

**MINUTES OF A THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON MARCH 18, 2025, 8:04 AM.**

Commissioner Ruttenberg, Vice President Freeman, and President Bernstein participated by electronic means.

Vice President Freeman joined the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Labrador, Commissioner Grossberg, President Bernstein

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Peters, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Baird, Assistant Director Acevedo, Assistant Director Soto, Manager Ochs, Manager Baczek, Accountant Moraru, Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Dynegy Energy Services, LLC Electric Service Agreement bid via Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC)

Director Peters reported that on February 26, 2025, the Park Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2025-02 Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity for Park District Facilities and Meters and Authorizing the Director to Approve a Contract with the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for a Period up to 3 years. On March 12, 2025, the Park District received bids via NIMEC and Satori Energy for electricity rates for the entire District (17 meters in total), except for Deer Creek Racquet Club, West Ridge Center and the new meter at Club Pickle and Padel. Deer Creek was excluded from the bid since that facility has a separate contract agreement with Realgy in conjunction with the solar panel installation and delivery of electricity. The West Ridge meter was difficult to bid, as the bids were for up to three years and the building will only exist for roughly another year. It will be rebid soon for a 12-month period. The meter at Club Pickle and Padel did not have enough history to receive a bid and will be billed by ComEd until there is enough history to do so.

The lowest bid was from Dynegy Energy Services, LLC (Dynegy) at 8.257 cents per kWh. Dynegy is the current electric provider for the Park District and with the bid will be so through May of 2026. Per the Board Approved Resolution 2025-02, the acceptance of this bid was executed by Executive Director Romes for the 17 Park District meters for the term of May 2025 through May 2026. To note, NIMEC receives compensation from the electric supplier, and no NIMEC representative is employed by Commonwealth Edison.

Under the Park District's current electric contract, the average year-round rate is 6.373 cents per kWh. This new contract will be an additional cost of 1.884 cents per kWh. The increase in price is due to recent tariff uncertainty and AI data centers using increased electricity to fulfil electronic inquiries. The District anticipates an average increase in electric bills of roughly 16% during this time frame due to Community

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Solar credits starting, ComEd rebates and pricing reductions. This equals approximately \$29,476 in total over the 12-month period of the one-year contract.

The Finance Committee supports the staff's recommendation and asked that the Dynegy Energy Services, LLC Service Agreement be placed on the consent agenda at the March 19, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

Reciprocal Agreement with Glencoe Park District

Staff are developing a reciprocal agreement with the Glencoe Park District so that Highland Park residents may receive discounted (resident) rates to utilize their outdoor refrigerated ice-skating rinks and in return the Glencoe residents will receive discounted (resident) rates on Club Pickle and Padel programs and memberships.

March Bid Results and Vehicle/Equipment Purchases

a. 2025 Centennial Ice Arena Roof Top Unit Replacement Bids

Director Smith reported that the Park District of Highland Park received four (4) sealed bids on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, for materials and labor to complete the 2025 Park Avenue Dredging Project. Work is scheduled to occur early May 2025. The low bidder was John Keno & Company at \$40,000, includes \$37,300 for mobilization/demobilization and \$2,700 to dredge, transport, and place materials not to exceed 1800 CY). There is \$42,500 in the capital budget. While the bid is within budget, environmental testing will put this project over budget by \$4,426.25.

The low bidder specified a roof top unit that was not manufactured by an approved manufacturer per the bid documents. Staff have researched this unit and determined that it would meet the required specifications. Additionally, this unit is lower cost than units from the listed specified manufacturers and several bidders have shared that they would also have specified this unit had it been an option. Therefore, staff recommend rejecting all bids and re-bidding this project to include the option of a unit from this particular manufacturer.

The Finance Committee supports staff's recommendation to reject and re-bid the project.

b. 2025 Centennial Ice Arena Dehumidification Unit Installation

Director Smith reported that the Park District of Highland Park received three (3) sealed bids on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for materials and labor to complete the 2025 Centennial Ice Arena Dehumidification Unit Installation. Work is scheduled to occur from May through June 2025. The low bidder is Helm Mechanical dba Helm Services. This contractor has favorable references and experience working with the Park District. There is \$245,000 budgeted in capital funds for this project. The bid from Helm Mechanical, Inc came in \$28,693 under budget. The Finance Committee recommended placing the bid from Helm Mechanical, Inc. on the consent agenda at the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

c. 2025 Hidden Creek AquaPark Fence Improvements Project Bid

Director Smith reported that the Park District of Highland Park received two (2) sealed bids on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, for materials and labor to complete the 2025 Hidden Creek Aqua Park Fence Improvements Project. Work is scheduled to occur late April through early May 2025. The

low bidder is Classic Fence Inc. This contractor has favorable references and has worked for the District in the past. There is \$60,000 budgeted in capital funds for this project. The bid from Classic Fence, Inc came in \$2,129 over budget. The Finance Committee recommended placing the bid from Classic Fence, Inc. on the consent agenda at the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

d. 2025 Recreation Center of Highland Park Pool Filter Change, Pool Deck Renovation, and Pool Grate Replacement

Director Smith reported that the Park District of Highland Park received three (3) sealed bids on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 for materials and labor to complete the 2025 Recreation Center of Highland Park Pool Filter Change, Deck Renovation and Grate Replacement. Work is scheduled to occur from July through August 2025. The low bidder is Stuckey Construction, Inc. This contractor has favorable references and experience working with the Park District. There is \$533,000 budgeted in capital funds for this project. The bid from Stuckey Construction, Inc. came in \$63,000 under budget. Staff would like to also address and renovate the tile in the family changing room. With the addition of this change order, the bid would be \$49,052 under budget. The Finance Committee recommended placing the bid from Stuckey Construction, Inc. on the consent agenda at the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

e. Vehicle and Equipment Purchasing

Director Voss reported that staff evaluated the 2025 capital plan vehicle replacement list and determined three 4x4 pick-up trucks and one electric cargo van are necessary replacements for the current needs of the District. Ford pickup trucks and utility vans are available through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) through the Northwest Municipal Conference.

The Suburban Purchasing Cooperative is a joint purchasing program representing 144 municipalities and townships in northeastern Illinois. The SPC exemplifies the benefits of intergovernmental cooperation. The goal of the SPC is to combine the resources and purchasing power of governments and not-for-profit entities to jointly negotiate advantageous contract terms of products at the lowest possible price. Illinois statues, 525/2 from Ch. 85, par. 1602. (Governmental Joint Purchasing Act), authorizes that any governmental unit may purchase personal property, supplies, and services jointly with one or more other governmental units.

Of the three pickup trucks, two would be matching extended, super cabs, while the third would be a four door super crew cab. Snowplows would not be necessary for these trucks.

Equal sized gas and electric engine vans are both available. A gasoline engine van would have an initial savings of approximately \$4000 compared to the electric engine model. However, the District would expect a \$1200 per year savings, minimum \$14,000 of the lifespan of the van, in fuel costs by choosing the electric engine model. Upon receiving the electric van, staff will, separately, purchase a shelving system for tool and material organization to be installed the vehicle.

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Once the new vehicles are received, Staff would place three replaced trucks and one replaced cargo van on surplus, followed with an auction through the District's GovDeals website account. There is \$205,000 budgeted in capital funds to replace vehicles. The replacement purchases are \$9,744 under budget.

Additionally, the Park District's 2025 capital plan lists replacing a parks utility tractor. Staff determined a John Deere 4066R Compact Utility Tractor would meet the current and future needs of the District. John Deere tractors are available through Sourcewell, a joint purchasing cooperative program for state, local, and city governments. There is \$70,000 budgeted in capital funds to replace equipment. The John Deere Utility Tractor purchase is \$15,038 under budget.

The Finance Committee would like staff to further explore electric options for the trucks and asked that this item be removed from the consent agenda at the March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners. The EV Cargo Van and Utility Tractor can remain on the consent agenda.

Other Business

None.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Labrador, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)5: the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Labrador, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President, President Bernstein

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 9:38 a.m.

Action from Closed Session if Any

Commissioner Grossberg reported that no action was taken.

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Labrador and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxanne Hejnowski".

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary