipated budgets for acquisition and improvements and for ongoing operation, in as much detail as possible based upon Western Reserve's analysis, as discussed.

Administration Status of Memorandum of Understanding:

Mr. Hanna is working on a draft.

Administration Communication Protocols (Status of Email Accounts):

Mayor Beshara stated that the domain name @rjrd.org is available and the email accounts will be completed once Mr. Tim Baker returns from vacation. The cost to the Recreation District is not available at this time but perhaps by the next meeting. Mayor Beshara shared a contact, PostNet, to assist in producing mailers or other printing needs.

Additional and New Business:

Mr. Lucas stated that part of the Crowell-Hilaka property is zoned CD – Conservation District and residential use is permitted with a 5-acre minimum.

Ms. Ringle stated that there were upcoming events to assist with fundraising noting the event at Flanagan's Barn on October 11, 2014.

Action Items for Next Meeting and Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Mrs. Bluso Rogers noted that the next meeting will include the election of officers, update on the MOU, insurance and bonding, cost information from Western Reserve Land Conservancy, campaign strategist presentation and an executive session to discuss the potential purchase of property.

MOTION made by Ms. Skoda and seconded by Mr. Ostrowski to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Chairperson

Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Secretary