



**Clark County Park District
Monthly Board Meeting
December 15, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

- a. Commissioner Blankenship called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

- a. Commissioners in attendance were Jana Williamson, Roy Sweet, Jeff Wallace, John Richards, Joe Ewing, Jeff Trefz, and Randy Blankenship, also in attendance is Executive Director Jeff Tippett.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

- a. Ewing motioned to Approve the Agenda, Williamson second. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

5. Approval of Minutes for November 17, 2022

- Richards moves to approve the minutes as presented, Sweet Seconds. 7 ayes; 0 nays.

6. Public Comment

7. Directors Report

- a. Tippett Mr. Huisinga fulfilled his ten trees that we required him to replant. Eight of them went in here to the park and two of them went on his property on that point because he couldn't fit all eight of them on there obviously. Everything else he has moved a path in some and as I said he has come and everything we agreed upon he has done. Gatehouse construction continues, we got the deck in, the septic's in, the water is out to it we just have to make the tap here. Three of the walls are built in the back and we just got all the roofing material this morning so we will be on our way here very shortly. It will be a total 24' addition is what it will be onto the gatehouse. We are rained out of the OHV for the past, it has been a little too muddy the past week or so as soon as we can, we will get back to it and get the rest of the trees and the evergreens installed. Server replacement continues, he hooked it up, plugged it in and it burned up some part in there so he had to reorder the part and wait for it so he could put it back in. As you saw the Sweet Water is outside it has been completely stripped and sanded, new vinyl flooring, some new seats put on, we are going to use some of the old new seats. It's looking pretty nice and I'm pretty happy with it.

Trefz, have we received all monies for the OHV?

Tippett no

Trefz we are still waiting on some, correct?



Tippett, we won't get any monies from the OHV because it actually doesn't close till February. We had that six-month extension put on it.

Tippett, we do have monies coming from OSLAD the boat ramp OSLAD. We haven't submitted for it yet, but we will have some money coming from that as well as the new OSLAD grant for the campground they should be cutting a check. Just got an email from the lady this morning. All of our paperwork is intact so she will get the comptroller to cut a check.

Blankenship awesome anything else for the director?

Williamson, do we need to order any more picnic tables? Just asking

Tippett no

Williamson, we are in good shape?

Tippett, I think we are, do you think we are?

Deke yeah, we have several frames out there we dismantled about 12 or 15 that were missing boards, so we just took them all apart and took the pieces from the good ones and made other ones, but we have enough to build another 10 probably.

Blankenship anything else?

8. Payment – Discussion of Financials and Vote on Payment of Bills

Wallace, have we received any more as far as income any tax payments from

Tippett all our tax payments have come in over the course of the, I just got the final replacement property tax. I just got the final one of that, we have received most of our tax payments as far as I'm aware of. I have notified the board on every time we have come close to a line item, or we go over that line item. The last one was fuel, there is just no way we could see into the future that the fuel prices would go up this much. I still plan on having everything ready for you in February to revise the budget as it stands, and we will make the line items that we are over out. We are over on about six of them I think total is what I read to you. We may catch one more I don't know but we are off-season now, so we are.

Blankenship, shouldn't we re-due the budget, change it, whatever to be able to pay the bills and not be doing something wrong?

Tippett, I don't understand what you're saying.

Blankenship well if we are paying the bills and we don't have the money appropriated that's illegal.

Tippett, you could do it that way, but we voted just to leave the items till we can change the budget one time as you very well could go over it again. It could happen, totally up to the board and we brought the book out and we read the book, and everybody agreed that we would wait till February and just do it one time and then start our own budget. Actually, if you read that section, it says it both ways. Exactly what you're talking about, but it also says that they recommend you wait to do it once per year at the end of the year.

Wallace is any of these bills like I know you said we are over on fuel does the Bolin Transport bill, is that part of fuel? Is that part of the line item that is over?



Tippett no, right now the line item that is over is regular fuel or off-road diesel fuel. We have a 500-gallon surplus that we put away when OHV first started so what we are doing is using those 500 gallons right now.

Wallace, so there is nothing in here that are part of the line items that are over budget?

Tippett no I don't think so.

Wallace ok

Tippett no

Ewing what is the Clarksville Phone System? It showed up two months ago but then not last month and it shows up here again.

Tippett yeah, it's just our phone bill we have already signed it. it was close to the AP, so we just put it on it that's all.

Ewing ok so that's one of them.

Tippett, you will see that the bills to be paid amount to 17,712.69 in reality we will be paying 17,413.69 as we have two credits for items that we have returned and rebates that we received all from Menards. Items that we returned to Menards that we didn't need that we received a credit for as well as a couple of rebates we applied. So, 17,413.69.

Ewing ok one more question. What is the Bill for Lisa Thomas?

Tippett that is the final bill from Lisa on all the training and consulting that she did.

Lisa Thomas, I think the last item on there is the eight hours of training that I promised I would do when I ended the contract and that was from August till then.

Ewing, so we weren't square at the end of the contract with billing?

Tippett no we still had one more bill coming and the training that Lisa said she would do to finish it up.

Blankenship without Nickie's bill in it.

Lisa well that would have been before October 29th.

Blankenship, I don't know when it was.

Ewing it was October 13th.

Blankenship, I would take a motion to pay the rest of the bills besides that one anytime you're ready.

Ewing will make a motion to pay the bills excluding Lisa Thomas's bill.

Richards seconds

Roll Call: Williamson I, Sweet I, Wallace I, Richards I, Ewing I, Trefz I, Blankenship I.

Motion Passes

Blankenship leaves the room.

Richards takes over

Richards, there is an outstanding bill to Lisa Thomas for services rendered in the previous consulting contract for 805.83. Accept a motion to pay.

Wallace so moved, sweet second.

Roll Call: Sweet I, Wallace I, Richards I, Ewing No, Trefz I, Williamson I

Motion Passes

Can someone grab Mr. Blankenship?



9. Old Business- Discussion and Vote of Solarbrake Preparation Funds

Tippett solarbrake is coming, I spoke with the commission about it at the Lake Management Commissioners meeting in which it's coming fast and we are going to need a lot of things such as orange fence and green poles to put the fence in. More lumber, we got to make some more horses, glasses for people to see it. what else Deke? We keep going over it.

Deke the list keeps getting longer the more we think about it. we keep coming up with stuff.

Tippett a couple of Shade tents, porta-potties, Trash Cans. I already ordered porta-potties, I ordered dumpsters, I ordered three golf carts I ordered for rent and the list goes on and on. What I'm asking the board is if we couldn't start purchasing some of this stuff off this budget instead of getting hit with it all, I expect we will spend 15 to 20 thousand. It's 8 thousand dollars just for a mile of orange fence and we will need several miles of it, probably three or four would be my guess.

Deke is almost a mile back to Beuchler from here just to give you an idea.

Tippett even a little is by orange fencing this place in and making the entrances where we want them and putting pipes across the ditches. Otherwise, we are going to have people in and out of here all the time, all over the place.

Ewing so do you have a dollar amount that you're figuring here are we looking at setting aside a fund of 20 thousand, 25 thousand? I'm just seeing where we land at to.

Tippett I would be somewhere in the land of 20 thousand dollars to be totally honest but before it's all said and done.

Ewing, where is that going to come out at?

Blankenship yeah, that's my question, where are you going to get the money?

Wallace, it has to come out of this year's budget in a line item that's.

Tippett no, no. just give me a part of it. maybe 10 thousand dollars maybe out of contingency and I can start purchasing some of the stuff and setting it aside because the prices are going to go up, nothing but up at this point. Especially as that date gets closer, I think we do ourselves better if we start now.

Ewing, I mean do we have enough in contingency if we, let's just throw a 10-figure out there what do we have?

I think there is 32 thousand in contingency.

Ewing left in contingency, and we still have the rest of this budget year to finish up too so.

Tippett even if we bought a skid of orange fence just something to get us started this year because next year, you're going to ask for a line item or a budget of another 25 thousand that we probably could have bought a little bit cheaper this year. I'm not saying it's going to be too much more expensive next year I don't know but that's just it, we don't know what it will be. Unfortunately, it hits on April 8th of 2024 so we will just be changing budgets at that point and that would make it a little more complicated also.

Blankenship, what do you think it's going to bring to us?



Tippett Depends on what we decide to charge. Definitely, we are going to make this a holiday weekend as far as our reservations go. The primitive camping, I expect the whole horse camp area will be all primitive camping. Everything else is going to be parking and people standing outside their cars looking up and if you're standing at the gate and you just want to park and watch it and I get 15 dollars a car or 20 dollars a car so we can recoup our expense it's still going to take us 2000 cars to get in.

Ewing more discussion needs to be had as we move forward but what you're looking for now is to go ahead and get the ball rolling and get the stuff out ahead of time.

Blankenship well if you bought orange fence and you take it down and take care of it, it's not going to go away.

Wallace what is the dollar limit on what you can spend on your

Tippett 10 thousand

Wallace so why are we voting on it?

Tippett because I'm asking for it out of contingency.

Blankenship is not a regular budgeted item.

Wallace yeah, I know but.

Ewing, I guess we don't have recreation or nothing like that to take it out of there.

Tippett, I have it, no I guess I don't have it anywhere right now. We are starting to run down a little bit. Capital is run down, equipment side it there is nothing left in infrastructure other than what we put aside for the new campground area.

Ewing, I don't know the way everybody talks with this solar thing coming we could potentially be impacted with a lot of visitors, and I would rather be ready for them than not. I can't see a year out but.

Richards, do you think this is going to be a profitable event or take a small loss?

Blankenship, I would say you're going to lose. I mean I don't know, what's the increase on Holiday weekends for campers?

Tippett five or six dollars a night, eight dollars a night something like that.

Blankenship so if you have every site full, it doesn't affect the annual campers, so we have how many sites we can rent out.

Tippett about 90 or I'm sorry, 53, and then we have unlimited.

Ewing the discussion was to put temporary camping in the horse spots with either t post and 1,2,3,4,5 that way we could direct the solarers to there because I would say the majority of these people are tent campers so it may work out for them.

Tippett what I'm trying to not have happened is they just pull in here and pull through the ditch and park in the middle of the field and now we have lost all control, we have to have some control.

Blankenship well at 59 at 5 dollars that 295 dollars, that's not going to get us rich.

Haws no but 500 people primitive camping is 5000 a day. That's where we make our money is primitive people.

Tippett plus just cars coming in in general.



Ewing if you did 2 dollars a head or 5 dollars a car or whatever because some people are going to pull in here and watch it for 20 minutes and then they are going home. They are going to head back to wherever they come from.

Haws from what they talked about at that meeting people that were down in Southern Illinois, most people that would come here would be coming to spend a couple days cause if they are just driving down the road, they probably wouldn't even get here to watch it. it wouldn't be like a thorough fair people would come here and spend a couple days. All the parks in Southern Illinois were completely packed. What did he say it was pyramids. Every grass spot they had was full of tent campers.

Blankenship, so it's a possibility either way.

Ewing, so we can assume, I don't know what to assume but we could assume an influx like that here being we have the acreage we are in the prime viewing area.

Tippett, we are like the promise area almost.

Thomas would it be an idea to entertain and no this isn't a tonight thing but to charge per person camping. That would really add to your revenue because a family of 4 versus the whole extended family of 16 coming to stay in a big tent.

Williamson, I wonder if you could put a limit on how many can come in.

Blankenship, you can have four people per site.

Wallace well the discussion is back to these funds and whether or not we want to give you but ii just have a concern with everything we have going on with financials and with my, I really don't know where we are truthfully at with our financials and the fact that we are already over budget. I wish it could be, my thought process would be to push it till we revise the budget as you mentioned in like February or something.

Williamson in February.

Wallace and do it then and I know you are having concerns about the price or the cost going up, but I don't know. We have that with everything so, I don't know.

Richards about a third of our contingency budget. 10,000 dollars.

Tippett, we can wait till February when we re-due the budget if that would make everyone feel safer.

Blankenship well hopefully we have financials by then.

Tippett, we are working on it.

Blankenship well

Tippett, want to table it till February?

Williamson yeah let do.

Wallace my thought process is to table it till when you re-due the budget and have it in the budget then because you're going to need to have a line item for this. To insert it in this for the preparation in this. Like you said it's going to actually occur in the 2024/2025 budget, but we are going to have to budget for it in the 2023/2024 year and again 24/25-year budget because we are still going to have additional expenses, and income in this year.

Blankenship ok, moving on.

Tippett, can I get a motion to table till February?



Ewing will make a motion to table Solar Preparation funds
Wallace will second that motion.
All in Favor; 7 Ayes, 0 Nays

c. Discussion of Online Reservation System

Tippett, we are currently dealing with about 4 different online reservation systems trying to get one that number 1 we can afford and then one that would become compatible with all of our accounting needs. Campspot has come, I issued a cease of service to Campspot on December 1st. They immediately came back we had a meeting; we've had several meetings with their accounting department and their programming department, this department, that department seeing how we can get it pulled into QuickBooks. It's working but it's slow, we have had to remap a bunch of stuff and that was one of the problems that was happening. We have Camp Life who is basically Campspot just a little less aggressive. They are also on board to try and fix it. We talk to both Camp Life and Campspot, we talk to our IT which is Net Diatom, and they can give us a program but it's a box-cutter program. We would have to have that one talk to our QuickBooks. It all depends on QuickBooks and Every online reservation camping system that we have talked to comes up with the same thing. Yep, you have to adapt your QuickBooks to our camping system. Everybody does it, you're not unique. There is one called Inex, is that I think that's the name of it, that's the best one you can find but it's 28,000 dollars a year to have that as an online system and that's out of the ballpark. So that's where we are at with it, we work every single day, we have pulled numbers into QuickBooks now. It's been done until May 31st that has been pulled over. Now we are working on remapping so we can pull the next month and it should start picking up from there. Jennifer and Kayla have been working on changing things over to Campground Master from Campspot and going over the dailies to make sure the dailies are all correct and that they have pulled over correctly and that's one of the problems is that they just didn't pull over with the same numbers so each one has to be gone through individually. We are up to the end of July with that, we are working as quickly as we can, investing as much as we can into it and unfortunately Chatty is out ill right now so she was supposed to meet with Camp Life today to see their mapping and their projects and she couldn't make it so we will reschedule that for next week.

Ewing, did we reach out to Ben Luken last Wednesday?

Tippett Yes

Ewing on the cause we talked last meeting or committee or whatever about this online reservation about QuickBooks starting over and re-doing everything. What was his feel?

Tippett no we didn't need it.

Ewing, we didn't need to do that?

Tippett's to list half a million spreadsheets. Did we need the spreadsheet, no we didn't so we called the people who do our auditing. The only thing they need a spreadsheet for our



advanced reservations. Other than that, they don't need to see it, so we are in the middle of a dept. I want to get it working before we cut something out or add something.

Ewing, I know the spreadsheet, but I thought the discussion we had was we were going to ask Ben about how we, like Mr. Richards said at the last meeting it seems like our QuickBooks always seems to be the problem with any reservation software that we try to enter into. That maybe it was something to where we could start our QuickBooks over to better represent the reservation. Did Ben have any comment on that?

Tippett, he said that may or may not work. So, when IT was in here 3 days ago for whatever it was, he made a say for intensive purposes another company in QuickBooks which should be clean. As soon as we get a minute, we will start setting that up.

Ewing Test driving it.

Tippett test driving it and see if that's the case if that's the case one way or another we are going to solve this but its time consuming at best.

Richards, so you created another company using the default setting on QuickBooks? Did you say QuickBooks had to be adapted to these individual software's?

Tippett, I have had Camp Life say that and now Campspot has said that and even Jerney who would actually build the online system has said the same thing. We are still going to have to adapt one to the other. There has been too much manipulation.

Wallace and that is what you are going to find because we are too unique. That's why this one company that you mentioned is 28,000 a year because that is a customized program. There is a lot of stuff they have to do on a programming side to make it work with the things that we do. In my opinion or my thought process doesn't really have anything to do with QuickBooks, it's the differences that we have in our reservation systems and the types of different things we have in our park that make it work. I'm disappointed with Campspot in the fact that we say we're going to cease, and they are like oh, wait a minute, we are going to do this. We are going to work with you on this. Now, sounds like they have made some end roads on stuff but there are still some things that they are saying that there is no way this is going to work, still a few things.

Tippett, you can't backdate something. If a mistake is made on Friday and you fix it on Monday, the income will come in on Monday there is no way around that. I don't see that being the worst thing in the world but it.

Thomas, it's actually really good to be that way.

Tippett yeah and there is one other thing with it, it was a small thing. It had to do with the mapping, it was the mapping of it. We won't see everything; you're not going to get exactly the same reports that you get now. They will look different; they will be a little bit different but I'm not telling you that Campspot is not the way to go nor am I telling you that Camp Life isn't. I'm telling you that we are working on them all. We are trying to find the best one, the best solution for this park district and we are trying like crazy because I want the income in as much as the board wants the income in to see where we are at.

Wallace, I mean right now I assume we got the focus ought to be on getting the numbers back in Campground Master and getting that going. From that point on we can



continue on that level While then we can bring Campspot if they want to continue with that and see what they can fix and what they can get going and then if there are things like you said if there is a couple of things that are not going to work then that's where we got to make a decision. I don't see any sense in like all of a sudden ok let's go investigate Camp Life now while we are trying to fix the other things.

Ewing but the reservation people you reached out to, you say we are complex here, we are our own entity here, but they are saying we are just run of the mill same as every other campground we just have to adapt it to your QuickBooks and our QuickBooks has been manipulated, skewed, and messed up now for a long time.

Thomas, it has not.

Wallace who is saying this?

Ewing since I have sat on this board, we have had nothing but issues with QuickBooks. Since the day I come here, and we have tried everything. We have tried Campground Master, we have tried advanced reservation with the other software that we have so just everybody, every year we keep saying how it doesn't do this and it doesn't do that and like we said about Ben about drawing a line in the sand and starting this new QuickBooks company over. I don't know if that's going to clean it up where they can talk back and forth.

Thomas, they talk now don't they Jeff?

Tippett, we had to go back to April and re-due April when we pulled the May figures in, so you are both right. It's working but it's not working and that's what we are working on.

Wallace, I can't say. I can't believe.

Ewing, I don't think we are that unique. Compared to every other campground out there I mean. Every other campground has boats.

Wallace but we have in district and out of district.

Ewing that would be our only un-uniqueness because I don't know that other campgrounds have in and out of district.

Wallace but everybody even you talk to the gentleman in Net Diatom.

Tippett Jermey

Wallace Jermey says I can't do this, this isn't a cookie cutter. We have to build a specialized system.

Ewing is Jermey the IT guy?

Tippett yeah, but then Jeremy comes in with a cookie-cutter system with an online reservation system. I'm just telling you that is a cookie cutter, it's another business that we have to adapt to.

Ewing that we have to adapt ours to meet that.

Tippett yeah, our QuickBooks too.

Wallace, so there is not any kind of software application in my mind that I can see is out there on the market for us without some form of adaptation by their programming staff. That's my belief and everything that I have understood. As far as QuickBooks being a failure from the get-go, we have been on it since about 20th year.



Ewing, I'm not saying we have from the get-go. I'm saying since I have been on this board, we have had QuickBooks and Campground Master have never, have always been a struggle trying to get advanced reservations going.

Wallace that in my opinion which Nickie I may have to defer to you a little bit to verify this but that has been a user-related issue, Staffing.

Ewing and I'm not saying it's not. I'm not saying it's not an operator error. I'm not saying it's not, but we need to, I think we need to clean it up, figure out where we are at from the beginning, and start fresh and I don't think that has ever been done. We have always kept adapting and adding to and changing and making things work within the budget. Making things work within the software so it would talk but we can't be the only campground out there that has this issue.

Wallace, I didn't really think that we had any issues am I saying this right? We never really had any issues.

Thomas, there was no problems with the software it was how it was being used before.

Wallace Campground Master is just not a broad program that will let you do anything much. It's an old program. It's a hard program, it's very to use the interface for it, it's very clunky and it's very hard to learn or whatever. Now with like the advanced reservations and things like that, we had problems in the beginning because the board decided to set up a system of advanced reservations too but that was balled up in the beginning, Jana maybe you can help me here a little bit, or Roy, but they like when Dennis was here it was all jacked up.

Williamson, it didn't make any difference it was just all together.

Wallace and so when I say it is in my opinion, once again it's not the problem of the QuickBooks itself, it's not the problem of Campground Master, it's the problem of us using the systems correctly and understanding them and everything.

Ewing our accounting software QuickBooks, I mean it's huge, everybody uses it. I mean everybody has it in their home, everybody has it, it's a user-friendly software but in order for that to work with us I know in the past we have updated our software because our software wasn't good with Campground Master and this and that but I'm just saying I'm in favor, I would like to see us go down this option like Ben said with this other company and see if a start from fresh where we can put the right numbers per line item so everything goes back and forth and we are starting into, we are doing that now right?

Tippett yeah, we are doing both of them at the same time.

Ewing, we have a shadow company trying to test drive to see if it's in, the way our current QuickBooks is reflecting is not reflected against this other accounting software that we have. This other advanced reservation software, so if we can get it to work with this then we know it's in the way that we, the park, has put information in.

Wallace, so you're saying like we have add-ons right now to QuickBooks or something that is.

Tippett, we have started a separate company in QuickBooks from a fresh.



Wallace, yeah but I just don't, I guess I'm with the QuickBooks we are using now. There has been some add-ons or changes to that QuickBooks program to where you have to create another company with a fresh set of QuickBooks to get things, with new account numbers?

Tippett what I'm thinking is we are working with the QuickBooks system right now that we are having problems with. We can't pull numbers over correctly or they won't work correctly or something is wrong and if you go with the notion that QuickBooks has been manipulated ok, let's stop it and put in another QuickBooks, and let's give that a try. If it will go into a fresh QuickBooks.

Thomas, then there is a problem with the old QuickBooks.

Tippett Exactly

Wallace, I'm not saying that there's not a problem but how has that been determined?

Thomas a company file can get too big and cause headaches but usually, you're going to have a lot of symptoms.

Wallace ok, I'm just trying to figure out where it got corrupted or whatever. We got to think that there is nobody on our staff here that knows QuickBooks. Am I wrong?

Ewing no, that's a fair statement. I mean we don't have anybody.

Wallace so that in itself is a problem, we have to have somebody here that knows and understands how to use QuickBooks because we are shooting ourselves in the foot. We are going through all these processes, and we don't really have anybody in here that knows QuickBooks. Evidently, I'm not previous with some of the stuff the whole setting up another company with QuickBooks or whatever.

Ewing, we talk last meeting, Ben came in what that Wednesday, and that discussion was, what was it Lake Management Meeting?

Williamson no, it wasn't Lake Management.

Wallace the Lake Management meeting was last Thursday. Why are we discussing finances at a Lake Management meeting?

Richards, we were talking about an advanced reservation system.

Ewing, it was on the agenda

Wallace well I was just trying to figure out where it was. Let's just try and make some points here, I have great concerns about everything. With financial and where we are at with everything, we are throwing a tremendous number of resources financially and everything at just trying to get Campground Master in. Right now, we are just now about the end of July, and we have had a problem for 6 months.

Richards yeah that the point. How did we get here and how do we continue to not go down the same path?

Wallace yeah, that's a concern of mine is that we are, I want to get focused on and you're driving this but to make sure that we get all caught up on Campground Master and get everything going, and then we can dive into some other application. We are not going to be ready to dive into a new application at the beginning of next year, we have had our last meeting for this year, and then we are going to be jumping into January of next year and you're going to be sending out leases and kinds of stuff.



Tippett which are going into Campground Master. There are no more sales going into Campspot till we get it worked out. Everything is going into CAMPGROUND Master which will make it a little easier anyway.

Wallace, so I mean as far as, I'm not saying that you guys, this stuff of creating another QuickBooks company to work through the problems. I mean I wasn't, I'm just kind of dumb to it all.

Thomas, Jeff you said they had till July that exporting to Campground Master, correct?

Tippett no, it's just May as far as she got. May 31st.

Thomas from Campground Master?

Tippett, to QuickBooks yes.

Thomas all right

Tippett, then she through an error code and we ended up going in April.

Thomas probably because we renumbered the accounts to try and work with Campspot.

Tippett yes and we are trying to go and do, trying to do two things at once. We are trying to get everything loaded up from Campspot into Campground Master and while we are doing that, we are trying to get Campspot to talk to QuickBooks so we can just pull it over by the month or the week, or however we want. So, there are just many things going on and no we don't have, we have very little income to show you and I know that's a huge problem for the board, it's a huge problem for me. I feel pretty confident that we will get this straightened out and how it happen is that everything that went into Campspot went on a daily basis and when Campspot grabbed it and tried to move it over, they skewed the numbers so now everything has to be gone through and made sure that number 1 it's correct and if it's not correct we have to repair it and then enter it back into Campground Master so it takes a while. Right now, she is more streamlined because we went to the daily sheets, and we are just going into Campground Master. If she has a problem now, she has to back out of Campground Master and turn on Campspot and go into Campspot and see what they say about it and fix it between the two of them. It's very time-consuming.

Thomas and in the meantime, everything is dated wrong in Campspot because it was caught at a later date so it's really hard.

Tippett so today for instance Jennifer got about 15 days done and that's quite a bit for one day's work.

10. Discussion and Vote on Annual Tax Levy

Tippett, I have two originals, one has Jeff Wallace as the secretary, and one has Jana Williamson as the secretary. I called Jeff because he resigned from the treasurer's position. Did that take the secretary away from him or did he keep it? so, we can sign either one. Other than the dates being changed this is the same tax levy that we had last year. The same dollar for dollar.



Thomas, did the board reappoint a secretary of treasure?

Tippett the board appointed a treasurer.

Blankenship am I correct or not correct on anyone can serve as a secretary, it doesn't have to be a board member.

Thomas, it's a secretary or treasurer or both I don't remember.

Wallace ill start on my spill which I do latterly every yes. A couple of years ago I think we agreed to reduce the tax levy by it was somewhere around 4 ½ percent or something around that. Last year we left it the same. It's my open desire that the board would consider to reduce it by an amount less than 5 percent again. This park in the last six or seven years has gone from about let's say we only had about 150-200 thousand dollars in the bank to where we have had a million. We have been fiscally responsible. I'm not quite old enough to remember when the park district was all established and everything, but I have been told by people that it was not the intent when it was sold to them that this park should always take taxes. That at some point it was to be self-sufficient. All I'm doing is asking the board if they would consider dropping the tax levy by a percent or a certain dollar amount here, less than 5 percent to try and continue to Wien ourselves off of it. So, if that was the case, we are leving 176,536 so 10 percent of that would be 17. I would really like to reduce it to 170,000 thousand dollars and when I talk about the 5 percentile the reason, I'm not dropping it any more than 5 percent and we would have to go get the money back for some reason that requires a referendum, so I am continuing to do what I think is fiscally responsible by not dropping it any more than 5 percent.

Richards, what was the reason you didn't vote for the last budget?

Wallace the last budget.

Richards yeah, the one where you were treasurer and put together the budget and we voted on it, and you voted no.

Wallace because I was not happy with the budget, the way it was put together. I felt there was things in it that was incorrect even though I was the treasurer, I made my point and there were items there that were not.

Richards, it wasn't because it was a deposit budget or anything like that?

Wallace, well no because I knew we were going to have a deposit budget, but I felt like at the time that we were going to end up in a situation where we have ended up now where we have line items that we have went over. Because of the fact that, my mind works kind of weird but like I knew we were getting an excavator and, in my mind, I'm thinking well we have all this more fuel and if we get a new truck there is going to be more fuel or there is these other items and that is the reason I voted no on the other budget. I try my very best when I work on these budgets to do it the best as I can so.

Sweet, unique set of circumstances we find ourselves in, who would have known a couple of years ago that we would be where we are with the price of everything? I would like to see it lowered. That has been my position all along however I go back to there is no way we would have ever known the prices of everything were going to go up. We are experiencing these issues with this Campground Master and all these different things and its time consuming and it's taking up more time. The idea behind the timber the way I understood it was to



generate more camping areas and initially down the road, that's going to give an opportunity to lower this tax burden. Right now, I just can't see, we need every dollar we can get our hands on but that's where I'm at with it.

Ewing here in the last couple of years we have increased the recreational opportunity, like our statement says with docks and boat ramp and OHV fixing and potentially these new camp spots going in and all this is going to be 25 years down the road is going to be an increased maintenance item. If we go the other way, if we give up this but yet we are adding, we got new cabin roofs we have added more maintenance items to our roster but we are not increasing our levy at all so, we are able to maintain and still provide more opportunity and here we could potentially have a campground going in, potentially we have more ATV we now have a bath house over there which we didn't have before. We took that money a long time ago 8/10 whatever years that I have been on here but now we have added more, and we are still going to be able to operate all that with less. If that makes sense on how I'm trying to say it. our maintenance items we have added a bunch more and we are still able to maintain, I think we are doing a good job staying where we are at.

Wallace well I agree with what you are saying there. We have made a lot of changes to the infrastructure or improvement or whatever you want to say. I know at some point there was an argument or an idea about putting storage units out here or whatever, I was against that because of your adding a maintenance item but what we have done out here we haven't seen any increased revenue, we have not raised tax levy, we have not raised any user fees substantially, we have done anything substantially to increase our income but yet.

Ewing boating and camping we have raised.

Wallace but not enough to increase our bank balances by 800 thousand in this amount of time.

Ewing no, it's been to maintain.

Wallace, I feel that that is a sign that the board and the staff has been fiscally responsible. We have the item that we have taking care of are things that got kicked down the road or didn't have money for. We got a new boat ramp, that boat ramp is going to be there for a long time, I hope, It's concrete. I just feel like, and I've told Jeff and now I'm mentioning it to the board members, I feel like the things we need to do now are to fix the roads that's the biggest thing now is fixing the rads, and getting some buildings to put your equipment in because you have equipment that's setting outside. Those are the main things I see getting done as far as main projects. We have went through a lot of money and what is amazing to me is even though we had a million dollars in the bank, we have been able to do all this stuff and our bank balances continue to rise so I agree with some of your points you made but I'm kind of on the flip side of it that even those we made those appointments we still had, we didn't depreciate our accounts or deplete our accounts if would be but yet we still have money. To me and I don't want to get us in trouble anyway, I'm not asking us to drop it by 5 thousand or anything like that. I'm just asking us to inch away from it and I think that I'm right. I feel like I've been on this board 20 years and I can see that it can be done right granted I can see we are in a situation right now where we have got a lot of expenses being spent on getting financials fixed



and all this other stuff, increase cost or whatever for each and everybody but once again I was just thinking about lowering it 7 grand and that's it. You know, if you guys want me to make a motion and a no second or anything like that then I would be more than happy to do that, and you can move on. I would appreciate if there was more discussion if you want to have more discussion.

Blankenship, what's our bank balance?

Tippett, I don't know, I didn't get the financials for that, and I can't take it off the sheet because they are not right anyway. But we are a million plus, the last time I checked we were 1.2 something.

Richards, how much do you think it's going to cost us to get our software right?

Tippett it's going to be all in manpower, we will just keep grinding away till we get it to where we want it to be.

Richards but won't there be some kind of expense with software or a new company or something like that?

Tippett, we are already invested in Campspot. We have already paid them x amount of dollars. It's less than 10 thousand dollars in expense already. You have Jennifer as an additional expense to us and we have well the server is for something else.

Wallace, do we have the money that we spent on Lisa?

Tippett, the money that we spent for Lisa has been our expenses so far. Jennifer is leaving us on January 9th, one way or the other. She is leaving us and if she comes back, I do not know, she will be gone for a month or better. We have that money, it's all in our salaries where we could take out her expense.

Richards this is a little off-topic, but I would spend a significant chunk of that money that we have saved to get this right and if it would take an outside consulting firm to do that or if it would take, whatever it takes to get this right or get it rolling so we could potentially use it next year I will be way for that. If it takes 50 thousand dollars, it would be worth it in the end.

Williamson, I agree with you doc, I do. Get it done.

Richards, do you want to make a motion for that? Do it and ill support it.

Wallace makes a motion to set our annual tax levy from the period of April first 20, wait a minute this date isn't right. That's not correct.

Tippett, it is correct, all you did was up it one year from last year.

Wallace this is an ordinance from, it should be from April 1st, 2023, through March 31st, 2024.

Tippett no because we collect on the taxes always a year behind.

Thomas yeah, but what fund are you reducing?

Tippett I'll get to that where we are going to go with this.

Wallace so.

Thomas well which levy because there are several different levies.

Ewing and if you do just an overall percentage as a percentage of it all that IRMF and everything.



Commissioner Wallace will move to reduce our annual tax levy by an amount of 4 percent from where it's currently at of a dollar amount of 176,536 dollars.

Richards, does that have to have a second before we discuss it?

Blankenship no, we can discuss it and have a second and further discuss it.

Wallace, typically you would have a second, and then we would discuss it and if dies well then whatever.

Sweet, how is it going to affect IMRF if this was to pass? How would that affect IMRF?

Tippett, you can't it out of IMRF.

Sweet, I understand that but there is funds that's needy, you know you can't get rid of it.

Thomas, you have your recreation fund, your insurance fund, your audit fund, your corporate fund, and paving and lighting so you have to decide what fund you want to reduce. You certainly don't want to reduce your insurance or audit.

Tippett, you can't touch your insurance, audit, or IMRF. Paving and lighting I would say no so you have recreation or corporate.

Ewing the current motion was to reduce the budget by 4 percent regardless of.

Tippett tax levy

Ewing the tax levy by 4 percent so I think the last time we done this I think it all came out of recreation or something. You can reduce the levy if you so choose, you can reduce all your levied amounts but then you will have to make up the difference on the other end. That's what got us, we weren't levied enough for IMRF before, the board was paying an extra amount of dollars because we weren't levying to cover the IMRF withdraws.

Sweet that what I was trying to figure out when Turpin was here, but I couldn't keep it in my mind.

Richards is it ever feasible if you can't cut these things that the park would ever be self-sufficient or would we be looking at coming up with another 176,000 dollars annually ourselves?

Blankenship if we knew how much money was in there and then you take the levy off and see what you have and then see what the budget is going to be is very possible that you could and if we get this new campground in what is the dollar amount that's going to make per year. Would that cover everything plus the maintenance of it because it's going to have maintenance? You know, it's going to take a little bit of studying to figure out.

Wallace once again, I'm not asking for the levy to be done away with, I'm not asking it to be reduced by more than 5 percent because I think you all understand about the 5 percent referendum and all that. I'm just asking us to just say to our people that pay the taxes and the people that vote for us in that we are working diligently to be everything that we can do on our money.

Blankenship well, I will second your motion.

Wallace but it may need to die because of.

Blankenship, it may, it may go away.

Blankenship further discussion anybody.



Richards yeah, if you're going to do it can you just say a certain dollar amount out of a certain account?

Thomas Yep.

Blankenship, what is 4 percent?

Wallace, I can do that I would think that if I was going to do that, I would probably like to split it between the corporate fund and the recreation fund and I would do that. I would do that in the dollar amount of 3500 dollars for each one if I was going to do it. that's 7000 dollars, that's less than 5 percent of our tax levy and I will say that there was a time that they raised the tax levy by about 40,000 dollars and that was because they said they needed dam insurance. I don't remember what I was because we use to levy about 130 some thousand dollars but that has been 12/14 years ago.

Blankenship ok, we have a motion and a second still any further discussion?

Richards, what's the motion that we are voting on currently?

Wallace the motion we are voting on currently is where I mentioned the 4 percent so if we are not going to do that then I am going to have to vote no. Which if I'm up right now I'm voting no on my motion.

Roll Call: Wallace no, Richards no, Ewing no, Trefz no, Blankenship no, Williamson no, Sweet No.

Wallace will make a motion to amend our tax levy to reduce our corporate tax levy by 3,500 dollars and to reduce our recreation tax levy by 3,500 dollars.

Richards seconds

Roll Call: Richards I, Ewing no, Trefz no, Blankenship I, Williamson I, Sweet no, Wallace I.

Motion carries

Blankenship, I have a question. Can we move any of this around a little bit? Like take another 6,000 dollars out of corporate fund and put it in the audit fund so it's actually levied enough money to.

Tippett we would have to ask the accountant.

Blankenship, I think that would be a smart thing to do.

Tippett, what do you want to do?

Blankenship take enough money and put in the audit fund to actually pay for the audit.

Thomas, you mean levy it.

Blankenship well, just change the levy. Instead of putting 93,000 dollars in corporate, why not put 86,000 dollars in there and put the rest of it in the audit fund to where it pays for the audit? We know it's going to be 10 grand.

Wallace, I can't answer those questions. I would think that Ben would have to answer those questions. It's the same way with paving and lighting, we always spend a lot more money.

Blankenship so that's what I'm saying, can we change it around to where it actually goes in there so it's budgeted for it? Paving and Lighting, that would be great to have more money.

Richards well this is just taxpayer portion is what's paying for it and then the parks going to pay the rest of it out of our budget.



Blankenship, I understand.

Thomas standing resolutions in there about closing the audit fund and is it the insurance fun?

Tippett, I have no idea. The insurance is out, there is no doubt about it, and IMRF.

Ewing, it gets to the point I think when they label it a fund, those dollars are levied for that only. I don't think you can move it around. You would have to change the fund. In this motion, you would have to change more dollars for that fund.

Blankenship, I don't know but I would like an answer to that someday. It's not important right now but.

Richards, I think if you levy more in the corporate fund, it provides you more flexibility in the future. Rather than having that money tied up there.

Tippett, can I ask the board if we can take a break for a few minutes, and I will retype this so we can sign it all and get it on its way instead of bringing it back again.

Blankenship, we will recess the meeting.

Blankenship the meeting is back in session

b. Discussion and Vote on Scott and Lori Higginbothams Dock Application

Tippett, we talked about them at the Lake Management meeting. All their paperwork checked out that it would be fine where they are going to put it. they are actually moving one that would be the next one that you vote on. They are moving their single slip out and putting a new single slip in and walkway over to it, a small walkway, not huge. No way are they on the main channel of the lake. All their paperwork is in order, and I approve it.

Ewing, so you're saying the Higginbotham dock is now getting moved to the Dunigan dock?

Tippett yeah

Ewing so the current Higginbotham dock that is there now will now become the Dunigan dock?

Tippett yes

Ewing and it all meets our specks and all that stuff, so we are good?

Tippett yes

Blankenship ok, I'll take a motion to vote on approving the dock.

Ewing will make a motion to approve Scott and Lori Higginbothams Dock application.

Trefz seconds

All in Favor: 7 Ayes; 0 nays



C. Discussion and vote Dunigan Dock

Tippett that the one that goes, that's where Higginbotham is going so it's that dock.

Ewing and you saying we are good rip rap, and we can get to it.

Tippett, they will do their own rip rap and the only thing we will give them is the underlayment.

Ewing will make a motion to approve the Dunigan dock

Trefz seconds

All in Favor: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays

Executive Session

Blankenship Jeff do you want to read what we are going into?

Wallace Yeah it has several things on here. It says C-1 AND C-3, we aren't talking about C-1 and C-3. We are only talking about opening and closing executive session minutes and then litigation so that's why I'm only going to mention C-11 and C-21 here so Commissioner Wallace moves to go into Executive session under 5ILCS120/4-2 C-11 AND C-21 which are litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before court or administrative tribunal or when a public body finds an when action is probable or imminent in which bases for the findings shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. C-21 which is a discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this act whether for purposes of the approval of the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes is mandated by section 2.06. That is my motion.

Ewing will Second

Roll call: Ewing I, Trefz I, Blankenship I, Williamson I, Sweet I, Wallace I, Richards I.

Ewing Re-enters

Commissioner Wallace makes a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Blankenship Seconds

All in favor 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Blankenship, Coming out of Executive Session. Wallace so we have a discussion and vote on Executive Session here and that is to whether or not, well do we even need to.

Tippett, you need to vote on the minutes, if nothing else to accept the minutes

Wallace motions to approve of the opening of the minutes dated September 15th, 2022. Ewing will second. Blankenship is this roll call or. Wallace, I think we need a roll call so that we can put it in there. Blankenship OK. Trefz Aye, Blankenship Aye, Williamson Aye, Sweet Aye, Wallace Aye, Richards Aye, Ewing Aye.

Commissioner Wallace moves to adjourn the meeting.



Blankenship, do we have any committee reports first?

Trefz campers did not meet.

Richards Lake Management meet we discussed everything that we have talked about here

Solar, Solar Fest, Docks, timber management, QuickBooks.

Finance Committee-No

Policy- No

Trails-No

Now Commissioner Wallace moves to adjourn. Blankenship seconds.

All in favor 7 Ayes