

**MINUTES OF A THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON APRIL 15, 2025, 8:03 AM.**

Commissioner Ruttenberg and Vice President Freeman participated by electronic means.

Present: Commissioner Grossberg, President Bernstein

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Peters, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Assistant Director Acevedo, Assistant Director Soto, Manager Ochs, Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg, seconded by President Bernstein 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 Grossberg, President Bernstein

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 8:05 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 9:01 a.m.

Action from Closed Session if Any

President Bernstein reported that no action was taken.

Executive Director Romes left the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

April 15, 2025

West Ridge Park Site Improvements Additional Services Proposal

Staff do not have an update at this time. This item will be presented at a future Committee Meeting.

Administrative Office Professional Services Proposal

Staff do not have an update at this time. This item will be presented at a future Committee Meeting.

Purchase of Three Capital Replacement Pickup Trucks

Director Voss reported that staff evaluated the 2025 capital plan vehicle replacement list and determined three 4x4 pick-up trucks are necessary replacements for the current needs of the District. He compared gas and electric powered vehicle replacement options. If three electric vehicles are purchased the Park Operations and Golf Operations (POGO) facility will need infrastructure changes to support EV charging stations. The current electric system could support 6 EV chargers, however only 2 fully open and one 1/2 full run of conduit is available, allowing for 5 EV chargers. Additionally, the main electrical panel can support more amperage; upgrading would require a larger transformer. Lastly, ComED offers rebate incentive programs to reduce costs. Rebate Incentive amount beginning at \$5,333, potentially up to \$33,650, resulting in total cost to the District \$4,974.

Staff recommended the purchase of one Ford F150 4x4 SuperCab XL gas-powered pickup truck and two Ford F150 Lightning 4wd SuperCrew XL electric-powered pickup trucks from Currie Motors in the amount of \$154,033.

The Finance Committee would like staff to see if infrastructure will support the purchase of three electric-powered vehicles.

Resolution 2025-03: Authorizing the Purchase of Natural Gas for Park District Facilities and Meters and Authorizing the Executive Director to Approve a Contract with the Lowest Cost Natural Gas Provider for a Period up to 36 Months

Director Peters reported that Natural gas at all Park District facilities and additional natural gas meters are currently brokered via AUS (Alternative Utility Services, Inc.), except for the shared meter at HPCC. Besides our District, they have also provided natural gas bids for Wheeling, Palatine, Arlington Heights, and Northbrook Park Districts. Additionally, the Villages of Wheeling and Rosemont (including the Allstate Arena) have been served by AUS, as well as many commercial clients. As all District natural gas contracts are expiring in June, they will all be bid simultaneously on April 22.

Bidding natural gas for the District takes place over a few hours. Therefore, approval to participate in the bidding process must take place prior to knowing the awarded supplier and associated rates. The compensation that AUS gets paid is by the winning vendor, so the District is not responsible for any commissions.

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to place Resolution 2025-03: authorizing the Executive Director to purchase natural gas for the District from Alternative Utility Service for a period of up to 36 months on the consent agenda at the April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

Commissioner Ruttenberg left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

April 15, 2025

April Bid Results

a. 2025 Recreation Center of Highland Park Landscape Installation bid

Director Voss reported that staff received seven (7) sealed bids. Autus Group, LLC, dba Property First was the low bidder. There is \$80,000 in the capital budget to replace the parking lot screening. The budget is split with the City of Highland Park. Staff recommended placing the base bid from Autus Group, LLC dba Property First in the amount of \$38,273 on the consent agenda at the April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

The Finance Committee supports staff's recommendations.

b. 2025 Rosewood Park Playground Renovation bid

Director Voss reported that staff received six (6) sealed bids. Absolute Home Improvement and Cleaning Services, Inc was the low bidder, however, they struggle to meet project deadlines. The Park District is currently working them on Port Clinton and Old Elm Playground Renovation projects. Staff recommend the next low bidder, D & J Landscape, Inc. There is \$312,000 in the capital budget for the playground area renovation, plus \$62,000 from the special recreation fund for the ADA Pathway. Staff recommended placing the base bid from D & J Landscape, Inc. in the amount of \$232,418.50 on the consent agenda at the April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

The Finance Committee supports staff's recommendations.

Other Business

The next Finance Committee will be May 02, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

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,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary