



**Richfield Joint Recreation District
Special Meeting
Thursday, July 10, 2014**
(Meeting Held at Richfield Town Hall, Mayor's Conference Room)

Crowell-Hilaka

In Attendance Richfield Joint Recreation District Board:

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

Also in Attendance:

Mayor Bobbie Beshara
Mr. Roger Swan
Ms. Corey Ringle
Ms. Lynn Richards
Ms. Abbie Gretter

At 4:30 p.m. the newly appointed six (6) Recreation District Board Members and others met at the Broadview Road entrance to Crowell-Hilaka for a park overview and walkthrough.

At the conclusion of the walkthrough the Board Members recessed and the Special Meeting would reconvene at the Village of Richfield Town Hall, Mayor's Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

The Richfield Joint Recreation District Board met for their first meeting. The meeting was Called to Order at 7:14 p.m. with Roll Call taken by Mrs. Bluso Rogers.

In Attendance:

Mr. Bob Lucas
Mr. Ralph McNerney
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, Village Law Director
Mr. Joe Leslie, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Mr. Kendrick Chittock, Western Reserve Land Conservancy,
Ms. Lynn Richards, Friends of Crowell-Hilaka and Working Group Member
Ms. Corey Ringle, Friends of Crowll-Hilaka and Working Group Member

Board Organization:

7th Board Member Appointment

An information package of possible candidates was distributed to the Board for review and action. The package was to be reviewed before the next meeting and the Village and Township's websites would be updated to advertise the open board position. The Working Committee of Ms. Skoda, Mr. Ostrowski, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lucas and Mr. Norris would meet on Monday, July 14, 2014 in Executive session to discuss the seventh member appointment. Other members of the board stated that they would also be in attendance if their schedules permitted.

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Ms. Skoda to proceed with interviews, if necessary after the advertising over the weekend.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Due to the many months of work leading up to the creation of the joint district, the Joint District Board Members stated their desire to include this group as part of their “team” utilizing their vast knowledge base.

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Norris to include the “Working Group” in the work to acquire, operate and maintain the Crowell-Hilaka property.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Election of Officers

The Board Members requested the receipt of each board member’s bios, letter of interest and résumé to review prior to the election of officers. No additional action was taken on the matter.

Bylaws

Mr. Lyons presented the July 10, 2014 Draft of the By-Laws. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Hanna provided comments prior to the meeting and these comments were presented and discussed with the Board. The following actions were taken.

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to **remove** from Article V-Government Section 1C: the following: *“A super majority vote, defined herein as a two-thirds majority of the entire Board of Trustee membership is required where specified in these regulations.”*

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Norris to **state** in Article V-Government Section 2D the following: *“Notice shall be posted at a minimum at the Village Hall and the Township Administration Offices at least 24 hours prior to regular and special meetings.”*

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Norris to add to Article VI-Officers Section A the following: ***“and is authorized, with the Treasurer, to execute contracts and agreements approved by the Board.”***

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to **remove** from Article X-Amendments, Section 1, Article XI Improvements, Article XII Levying of Taxes any reference to super majority and resulting in the renumbering of the articles.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to **adopt** the July 10, 2014 Richfield Joint Recreation District Bylaws as amended.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Establish Working Committees

Mr. Lyons suggested that sub-groups comprised of board members be established to accomplish the many tasks at hand. Where applicable, the board would be creating working committees.

Bonding and/or Insurance for Board Members

Mr. Lyons and Mr. Hanna would gather and provide this information at a later meeting.

Meeting Dates:

No Regular Meeting dates were established. The following dates in July were scheduled for Special Meeting and Executive Sessions to meet the time constraints of action items necessary for the November 2014 General Election. All meetings will be held at the Village Town Hall in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Monday	Wednesday
July 14, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.	July 16, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.
July 21, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.	July 23, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.
July 28, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.	July 30, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.

Administration:

Funding Allocated by Village & In-Kind Assistance from the Township and Others

Mayor Beshara stated that Village Council approved \$20K to serve as start-up funds. The Board Members were not aware of any funding allocation from the Township at the present time.

Mr. Leslie stated that the services of Burges & Burges will be provided as an in-kind contribution. Burges & Burges specializes in strategic communications related to planning and executing campaigns. Burges & Burges have extensive experience in passing difficult ballot issues across Ohio. The representative from Burges and Burges is Ms. Vanessa Tey Losue.

The FoCH (Friends of Crowell-Hilaka) stated their commitment through information mailers that would educate residents and members of the surrounding communities such as Bath, Hudson, Brecksville and Broadview Heights. FoCH stated that they would work in concert with any activity the Board would require.

Secretary, Legal Counsel, Fiscal Agent

Mr. Lyons stated that an agreement between the Recreation District and the Village could be prepared. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) would encompass the use of Ms. Turk, Village Finance Director and Mrs. Bluso Rogers, Administrative Assistant, as well as legal counsel/fees. The Mayor stated that a domain for emails was being pursued and during the interim Mrs. Bluso Rogers' office in the Finance Department would serve as the district's office and communication hub. Mrs. Bluso Rogers would keep minutes, prepare agendas and provide public notices etc.

Mr. Lyons and Mr. Hanna described requirements per the Ohio Revised Code, The Sunshine Laws and the Open Meeting Act. Mr. Hanna would distribute a simple guide for the Board and Mrs. Bluso Rogers would distribute a copy of the "Yellow Book" electronically.

Legal and Legislative

The Board discussed the need for legal representation and welcomed Mr. Hanna to perform this role. Mr. Hanna suggested that Bond Counsel, Mike Sharb, be hired to serve in this specialized field that dealt with levy and bond issues. Mr. Norris, Mr. Lucas and Mr. Hanna would comprise the Working Committee.

MOTION made by Mr. McNerney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to **approve** the hiring of Mike Sharb as Bond Counsel in accordance to the proposal submitted by Mr. Hanna utilizing the \$20K start-up funds from the Village.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A conference call was scheduled for Friday, July 11, 2014 with Mr. Sharb and the Working Committee.

Crowell-Hilaka Property, Coordination and Plan of Action:

Mr. McNerney, Mr. Ostrowski, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Leslie would comprise the Working Committee to ascertain the costs associated with buildings, roads, paths, operation, maintenance and acquisition.

Providing background, Mr. Leslie stated that the overall purpose of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy was to negotiate the terms for the acquisition cautioning that there could be multiple parties involved.

The purpose of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is to preserve and conserve the property and the Board needs to determine their ultimate view for the use of the property. Due to the extremely tight timeframe for acquisition, Mr. Leslie stated that the Board may need to use the best estimates versus a certain level of certainty. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) will also identify available grants, such as Clean Ohio, that would help reduce the cost of acquisition. Mr. Leslie stated his optimism for the high scoring potential for the Clean Ohio Grant since the property meets many of the requirements of the grant. WRLC would continue to hold control of the property after the election since they hold a conservation easement to perpetually monitor the land.

A lengthy discussion ensued by all in attendance regarding the various uses of the land and determining the definitions to the types of recreation: passive, non-passive, non-traditional. Mr. Leslie will provide definition of these terms and examples for the board. The use of the land impacts the grant application.

Mr. Swan stated that the work of this body was a great and noble effort. Mr. Swan opined that everyone should just pause to appreciate this historical moment for Richfield. It was a very special moment for the Village and the Township to look forward together and work so cooperatively for the residents and future residents.

MOTION made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Mcnerney to go into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss and consider the purchase of property per the Open Meetings Act permitted exemptions and ORC 121.22(g).

DISCUSSION: NONE

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

In attendance in the Executive Session: Mayor Beshara, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Swan, Ms. Ringle, Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Leslie, Mrs. Bluso Rogers

MOTION made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Taylor to go out of Executive Session at 10:56 p.m.

DISCUSSION: NONE

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

MOTION made by Ms. Skoda and seconded by Mr. Lucas to adjourn at 10:59 p.m.

DISCUSSION: NONE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Chairperson

Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Secretary