

Effingham Park Board Meeting

January 5, 2026

5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Russ Sehy; President

Jeff Althoff, Director

Kevin Palmer, Vice-President

Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary

Matt Dasenbrock, Commissioner

Manny Wei, Commissioner

Jeff Ungrund, Commissioner

Absent: Anita Broom, Treasurer

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the secretary's report was made by Ungrund; second Wei; All Ayes.

Treasurer's Report

Althoff reviewed fund balances as of October 31, 2025. He noted that at this time last year expenses related to the Workman Sports Complex were \$297,974.00. This year with operation by Trophy Fitness they were \$104,296.72.

Corporate fund revenue for October was \$377,250.00 of which \$377,150.11 was from property taxes. Expenses were \$92,890.46 of which \$48,820.00 was for repairs at Workman Sports Complex. Net income for October was \$284,359.63.

Recreation fund revenue for October was \$307,486.83 of which \$301,720.09 was from property taxes. Revenue from program fees was \$4,330.00 compared with \$1,669.00 received in October last year. Expenses were \$37,175.72. Net income was \$270,311.11.

Pool revenue to date is a negative \$53,807.24 compared with a negative \$43,300.72 at this time last year.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Palmer; second Sehy; Five Ayes/No Nays.

Adoption of Bond Ordinance #324

an ordinance authorizing and directing the issuance, sale, and delivery of general obligation park bonds for a total of \$750,000.00 series 2026, of the Effingham Park District, Effingham County, Illinois; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying

the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; and authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith.

The \$750,000.00 plus interest will be paid back by December 1, 2026. About \$440,000.00 of the money will be used to cover debt certificate fees related to the Workman Sports Complex. This will be year 11 of a 15 year pay off schedule for the Complex. The original loan was \$6million. The remainder will be used for capital improvement projects.

A motion to adopt Bond Ordinance #324 was made by Dasenbrock; second Wei; Five Ayes/No Nays. Closing will be January 15 at Midland States Bank

Althoff noted that the \$374,376.43 balance in the Bond Proceeds Account at the end of October was to be used to pay \$153,338.00 for Phase 2 of the skate park renovation and for resurfacing the Community Park tennis courts.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Director's Report

Skate Park Update

Althoff said work on installing the concrete ramps is scheduled to begin next week.

Treasurer

Althoff announced that Anita Broom is stepping down as treasurer of the Effingham Park District. Attorney, Phil Lading, is preparing a letter of resignation. Althoff will be listed in the interim as treasurer until Serena Buzzard can be appointed Effingham Park District Treasurer.

Intergovernmental Agreement Between Effingham Park District and City of Effingham

Board members were in agreement with the City's planned construction and placement at Community Park of the 60' x 120' City Maintenance Building for storage of the Wonderland in Lights Christmas decorations. In regard to the proposed placement of the 20' x 20' 2-stall prefab bathroom near Rotary Pavilion, Ungrund suggested that a better location would be at Hendelmeyer Park if the City will only construct one restroom facility. He thinks it would be used a lot more at that location since more renovations are being planned at Hendelmeyer Park this year. A new restroom could then be constructed at Community Park using next year's bond money. It was also suggested that if the City constructs a new restroom at Community Park, bond money could be used to construct new restrooms at Hendelmeyer Park.

Palmer noted that people have expressed how happy they are with the projects being developed in the parks.

After more discussion board members agreed that the next big projects to undertake with bond money will be at Hendelmeyer Park.

They include: 1. asphalt the parking lot
2. construct a pavilion between the pickleball courts and ball diamond
3. remove old bathroom and construct one more serviceable and convenient

Althoff noted that there will be approximately \$300,000.00 available in bond money for projects this year. He said there is also \$137,000.00 in the Paving and Lighting Fund that could be used to help pay for asphaltting the parking lot at an estimated cost of \$180,000.00-\$190,000.00.

He suggested putting a new 3 unisex restroom at the current location of the small shed.

He said an architectural design will be needed for the pavilion. He noted that park district maintenance staff could construct a basic pavilion. Jim Raddatz and staff built the Harmony Playground. Prevailing wages would not have to be paid. The current round pavilion could be moved or torn down. Althoff will work on plans for these projects. Cost to asphalt the parking lot could be put out for bid. Palmer said that if one of these projects cannot be completed with this year's bond money it can be scheduled for next year as part of a five year plan.

Althoff said an agreement could be reached with the City to help with another project. The City does projects on a yearly basis.

He noted that next future projects will be at Evergreen Hollow Park beginning with a decision regarding the Kluthe Pool.

Althoff said the City Council has a meeting January 20 at which they want to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Effingham Park District and City of Effingham.

Personnel – Employee Wages

Althoff presented a list of ten non-seasonal and part time employees, their employment history, current salaries, and his recommendations for salary increases. He noted that maintenance staff, Raddatz, Jones, Wendt, receive comp time - like time and a half. The recommended increases of \$1.00/hour for almost all employees listed is higher than 3%.

Althoff said he is very happy with all of these employees. "We have a good team".

He said that since the minimum wage rate for summer staff was raised to \$15.00/hour in 2025, he is recommending no raise in 2026.

He recommended increasing the salary of recording secretary Carole McDevitt to \$150.00 per regular meeting.

After discussion a motion to approve Althoff's recommendations for salary increases of \$1.00/hour for the nine employees, \$.84/hour for Director Althoff, and \$150.00/regular meeting for recording secretary Carole McDevitt, was made by Wei; second Sehy; Five Ayes/No Nays.

Commissioners' Comments

Wei said he is working to schedule a pickleball tournament using the six courts at the Workman Sports Complex and the three indoor courts at Hendelmeyer Park. Work is ongoing to raise money to permanently line all of these courts and purchase some new nets.

Althoff noted that an entrance to the outdoor pickleball courts at Hendelmeyer Park will be added in the middle of the fence.

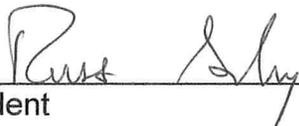
Ungrund asked about plans for the Kluthe Pool next yer. Althoff said the pool will open next year. Plans are being worked on for a splash pad.

Palmer asked about updating the Board's policy to grant memberships to the Workman Sports Complex to Effingham Park Board commissioners. Althoff said it has to be approved by Trophy Fitness.

A motion for adjournment at 7:20 pm was made by Dasenbrock; second Ungrund: All Ayes.


Director's

Date 2-2-26


President

Date 2/2/26