

**Lake County Forest Preserves  
Finance Committee Minutes – March 7, 2024**

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s Finance Committee met at the District’s General Offices in Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to Order** – With a physical quorum present, Chair Gina Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** –Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and four committee members responded: Chair Gina Roberts, Vice Chair Paul Frank, Sara Knizhnik and Ann Maine. Member Diane Hewitt arrived at 1:05 p.m. Member Sandy Hart joined via Zoom at 1:15 p.m.. Member Michael Danforth was absent.

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President	Alex Eichman	Pati Vitt
Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director	Alyssa Firkus	Julie Gragnani
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Sandy Meyers
Steve Neaman	John Nelson	Laurel Diver
Mary Kann	Kevin Kleinjan	Rebekah Snyder
		David Moore, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Paul Frank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Maine, second by member Knizhnik to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024 open and closed sessions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment for items not on agenda** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Pilot program using wind turbines to charge self-heating batteries to operate preserve gates;
- \$1 million anonymous donation to the Foundation establishing an endowment for Greenbelt Forest Preserve;
- The Endowment Campaign is at 41% of its goal as of March 1, 2024;
- Education Programs: Extension Master Gardener Seed Expo at Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center; 60 Cicada programs are booked so far; Half Day School students participated in Healthy Hedges program at Ryerson;
- The first school program in the new Education Center at Ryerson was held on March 1;
- Dunn Museum is working on Cicadas exhibition with Field Museum and cicada expert Gene Kritsky;
- The Foundation hosted event celebrating the opening of the Managing Healthy Landscapes Museum exhibit on Feb. 22.
- Joel Sartore video highlighting his Photo Ark program and his upcoming appearances in May at all-staff meeting and Foundation Gala.
- Videographer will be at the March Board meeting to obtain clips for use in a Foundation project.

**8.0 Unfinished Business** - None

## 9.0 Correspondence - None

### 10.0 New Business

10.1 Invoices and Requisitions – Motion by member Frank, second by member Knizhnik to approve the legal billing for the month of December 2023. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the billing was passed for signatures.

Committee member Sandy Hart joined the meeting via Zoom and her attendance was confirmed with no objections.

10.2 Recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to increase expenses by \$28,800.00 for the purchase of a replacement tractor at Countryside Golf Club - Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Maine to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach summarized the budget amendment necessary due to the replacement of a tractor in need of major repairs and staff recommends replacing the tractor rather than repairing it. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Approve the addition of two temporary grant-funded Ecological Technician positions - Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Frank to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach noted that grant funding for two positions is available through the Foundation for three years. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Golf Course Plant Protectant Products to Advanced Turf Solutions, BTSI, Clesens Inc., Heritage Landscape Supply Group, Inc., Pendelton Turf Supply, Inc., Simplot AB Retail, Inc., SiteOne Landscape Supply, Masterblend International LLC, and Van Diest Supply, in a total amount not to exceed \$379,400.00 - Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach noted that this item was amended from what the Operations Committee approved earlier in the week. Golf Operations Director Alex Eichman explained that one of the bidders bid on a product that was not available for the price given. Staff has to exclude them as a responsible bidder for that product. Member Frank commented regarding golf course operations in general as it relates to the District's mission. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of a John Deere Compact Track Loader and attachments to West Side Tractor Sales Co., in the Contract Price of \$157,761.58 – Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation. Chief Operations Officer John Nelson summarized the loader and equipment and responded to questions. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Change Order to the Contract with Thelen Materials, LLC for the purchase of Grounds Materials - Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Officer John Nelson noted that the original resolution that the Board approved had bids from Thelen for two materials that were inadvertently omitted from their bid tabulation. Thelen's bids for those materials were in fact the low bids and staff recommended adding them into their awarded contract through a change order. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.



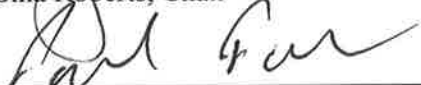

### 11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Frank to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. Member Hart disconnected from Zoom. The committee went into closed session at 1:27 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:39 p.m.

**13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session** – None

**14.0 Adjournment** - With no further business, Chair Roberts noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2024 and adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 Gina Roberts, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Diane Hewity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Paul Frank, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sara Knizhnik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Michael Danforth			Ann B. Maine		
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Sandy Hart					