

V. Finance and Administration

TMP-25-1311 Resolution Approving the Restatement of the District's Cafeteria 125 Plan Document

Dir. of HR Clough, presented the Cafeteria Plan. She provided examples of the required modifications. A Cafeteria 125 Plan is a legal document maintained by an employer, for employees, which provides participants an opportunity to receive certain benefits on a pre-tax basis. Employers who adopt a Cafeteria 125 Plan must meet specific requirements within section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. Since its 2021 review and revision, regulatory and legislative changes require an update. The District engaged its corporate counsel, Ancel Glink, to review the District's Plan. The attached Plan document includes their recommended revisions.

The following modifications and updates were made to the Plan:

- Certain COVID-19 relief provisions authorized by the federal government resulted in plan modifications in 2021. These were, by their own terms, time-limited. Accordingly, these have been removed.
- Updated the Claims Administrator of record.
- Additional updates to items such as maximum election amounts were made to bring it up to date since the last restatement.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TMP-25-1245 An Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on the Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B, of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Kane County, Illinois.

Dir. of Finance Petschke presented the ordinance abating the tax levied for 2025. The District by ordinance adopted on the 10th day of November 2015, did provide for the issue of \$5,860,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016B (the "Bonds"), and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay principal and interest on the Bonds. The District has irrevocably deposited Pledged Revenues or other available funds in the Bond Fund (as each is defined in the Bond Ordinance) sufficient to pay debt service on the Bonds on June 15, 2026 and December 15, 2026. It is necessary and in the best interests of the District that the tax heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay such debt service on the Bonds be abated.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TMP-25-1283 An Ordinance Abating a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on the General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2025, of the Forest Preserve District of

Kane County, Illinois.

Dir. of Finance Petschke presented the ordinance abating a portion of the tax levied for 2025. The District by an ordinance adopted on the 8th day of July, 2025 (as supplemented by a notification of sale, the "Bond Ordinance"), did provide for the issue of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2025 (the "Bonds"), and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds (the "Taxes"). On the 31st day of July, 2025, a duly certified copy of the Bond Ordinance was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Kane County, Illinois. the Bonds were issued on August 5, 2025 (the "Closing Date"); The aggregate debt service due on the Bonds on June 15, 2026, and December 15, 2026 (the "Levy Year 2025 Debt Service"), which debt service will be paid from Taxes levied for levy year 2025, is \$3,194,527.78. On the Closing Date, sale proceeds of the Bonds in the amount of \$120,000.00 (the "Capitalized Interest Bond Proceeds") were deposited into the Bond Fund (as hereinafter defined) to pay a portion of the Levy Year 2025 Debt Service (the Levy Year 2025 Debt Service, reduced by the Capitalized Interest Bond Proceeds, being equal to \$3,074,527.78 and referred to herein as "Net Debt Service"). The District has additional funds on hand and lawfully available in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 (the "Available Funds") to pay a portion of the Net Debt Service. It is necessary and in the best interests of the District to apply the Available Funds to the payment of the Bonds and abate a portion of the Taxes levied for the year 2025. The Available Funds have been deposited to the bond and interest fund (the "Bond Fund") established pursuant to the Bond Ordinance for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Bonds.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

TMP-25-1284 Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1 A.D. 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for the General Fund

Dir. of Finance Petschke presented the levy of taxes for fiscal year 2026-2027. That there is required to be raised by taxation and that there is levied upon all taxable property within the territorial limits of said Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, the total sum of Ten Million Nine Hundred Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars ----- \$10,916,439.00.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe requested confirmation that the District was not increasing taxes for tax payers. President Lenert responded that the District was able to lower taxes for the tax payers.*

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

TMP-25-1289 Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1 A.D. 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

That there is required to be raised by taxation and that there is levied upon all taxable property within the territorial limits of said Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, the total sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ----- \$200,000.00.

TMP-25-1290 Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1 A.D. 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for the Insurance Liability Fund

That there is required to be raised by taxation and that there is levied upon all taxable property within the territorial limits of said Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, the total sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ----- \$200,000.00.

TMP-25-1294 Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners for the Forest preserve District of Kane County, Illinois for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1 A.D. 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for the Construction & Development Fund

That there is required to be raised by taxation and that there is levied upon all taxable property within the territorial limits of said Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, the total sum of Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ----- \$4,500,000.00.

TMP-25-1296 Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois for the Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1 A.D. 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for the Social Security Fund

That there is required to be raised by taxation and that there is levied upon all taxable property within the territorial limits of said Forest Preserve District of Kane County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, the total sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ----- \$200,000.00.

RESULT: TMP-25-1289 -TMP-25-1296 MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO: Forest Preserve District Commission
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann
AYE: Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

VII. Land Acquisition

TMP-25-1304 Resolution Amending and Renewing a License Agreement with T-Mobile Central LLC. at Buffalo Park Forest Preserve

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented a renewal license agreement with T-Mobile. In 2011 the District entered into a License Agreement with T-Mobile LLC to utilize the existing drive at Buffalo Forest Preserve to access to their cell tower located on

Village of Algonquin Property. The initial agreement, currently set to expire in November 2026, pays the Forest Preserve District \$3,000 annual for tower access. The amended agreement is scheduled to terminate November 30, 2041. The agreement provides for review every five years and T-Mobile is responsible for any damage and repairs to the road caused by their usage. In 2018, the District entered into a similar twenty (20) year agreement with Verizon to access the same cell tower for an annual fee of \$3,000.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Iqbal asked about the District's allowability to enter into agreements with commercial entities. Attorney Price responded that the District's agreement in specific to access and maintenance only, which does not inhibit the public from the property in anyway. Commissioner Iqbal discussed solar panel agreements with commercial entities that were denied. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District has a number of different partnerships with other entities that utilize the land for access and maintenance. He included that ownership is a different situation. Commissioner Gumz notated a section within the Downstate Forest Preserve Act that agreements with commercial entities are permissible. President Lenert responded that although it may be permissible, it may be complicated with public lands. President Lenert reiterated the agreement with T-Mobile is for maintenance with a responsibility to pay \$3,000 to cover any potential damages.*

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

VII. Planning & Utilization

TMP-25-1183 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to a Use and License Agreement with Dundee Township for the Use of the Barn at the Schweitzer Forest Preserve

Dep. Dir. Monroe presented the amendment to the use agreement with Dundee Township for the Schweitzer barn. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County Board last approved Dundee Township's request to use the barn at the Schweitzer Forest Preserve for a satellite maintenance facility on May 8, 2007. This proposed agreement renewal would continue the existing partnership between the District and Dundee Township. The renewal terms of the license agreement are as follows:

- A 15-year term, extending the license through May 31, 2040.
 - Agreement includes allowance for automatic renewal for an additional 5-year term, unless either party provides a cancellation notice by December 1st of the year immediately preceding the end of the Renewal Term. The remaining terms of the agreement are unchanged.
- Important terms of the original agreement include:
- Township shall pay District \$1.00 annually to utilize the building.
 - Township shall be responsible for all costs associated with improving, operating, and maintaining the structure.
 - Township shall hold the district harmless for any injuries or property damage that occurs from their use of the structure.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Iqbal reported an error in the way the resolution was written. The resolution was revised and the Scribner's error was resolved.*

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

ABSENT: Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann
Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

TMP-25-1299 Resolution Approving Bids for Herbicide Control of Woody Resprouts at Various Preserves

Dir. Chess presented the bid for herbicide control. In the face of modern fire suppression and landscape fragmentation, invasive species represent a massive threat to biodiversity. Invasive plant species come in many varieties, but two main distinctions land managers make to categorize management are herbaceous (herb-like, for example: garlic mustard and wild chervil) or woody (a plant that produces wood for structure; shrubs and trees, in essence: buckthorn and honeysuckle). District staff, contractors, and volunteers annually clear dozens of acres of invasive woody growth from the preserves. The removal of mid- and over-story individuals from a woodland opens the forest floor to sunlight. The sunlight equally favors both beneficial species and invasive non-natives and it is common to see seedlings of invasive species thrive in these conditions. The contracted work detailed below will target invasive woody species for chemical spot control. Through this process, we will promote desirable plants and restore both the structure and function of the woods. Successive years of effort will reduce the effort and cost needed to maintain these areas in perpetuity. The District publicly advertised a bid for control of woody re-sprouts across eight preserves split between nine projects and received seven responses. The qualified, lowest bid for each of the projects are as follows:

Project 1 – Big Rock Forest Preserve – (50.1 acres): Bid of \$32,715.30 by Davey Resource Group Inc.

Project 2 – Bliss Woods Forest Preserve – (56.4 acres): Bid of \$30,738 by Tallgrass Restoration, LLC

Project 3 – Bowes Creek Greenway Forest Preserve – (4.7 acres): Bid of \$3,070.98 by Bluestem Ecological Solutions

Project 4 – Burnidge Forest Preserve – (24 acres): Bid of \$13,394.88 by Woods to Wetlands

Project 5 – Dick Young Forest Preserve – (94.6 acres): Bid of \$24,886.11 by Pizzo and Associates, Ltd.

Project 6 – Grunwald Forest Preserve – (32.7 acres): Bid of \$17,942.49 by Woods to Wetlands

Project 7 – Hampshire Forest Preserve – (76.1 acres): Bid of \$36,375.80 by Tallgrass Restoration, LLC

Project 8 – Settler’s Hill Golf Course – (18 acres): Bid of \$8,989.20 by Woods to Wetlands

Project 9 – Big Rock Forest Preserve – (43.4 acres): Bid of \$25,041.80 by Davey Resource Group Inc.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Jon Gripe

SECONDER: Cheryl Strathmann

AYE: Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby,
Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann

ABSENT: Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

TMP-25-1314 Resolution Approving a Contract with Wight and Company for Professional Design Services for an Urban Ecology Field Station at Arlene Shoemaker Forest Preserve

Dir. Rooks-Lopez presented the contract with Wight and Company for the urban ecology field station. One of the key projects of the 2024 referendum. A project that has been in the works since 2003. The proposed urban ecology field station was included as a key project for the 2024 Land Acquisition & Preserve Improvement Referendum. It includes the construction of a

nature center in Aurora. Patron data suggests that school groups, community groups and the general public in Kane County's urban centers, especially Aurora, need a nearby nature center that has programs, educational exhibits, and outdoor infrastructure relevant to their unique urban ecology. Arlene Shoemaker Forest Preserve is situated within the heart of Aurora, with connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and walking trails to a nearby elementary school. In addition, the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Spur runs along the northern boundary of the Preserve. An urban nature center here will allow the District to better reach under-served communities, at-risk youth, and low-income families that reside and attend school in Aurora. In addition, the urban ecology focus will fully support the District's mission. The District plans to seek funding assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Park and Recreation Facility Construction Grant (PARC) which, if awarded, could reimburse 75% of the project cost up to \$2,800,000. A successful PARC grant application will require a site plan as well as preliminary facility design and costs for the Urban Ecology Field Station.

To help with the design, permitting and grant preparation for this unique project, the District utilized a request for qualifications process to select a consultant. Twelve firms responded; Wight & Company was selected. A scope of work was developed and a total fee of \$50,000 was established. Additionally, \$5,000 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs that may arise during design, for a total contract price not to exceed \$55,000.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

VIII. Executive

TMP-25-1278 Resolution Authorizing the Delegate(s) to Vote on Matters Presented During the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Annual Business Meeting Held on January 31, 2026

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the annual authorized delegates to vote on the annual business meeting. The District shall attend the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference at the Chicago Regency Hotel on January 29-31, 2026. Each member district shall be entitled to be represented at all Association meetings and conferences by a delegate or delegates. Delegates of the Association meetings or conference may include members of the governing boards of member districts, the Secretary, Attorney, Treasurer, Director, or any paid employee of the member district. Each delegate shall present proper credentials consisting of a certificate by the Secretary of the member district said delegate or delegates represent, with seal of office affixed, showing that the governing board at a special or regular meeting authorized said delegate or delegates to represent said member district. On all questions each member district represented shall have one vote which shall be the majority expression of the delegation from that member district."

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

ABSENT: Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann
Anita Lewis, Rick Williams

TMP-25-1346 Presentation and Approval of the Forest Preserve District's 2026 Committee Meeting Schedule

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the District's annual committee meeting schedule for approval. (Commissioner Williams arrived via remote at 9:04AM)

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Juby asked about the authority of moving meeting dates. Attorney Price explained that annual standing meeting dates are set for the year to meet compliance for OMA requirements. Special meetings set throughout the year would be considered for specific items for resolution.*

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

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

None.

X. Communications

Dir. Metanchuk reported on the District's current events. Prescribed burn season in underway and all postings have been sent and published. She thanked all who attended the seed harvest events. Lastly, Dir. Metanchuk reported that the Kane County Certified Naturalist (KCCN) program would host an informational session tonight, November 6th, 2025 at the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center in St. Charles.

XI. President's Comments

None.

XII. Financial Reports

Finance reports A-C were moved together.

- A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through September 2025
- B. Cash & Investment Report through September 2025
- C. Income Statement through September 2025

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER: Bill Roth
AYE: Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby,
Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Anita Lewis

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:13AM.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER: Bill Roth
SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann
AYE: Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby,
Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: Anita Lewis

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi, Recording Secretary