



FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

April 13, 2026

6:30 p.m. – Village Hall

Present

Commissioners: President Patrick Lahey, Vice President Allison Frazier, Patrick Duffy, Julia Goebel, Julie Adrianopoli, Mike Murdock

Absent: Commissioner Cecilia Clarke

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Staff: Superintendent Lindsay Thomas, Superintendent Josh Wallace, Superintendent Dave Merrill, Superintendent Sheila Foy

Visitors: Mark Weyermuller

1.0 Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 Communications and Correspondence

There was no communication for this meeting.

3.0 Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Mark Weyermuller – Mr. Weyermuller comments about the times of meetings.

4.0 2025 Budget Variance Analysis

Superintendent Foy explains the variances between the 2025 projections that were completed September 15, 2025 and the actuals posted for the calendar year ending December 31, 2025. A template was made available to all managers and supervisors involved in the budgeting process and were required to provide an explanation at the account level if the variance was both larger than \$7,500 and 10%. The fund balance that we had budgeted for 2025 at \$3.191M negative, we had projected a deficit of \$3.9M, and we finished at \$1.79M, which is about \$2.5M better than projection. Most of that is related to capital.

Revenue

Overall, the total 2025 revenue for the District was within 1.6% of our projected revenue for the year. The only category of revenue that was materially different from the projection was Miscellaneous Revenue and that was mainly attributable to the second part of the OSLAD grant. We had projected that the grant would be received in 2026 and due to the accounting recognition rules, the grant was recognized as revenue in 2025. Due to this change, the 2026 financials will



be under budget in grant revenue by the same amount. Also, the District budgets property taxes at 100% of the levy and projects that we receive that amount during the year. 2025 property and replacement tax collections totaled 98.6% of the projected amount, which is within our tolerance. We may still receive 2025 fundings as people continue to pay their property taxes.

The miscellaneous revenue projections were way ahead of budget because of interest income. Also, when we put together the budget last year, the revenue of the OSLAD grant was offset against the expense in capital. Instead of showing a \$1.5M expenditure for Hibbard and \$600,000 worth of revenue, we showed a \$900,000 expense. There is no difference to the bottom line. The OSLAD Grant has come in two parts; we received \$200,000 in 2025 and we believed we would receive \$300,000 in 2026. We are going to get the \$300,000 in 2026, but because of the amount of the expense we incurred to finish the Hibbard project, the auditors wanted to accelerate all of that income. That's why part of the variance from the projection to the actuals is off by about \$300,000.

There was a big uptick in people buying memorial benches and trees. We got a \$10,000 donation from the Wilmette Baseball Association. The Block Party had more sponsorships than originally anticipated. These bigger items all happened in Q4.

Expenses were all under projections through the end of the year. We were under by \$120,000 for employee benefits.

We are having an issue with Comed in that they have not billed the CRC for electricity since January, so there will be a delay on that. We have, however, three bills from the solar company. We are working with Comed to find out when the billing will be available. Last year, we knew the budget was created on what we thought we would be paying when we negotiated the new contract. However, we got a much better price than what we budgeted, and that new price began in May 2025. We also learned that Comed would be increasing their delivery costs by 20%, but the increase did not come through until November billing.

Repairs are generally very difficult to predict.

Superintendent Foy gives an updated Capital Project listing in March. There is some carryover spend from last year. We had a budget of \$8.5M. The budget that was approved was \$7.5M and we had carryover spending of \$999,000. We only wound up spending \$6.8, and a part of that has to do with the good pricing we got on our projects. We were also able to buy some big ticket items that we did not budget for.



Commissioner Goebel asks if Director Lindgren has anything to add. Director Lindgren says he welcomes any feedback from the board, as this is the first time we are providing a report like this. Commissioner Duffy reiterates that the operating surplus is \$7.45M and we budgeted for \$6.032M, so we were over by 23%. We go through capital planning and base everything off the budget, but to be off by 23% impacts decision making for the following year. He asks if we could be more accurate with the budget actuals. He then asks what the cash on hand is; Superintendent Foy answers it is a little over \$14M. Commissioner Duffy then asks about an account where the district could start putting savings, in this case around \$1.04M, for future capital projects. Director Lindgren and Superintendent Foy both agree that is a good idea. Director Lindgren says that the money is just added to the fund balance. Commissioner Duffy asks if they prioritize finding somewhere to place any overage so it does not get spent on other projects. The board agrees. Superintendent Foy says she will open a new GL code for any overages.

For rental revenues and miscellaneous income, Commissioner Duffy asks why the rental revenues are down at the ice arena from three and four years ago. Four years ago we were making around \$500,000 a year on rental revenue at Centennial and now we are down below \$200,000 per year. He goes on to ask what the difference is between charging for classes versus hockey use of the ice. Superintendent Merrill answers that the biggest value for the district is us programming our own ice. Over the last several years, this has been one of the areas affected by deferred revenue. With our new General Manager of Ice and Aquatics, we are looking at the value of our ice, timing of programming, etc., in order to maximize the value of the ice time. Commissioner Duffy asks staff to see how we can maximize ice time and value. Commissioner Adrianopoli adds that the feasibility study will also give us data on what we need more of, whether it be pool, ice or court time, etc. Commissioner Murdock asks staff to understand what we were doing in the past and try to get back to that, and if we can't, answer the question of why not. Commissioner Goebel points out that ice overage and fees cancel out, but it is a \$5,000 difference worth understanding. Staff will look into the difference and come back to the board.

He also asks about the updated policy for memorials and where the conversation ended up for timeframe. Superintendent Wallace explains that it is a specified timeframe now of 20 years. Once it is beyond that timeframe, we go back to the family and they can choose to renew the memorial or we give them their plaque. If there is storm damage we contact the family and find them a new tree.

Commissioner Murdock says that a \$7.45M surplus is a good problem to have, but it's a problem. From 2023 to 2024 there was a \$600,000 difference between projection and actual, so the board went through the budget season trying to solve the deficit. Then, from 2024 to 2025 it was the same problem in reverse because we were around \$500,000 ahead of budget instead of behind. This year we are ahead by 23%. The board has been making decisions based on projections that



are not correct. He appreciates the work staff is doing to look at the variances, which essentially is looking backwards. However, he would like to know how we can do a better job with projections. Superintendent Foy says that revenues have been projected with less than 2% variance on \$32M. We are off 1.5% in expenses on \$25M. President Lahey says that there are some explanations like the OSLAD grant and the revamping of the way the recreation department does their budgets (for the better). He agrees and understands Commissioner Murdock's point of how we plan for the future if we don't have our projection numbers in mind. This is an improvement from the past and the board will look for future improvements. Vice President Frazier commends staff for getting the expenses so tight and says the board appreciates what staff has done.

Director Lindgren explains that the process is being improved as time goes on. Staff is looking at monthly variance reports, which has not been done before. He stresses the importance of budgeting for repairs. There are 2,200 line items in our budgets and we will continue to meet with staff and ask questions.

Commissioner Murdock asks when the closeouts will be done on the capital projects to see where the final costs end up. Director Lindgren says there is work at Gillson that is weather-dependent and still needs to get done. He expects either next month or the month after we will be able to close out.

7.0 **Adjournment**

Commissioner Murdock moves and Vice President Frazier seconds a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee of the Whole.

By a voice vote; **motion carried.**

Minutes Approved on: **May 11, 2026.**