

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 17, 2021**

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Schneller.

Board members present: President Schneller, 1st Vice-President Bendsen, Treasurer Johnson, Secretary Castor and 2nd Vice President Beckhart

Board Members absent:

Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2021, Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and disbursements in the amount of \$36,592.72 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$61,807.23 as presented. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement Resolution

Richie Wolf explained that the Village of Mt. Zion wanted to create a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and was soliciting taxing body's approval. The Board would need to approve a Resolution approving the Governmental Agreement between the Village of Mt. Zion and the Macon County Conservation District. Julie Miller with the Village of Mt. Zion was present to explain the new TIF District and how it would impact those governmental units involved. Mt. Zion has not seen substantial economic growth and by developing this TIF District they hope to entice some new business to come to the area. It will be a massive commercial corridor. She assured the Board that the District would not be out of any money or funding. All Governmental bodies included in the TIF Agreement would receive 75% of the incremental increase that would be distributed through the regular tax distributions. The agreement is comprised of eleven governing bodies of which all have approved the agreement with the exception of the District. Due to concern of the Board members regarding the impact of individual property taxes, she assured the Board this would not affect individuals within the community.

Trustee Beckhart MOVED to approve the Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between The Village of Mt. Zion and The Macon County Conservation District. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.

2. FY 2022 Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Approval:

No comments were made.

Trustee Castor MOVED to approve the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "Aye"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Bendsen, "AYE". Motion carried.

3. Set hearing date for FY2022 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

All Board members were in agreement to hold the FY2022 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Hearing at 5:25 p.m. on March 24, 2021, before the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. on March 24, 2021.

4. Board Recruitment

Richie Wolf explained that Trustee Doug Johnson's five year term would end on June 30, 2021. Board members need to think about recruiting a new board member and submit any recommendations. A letter of recommendation needs to be approved by the County at their May meeting. There is an application that needs to be submitted by the candidate. Trustee Bendsen mentioned that it would be nice to have a Trustee also serve on the Foundation Board. She felt that when Trustee White served on both Boards it was beneficial to the District. Richie stated that he would solicit the Foundation Board members to see if there was any interest.

5. Staff Reports

Richie Wolf announced that he received a phone call from the past volunteer that had already donated \$90,000.00 to the Foundation wanting to give an additional donation of \$60,000.00. He reported that the plans for the 5K on April 10th were moving forward with the registration website operational with over 60 registrations to date. Much time was spent on preparing the budget, and he thanked his administrative staff for their hard work in putting together a plan.

Shane Ravellette reviewed accomplishments in each area of the Conservation District. Much focus was put on finalizing the Nature Center upper level remodel and emphasized that the operations staff by doing much of the work themselves has saved the District over \$100,000.00 on the project. Staff at Friends Creek Conservation Area have been busy installing extra insulation in the shop ceiling and walls, which will save the District money by reducing energy consumption. The Bike Trail Grant final report was submitted, accepted and awaiting payment. The OSLAD Grant for the Cattail Ponds is entering the final stretch. The bid packet for the Museum Capital Grant for the ECO Center is ready once final documents are received from IDNR to start the project. Staff have been busy laying the ground work for the electrical project

at Friends Creek and have spoken to a contractor to determine best method to move forward.

Alysia Callison reported that it was good to have the Nature Center open and to welcome back programs even though there were some limitations on size. Staff did conduct virtual programs that went over very well with the public. Mini Camp kits that Jenny Garver designed were a big hit and were being sold out each month. The new exhibit called "*More than Corn: Investigating Illinois' Unique Geology*" was on display focusing on unique habitats and ecosystems found throughout the state. The planning has begun for a scaled-back Festival of Spring offering a mixture of virtual and in-person events. Alysia commented "though 2020 was a challenging year" she is being optimistic with moving forward into 2021.

Pam Smith reported that most of the month was spent working on putting the budget together and compiling the budget book along with other housekeeping duties that come due at the beginning of the year. She did announce that IMRF had a good investment year in 2020 with a 14% net return on investments, which meant that the District would see their portion of that investment in their account. The District should see an impact from this investment return in a lower employer rate in 2022 (there is always a two-year lag).

6. Other

No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:

No further comments from the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Castor MOVED to go into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)**

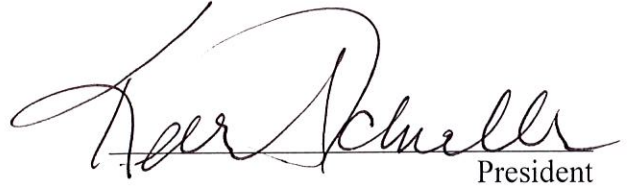
Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Beckhart, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Johnson MOVED to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:37 p.m. Trustee Bendsen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; and Trustee Castor, "AYE". Motion carried.


Trustee Bendsen MOVED to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 17, 2021. Trustee Castor SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Castor, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; and Trustee Schneller, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Johnson MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:37 p.m. Trustee Beckhart SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Beckhart, "AYE"; Trustee Bendsen, "AYE"; Trustee Johnson, "AYE"; Trustee Schneller, "AYE"; and Trustee Johnson, "AYE". Motion carried.


President

ATTEST:


Secretary