

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2023**

The Forest Preserve Operations Committee of the DeKalb County Board met in Sycamore, Illinois on Thursday, August 24, 2023. Vice-Chair Mary Cozad called the meeting to order at 6:27pm. Those Members present were Meryl Domina, Benjamin Haier, Terri Mann-Lamb, and Stewart Ogilvie. Chair Roy Plote was present via phone. A quorum was established with five Members present, two absent.

Others present included Recording Secretary Lisa Reser. Forest Preserve Superintendent Terry Hannan was also present via phone.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mann-Lamb moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ogilvie seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Haier, seconded by Ogilvie and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2023 Forest Preserve Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution FP-R2023-011—A Resolution Placing the FY2024 Budget on File for Public Inspection.

The Forest Preserve Superintendent, County Comptroller and County Administrator have assembled the FY2024 budget and levy information which the Forest Preserve Committee will be using to review budget requests of the Forest Preserve District. As part of the budget process, the Forest Preserve Budget must be on file for public inspection before it may be adopted by the Forest Preserve Commissioners on November 15, 2023. Resolution FP-R2023-011 places the FY2024 Budget, as well as information utilized by the Committees in preparation of the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget, on file in the DeKalb County Clerk's Office, on the County's Internet site, and at two other geographically diverse public offices (the Sandwich City Hall and the office of the Genoa City Clerk), for public inspection.

Mr. Hannan provided the Committee with detailed FY2024 budget and levy information for their review. Additional funds will be based on new construction in DeKalb County. The tax rates show a decrease in the total tax rate from 2023. Also included were the Forest Preserve District's short-term plans for land improvements and long-term plans for land acquisition, maintenance, and natural resource management.

It was moved by Mann-Lamb, seconded by Domina and approved unanimously to forward the Resolution placing the FY2024 Budget on File for Public Inspection. Those voting yea in a roll call vote were Cozad, Domina, Haier, Mann-Lamb, Ogilvie, and Chair Plote. None were Opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF FOREST PRESERVE OFFICIALS

Mr. Hannan provided his monthly reports for July and August 2023 illustrating various projects, maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, environmental education programs, and summer camps. In addition, reports were provided from DeKalb County Forest Preserve staff members Patrick McCrea and Damon Lubkeman highlighting restoration and wildlife. Many DeKalb County citizens have come to see what is happening and connect with nature in our area's beautiful forest preserves.

Mr. Hannan also reported he is waiting on the sale contract with Michael Schelkopf for the acquisition of property in Kingston Township for the Genoa to Kingston Trail (G2K Trail) before moving forward to the Forest Preserve District Commissioners. Mr. Hannan mentioned the contract will include the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District will maintain field tiles on Forest Preserve District property connecting Mr. Schelkopf's Hunter Road farmland property and the Forest Preserve District's G2K Trail property. Field tiles will remain flowing as they are now and there would be no obstruction of current or future tile flow.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mann-Lamb moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Haier seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Reser.