

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Sycamore Park District  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Sycamore Park District Board of Commissioners, DeKalb County, Illinois, being held at the Sycamore Golf Club, A Facility of the Sycamore Park District in the Riverview Room located at 940 E. State St, Sycamore, Illinois is called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Will the recording secretary please call the roll.

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are physically present and will be participating in the meeting in person: **Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Strack, and Kroeger.**  
**Commissioner Graves was absent.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present but will be participating in the meeting via video and/or audio conferencing: **None.**

The following Sycamore Park District Commissioners are not physically present and will not be participating in the meeting: **Commissioner Graves.**

Staff members present were Director Bailey, Jeff Donahoe, Jeanette Freeman, Jackie Hienbuecher, Lisa Metcalf, and Paul Price.

**Guests at the Board meeting were:**

- None

**Regular and Consent Agenda Approval –  
Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Voice Vote**

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Approval of Minutes –  
Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the December 17, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.  
Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

**Voice Vote**

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve the December 17, 2024, Executive Session Meeting Minutes to remain confidential. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

**Voice Vote**

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Claims and Accounts Approval**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve and pay the bills in the amount of \$252,428.35.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Public Input – None**

**Positive Feedback:**

- President Kroeger noted the community center daily user for last year is the most we have had.
- Commissioner Strack noted he really liked the graph for December usage.

**Correspondence – None**

**Plan Commission:** Director Bailey noted the meeting was cancelled.

**Old Business:**

**Construction Updates:**

- **GWT:** Director Bailey noted we are waiting for the assessments.
- **Reston Ponds:** All planting is done.
- **Solar Panels:** Director Bailey noted all the panels are up and running. Supt. Donahoe noted they received a link to see what it is producing. After this year, in 2026 is when we will really see the savings.
- **Pool Building:** Nothing for this.
- **North Grove:** Director Bailey noted this will be discussed later.
- **Riverside Soccer Complex:** Director Bailey noted they are waiting for the construction meeting on this.
- **Community Gardens:** Commissioner Strack noted he has moved forward on this and he is getting dates to meet with the people.

**Open Positions:** This will be discussed in Executive Session.

**New Business:**

**North Grove Bid Approval:** Director Bailey noted we had 10 bids. We had Upland evaluate all the bids and did reference checks. The challenge with Midwest Excavators is technically they have only been in business for 2 years. The agreement that everyone signed is a minimum of 5 years. The board can waive the 5 year requirement. This has to be agreed to before we can accept the bid. Supt. Donahoe noted they have talked to them and their staff has worked for Copenhaver and worked in the industry for a long time. Director Bailey noted that all of their subs are ones we work with and have done work for us already before.

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to waive the requirement of being in business for 5 years.  
Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Motion**

Commissioner Doty moved to approve Midwest Excavators in the amount of \$394,956.90 which includes the alternate. Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Approve FY2025 Operating Budget:**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve the FY2025 Operating budget as presented.  
Commissioner Ackmann seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Kroeger called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Ordinance 01-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (alternate revenue source), Series 2017A, of the Sycamore Park District, Dekalb County, Illinois:**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Ordinance 01-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Doty called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Ordinance 02-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (alternate revenue source), Series 2015A, of the Sycamore Park District, Dekalb County, Illinois:**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Ordinance 02-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Doty called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Ordinance 03-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance: Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2024 to pay debt service on General Obligation Park Bonds (alternate revenue source), Series 2019A, of the Sycamore Park District, Dekalb County, Illinois:**

**Motion**

Commissioner Strack moved to approve Ordinance 03-2025 – Annual Abatement Ordinance. Commissioner Doty seconded the Motion.

**Roll Call**

President Doty called for a roll call to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Annual Report Draft:** Director Bailey noted this is just a draft and went over a few changes.

**Public Input –** None

**Special Announcements –** None

**February Study Session:** None was scheduled.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session to go into Executive Session at 6:36 pm on a motion made by Commissioner Strack for the reasons listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ackmann.

**Roll Call**

President Kroeger called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

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The Board convened to Executive Session at 6:38 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackman, Doty, Strack, and Kroeger present along with Director Jonelle Bailey, Recording Secretary Freeman, Supt. Hienbuecher, Supt. Donahoe, Supt. Metcalf and Supt. Price.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Doty. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strack.

**Voice Vote**

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

The Board reconvened to Regular Session at 6:55 pm. The roll was called with Commissioners Ackmann, Doty, Strack and Kroeger present. Commissioner Graves was absent.

**Motion**

The Board adjourned the Regular Session at 6:55 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Strack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doty.

**Voice Vote**

President Kroeger called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All commissioners present voted Aye. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Graves was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Freeman  
Recording Secretary  
Sycamore Park District