



DATE: March 5, 2020

MEMO TO: Terry Wilke, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Stephen Neaman
Director of Finance

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding preparation of a resolution designating the use and transfer of surplus debt service funds from retired General Obligation Bonds.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability.

FINANCIAL DATA: There is a balance of \$1,324,166 in surplus debt service funds from retired General Obligation Bonds. By law, the District's Board of Commissioners can use (i) surplus interest funds for any Forest Preserve District purpose, (ii) surplus tax revenue for land acquisition and capital projects, and (iii) any surplus funds to reduce future tax levies.

BACKGROUND: At the previous Finance Committee meeting on February 6, 2020, policy direction was requested on designating the use of these funds. After Committee discussion staff was directed to take a look at the capital needs of the District and bring back a recommendation on how to use the funds. After reviewing the various needs staff is recommending the following uses:

- \$250,000 – National Fish and Wildlife Chicago Calumet Grant Match – The District has been notified that it will be awarded this grant for buckthorn removal on private lands and needs matching dollars in order to accept the grant.
- \$250,000 – To be set aside as matching funds for future grants for land acquisition and capital improvement projects.
- \$120,000 – To be used for a possible land acquisition.
- \$704,166 – To be used for required ADA modifications.

If the Committee gives positive direction on the above uses, staff will bring forward a resolution formalizing such direction and a budget amendment ordinance to transfer the funds to the appropriate accounts and to modify the FY2020 budget accordingly. This would be done during the April Committee and Board cycle.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Manager of Human Resources & Risk, Corporate Counsel.