



1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth,
Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

Thursday, December 4, 2025

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, December 4th, 2025. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioner Lewis

PRESENT

- President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
- Commissioner Jon Gripe
- Commissioner Mo Iqbal
- Commissioner Leslie Juby
- Commissioner Anita Lewis
- Commissioner Bill Roth
- Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
- Commissioner Rick Williams

ABSENT

- Commissioner Michelle Gumz

Also Present: Commissioners: Kious (Remote), Penesis (Remote); Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dep. Dir. Monroe, Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; Dir. of Finance Petschke; Communications and Marketing Supervisor Kovach & staff Swanson; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Asst. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Price and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 6, 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Bill Roth

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, and Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, and Anita Lewis

III. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to three minutes)

None.

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from November 2025

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Mo Iqbal

SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis

V. Finance and Administration

None. (Commissioner Lewis arrived via remote at 8:36AM)

VI. Land Acquisition

FP-R-25-12-3197 Resolution Authorizing a Utility Easement with Zayo Group LLC. for the Installation and Maintenance of Fiber Optic Service at Fox River Bluff Forest Preserve

In July 2025, the District was contacted by representatives of Zayo Group LLC. to discuss their plans to install fiber service under the Red Gate Road Bridge in St. Charles. Zayo Group LLC coordinates the installation of infrastructure for high-speed data transmission, amongst other technology services. While most of the work will be within the Right of Way of Red Gate Road, there is a small area that will need to cross under the Fox River Trail on the east side of Fox River Shores Forest Preserve. The proposed easement will permit Zayo Group LLC to construct and maintain (3) 1.25” conduits for fiber optic utility service. The conduits will be installed underground by directional bore, so as not to disturb the land, trail, or public use within the easement. Zayo Group LLC. will pay the District a one-time fee of \$5,000.00 for the easement rights.

***DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Gripe asked who would be responsible for the maintenance after installation. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that Zayo Group LLC will be responsible for maintenance. President Lenert asked for an explanation of a directional bore. Dir. Rooks-Lopez provided an explanation of a directional bore construction. She noted that this type of construction is a more efficient because it eliminates the need to make an open trench and avoids surface disruption.*

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Rick Williams

SECONDER: Mo Iqbal

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

VII. Planning & Utilization

None.

VIII. Executive

FP-R-25-12-3198 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Cardinal Creek Forest Preserve

Dir. Rooks-Lopez provided information on the easements for all three forest preserves, noting the separation in resolutions pertained to each location. In March 2024, the District was contacted by representatives of ANR Pipeline Company to discuss plans to expand and upgrade their existing natural gas service lines at Big Rock, Cardinal Creek, Virgil, and Hampshire Forest Preserves. The proposed plans expanded on already existing easements, in mostly agricultural areas of the preserves. However, the expansion at Big Rock Forest Preserve would have taken an additional 100’ width of old growth oaks from the area known as Gwinn Oaks. Staff informed ANR representatives of the unique and irreplaceable habitat that would be destroyed at Big Rock and requested ANR look at another option. In early 2025, ANR Pipeline reworked their plans removing Big Rock Forest Preserve as a site and presented their first financial offer to purchase the required permanent and temporary easements for Cardinal Creek, Virgil, and Hampshire Forest Preserves for \$159,850.00. The proposed easement agreements permit ANR Pipeline Company to install and maintain a pipeline for the transportation of natural gas, hydrocarbon, petroleum products, and petroleum byproducts and includes compensations for additional impacts to future wetland mitigation banking, lost agricultural income and prairie restoration. Further discussions and calculations of projected losses between District staff and ANR Pipeline resulted in the attached final compensation and

easement agreements. The total compensation to the District for all three preserves is \$1,483,419.20 and includes 8.04 acres of permanent easement and 16.334 acres of temporary construction easement.

- Cardinal Creek Forest Preserve \$121,204.90
- Virgil Forest Preserve \$1,342,076.30
- Hampshire Forest Preserve \$20,138.00

DISCUSSION: *President Lenert thanked staff for their hard work and continued efforts to reach an agreement with ANR. Commissioner Gripe asked if the easements include a new pipeline. Dir. Rooks-Lopez responded that ANR would be installing new piping next to an existing one. Commissioner Williams stated that the negotiated price was a positive result for the District. He asked about the timeframe for closing and where the proceeds would be allocated to. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the funds would be allocated to the land acquisition fund and should be at the end of December or early January 2026.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Rick Williams
SECONDER: Jon Gripe
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

FP-R-25-12-3199 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Virgil Forest Preserve

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Mo Iqbal
SECONDER: Cheryl Strathmann
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

FP-R-25-12-3200 Resolution Authorizing Easement and Right of Way Agreements with ANR Pipeline Company at Hampshire Forest Preserve

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Mo Iqbal
AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

IX. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation and Personnel

None.

X. Communications

Communications and Marketing Supervisor Kovach provided information on upcoming events. This year's Polar Palooza will be held on Saturday January 17, 2025 at the LeRoy Oakes Creek Bend Nature center from 12PM- 3PM. A birding nook has been added to the nature center with a bird guide and binoculars for all to enjoy. Sup. Kovach reported on the upcoming arrival of the

bison at Burlington Forest Preserve. Commissioners are asked to arrive by 8:15AM and to dress for the weather as it will be very cold. The District will plan a bigger event in the Spring for all to enjoy the viewing of the bison.

XI. President's Comments

None.

XII. Financial Reports

Finance reports A-C were moved together.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through October 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through October 2025

C. Income Statement through October 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Rick Williams

SECONDER: Mo Iqbal

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis,
Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Mo Iqbal

AYE: Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis,
Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

Bill Lenert, President
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi, Recording Secretary