

Byron Park District Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:45 p.m.
Byron Park District Conference Room (420 N. Colfax)

1.1 Commissioner Oracki called the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:45 p.m.

1.2 On roll call, the following were:

PRESENT: Commissioners Griffith, Jeffrey, Oracki, and Wilmarth.

ABSENT: Boyle.

STAFF PRESENT: Director Paul Zepezauer & Elaine Carow.

GUESTS: None.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BYRON CUSD 226: Director Zepezauer opened discussion. He reported he was informed earlier in the day that the Byron Park District would no longer be on the health insurance plan with the school district. A window of February 12 – March 12 was given to make a decision on joining a Municipal Co-op presented by Gallagher that would allow us to keep the existing health plan or find an alternative health plan. Commissioner Oracki asked for clarification regarding the current agreement with the school requiring 120 days' notice. Discussion regarding health insurance for park district employees occurred. Director Zepezauer reviewed a letter from Attorney Sherry Harlan regarding the most recent version of the Intergovernmental Agreement. At this time the Board of Commissioners reviewed the document. Discussion occurred. The Board of Commissioners determined several areas of the document required additional clarification. Areas needing additional clarification included: defining comparable space in the event of relocation, clarifying permanent vs. temporary relocation, and setting of facility rental rates. Additionally, Commissioners sought additional information to clarify why the resource officer contribution was removed from the document. Commissioners expressed concerns regarding membership rates for school employees having a family cap, noting they would like an option to adjust rates and revisit annually as you would for the general public. Director Zepezauer stated he would like clarification regarding the school having final approval on the building plans, noting it would be helpful to have 1-2 school staff appointed as a direct contact for approval and change orders.

4.0 FACILITY TOUR (with Byron CUSD Board): Commissioners joined the Byron CUSD School Board at 6:37 p.m. Director Zepezauer conducted a walking tour of the facility. He highlighted the pros and cons of the two different design plans presented, discussed challenges based on the current design and the many benefits of the expansion. Upon conclusion of the tour those in attendance returned to the School District Board Meeting Room to continue discussion.

5.0 JOINT DISCUSSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BYRON CUSD 226 (School District Board Meeting Room): Mr. Kesler opened discussion seeking clarification on the exterior design. Director Zepezauer advised the exterior is designed to match and compliment the existing design. Mrs. Gehrke asked if the juice bar is in both designs. Director Zepezauer advised it is. Discussion regarding students purchasing beverages occurred. Superintendent Barton advised students must wait a minimum of a half hour following school dismissal. Mr. Kesler suggests limiting access until after sports practices conclude. Mr. Barton asks if everyone would like to review the document item by item. Mr. Kesler stated the agreement has worked for 30 years, noting philosophical differences and concerns regarding back and forth negotiating. Commissioner Jeffrey

provided a past history. Mrs. Gehrke expressed concern the expansion was not a referendum. Commissioner Oracki advised the park district held public meetings and members of the board have not been contacted by the public with opposition. Park District Commissioners expressed the want to contribute to the community, offer more to the school/park district relationship, secure the facility and have the ability to oversee their own operations. Members of the school board expressed concerns regarding the length of the commitment as it relates to the Park District pursuing the PARC grant and the potential for a covenant to be placed on the title indicating the expansion space would be used for public recreation space. Discussion occurred. Consensus was for the Park District to withdraw the application for grant funds. Mrs. Gehrke noted she appreciates the park districts willingness to secure the facility but feels if someone is going to come in they will find a way. She further indicated the facility expansion does not fit with the schools mission to educate youth and the park district should consider looking elsewhere for space such as the red barn at the forest preserve. Commissioner Wilmarth noted constructing a new building would cost tax payers approximately 10 million vs. 4 million to expand and renovate current space. Commissioner Jeffrey noted the park district has never impeded on education and questioned the idea of sending children to a place like the red barn for before and after school child care. Discussion continued. A review of the document was conducted. Consensus was to revisit facility fees and family caps annually, designate a representative from the school district to approve design/change orders, and update the Indemnification Clause to protect both parties. Discussion regarding the two facility designs occurred. Superintendent Barton will follow up with coaches for feedback. Attorney Metz advised he will edit the document as discussed and circulate a revision by February 14 for review and approval the following week.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT: The Byron Park District Board of Commissioners returned to the Park District Conference Room at 8:22 p.m. Commissioner Wilmarth made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Commissioner Jeffrey seconded the motion which passed unanimously on voice vote 4-0.

 3-17-2020

Signature

Date

 3-17-20

Signature

Date