

**WOOD COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 17, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order by Chairman Sandy Wiechman at 4:00 p.m. at the W.W. Knight Nature Preserve, 29530 White Road, Perrysburg, Ohio.

2. ROLL CALL

Tom Myers, present
Dennis Parish, present
Bill Cameron, present
Sandy Wiechman, present
Kim Rose, present

Other staff present: Neil Munger, Jeff Baney, Jim Witter

3. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Munger stated that he had a recent email exchange with a representative of the Ohio Department of Transportation representative Dan Murphy and Ohio Parks and Recreation Association representative Gary Cooper in regards to the Park District Roadway Improvement Program. Mr. Munger stated that the intent was to utilize the funding available to the Park District through the program for the construction of the new entry drive at the Reuthinger Preserve. Mr. Munger noted that as discussed previously, the new drive is being constructed at the present intersection of Caple Boulevard and Oregon Road so the park entrance drive can utilize the signalized intersection and avoid the traffic issues presently encountered due to the close proximity of the drive to the intersection. Mr. Munger stated that he was informed by Mr. Murphy that the traffic signal portion of the project, estimated at \$16,463.70 was not an allowable expense in regards to the project and the funding for this portion of the project would have to come from another source. Mr. Munger stated that he responded to Mr. Murphy and requested additional information regarding why the signal was not included. Mr. Murphy responded with additional information regarding the roadway funds reading that Section 5511.06 of the Ohio Revised Code “allows the director of transportation to cooperate in the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, and maintenance of park drives or park roads within the boundaries of parks created under sections 511.18 to 511.34 and 1545.01 to 1545.22 of the Revised Code, together with roads leading from state highways to and into any such park.” Mr. Munger stated that the email went on further to include that “Funds can be used for materials and labor necessary for construction or reconstruction of park drives, park roads, new or replacement bridges, park access roads and parking lots. The funds also may be used for the purchase and hauling of materials for the improvement, repair, and maintenance of park drives, park roads, park access roads, parking lots, and rental of labor and equipment. Force account labor costs are ineligible. Ineligible projects include bikeways and items such as shelter houses, wells, pumps, restroom facilities, park buildings, etc.” Mr. Munger stated that Mr. Murphy further explained that in the experience of himself and Mr.

Cooper they interpret the guidelines to preclude the funds from being used for the following reasons:

- 1) The signal work on Oregon Road does not meet the definition of a park owned drive, park road, park bridge, park access road, or parking lot.
- 2) Oregon Road is not within the confines of Park owned boundaries.
- 3) Oregon Road is not a State highway.
- 4) Maintenance and repair of such facilities could also fall into question regarding ownership, emergency response, and servicing responsibility.

Mr. Munger stated that he has since responded to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cooper stating that while the full signalized intersection is not related to the park drive project, the signal that controls the access and egress of the park drive does and should be considered a portion of the park drive project. Mr. Munger explained that the \$16,463.70 estimated cost is only for equipment for and labor related to the park drive signal and as such it is a part of the drive cost since the drive cannot be constructed without the signal. Mr. Munger further stated that Mr. Murphy simply reaffirmed that the signal is not an allowable expense. Mr. Munger stated that at this point the Wood County Engineer's Office is ready to order the equipment for the signal and needs to know if the Park District is willing to cover the costs of the signal or if they should remove the equipment for the park drive signal from their equipment order. Mr. Munger noted that although the funds for this would now come out of the Park District levy funding rather than their roadway funds, completing the signal portion of the project would be less expensive to be done as a portion of the larger project that doing the work as a stand alone project. Mr. Munger stated that for that reason he is requesting the Board authorize the funding for the project at this time is so the equipment may be purchased. Mr. Parish stated that he supports the authorization to continue work provided Mr. Munger exhausts all avenues in a continued effort to get the authorization to utilize roadway funding rather than park levy funds. Mr. Parish moved to permit the expenditure of \$16,463.70 if necessary to cover the signal portion of the park drive project at the Reuthinger Preserve. Mr. Cameron seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Munger reported that as everyone is aware, the Governor has announced that the current COVID guidelines in place in the State of Ohio will expire on June 2, 2021. Mr. Munger noted that all along the board has indicated that the Park District will continue to follow and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the State. Mr. Munger noted that at the time the Park District COVID Guidelines were put in place, the board indicated that the guidelines would remain in effect until such time that the board acts to rescind them. Mr. Munger noted that as the next regular meeting of the board is not until June 8, one week after the state guidelines expire, he is looking for the guidance of the board as to if the board desires for the Park District guidelines to remain in place or be removed by action of the board. Mr. Munger noted that there have already been a number of calls inquiring as to the status of the guidelines and if they will be rescinded with the state guidelines. Mr. Parish moved to cancel all COVID related guidelines, effective June 1, 2021 and return to normal operations. Mr. Myers seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Parish moved adjournment. Mr. Cameron seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.



Sandra Wiechman, Vice Chair



Neil A. Munger, Director

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