

**Vermilion County Conservation District
Headquarters: Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016
4:30 p.m.
Cellular One Classroom, Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

A public hearing was conducted regarding a proposed property tax increase stated in Vermilion County Conservation District Ordinance No. 139.

President Myers gave an introduction of justification for the tax increase.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2016 payable in 2017 are \$1,150,000. This represents a 10% increase over the previous year. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2016 payable in 2017 are zero. This represents no change from the previous year. This hearing and information was publicly advertised in the Danville Commercial News on Saturday, October 8, 2016 per legal guidelines. See *attached*.

The 2015 rate was .0012344 of one-third the equalized assessed value; the new rate would be .0013578.

Executive Director Konsis reported items on the V.C.C.D. Project List for which the tax funds collected are to be utilized. See *attached*.

President Myers asked for audience comments. There were none.

With no questions or comments, President Myers asked for adoption of the annual tax levy ordinance as presented.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Vermilion County Conservation District Annual Tax Levy Ordinance for the 2016 Taxes due in 2017 - Ordinance No. 139 as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke.

There was no discussion or questions.

President Myers asked for a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

Ordinance No. 139 passed by a 4– 0 vote.

President Myers called the October Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order at 4:40 p.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following.

Trustees Present: Allen E. Cooke
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers
Charles B. Schroeder

Trustee(s) Absent: B. Dirk Porter

In attendance were Ken Konsis, Executive Director; Jamie Pasquale, Associate Director; and Amy Steeples, Recording Secretary.

Staff members present included Lorna Konsis, Mike Kotcher, Charlie Rhoden, and Gary Tyrl.

First order of business, agenda item number four, was the Adoption of, or Amendments to the Agenda.

President Myers asked for amendments to the agenda.

With no corrections, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the September 21, 2016, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Cooke moved to approve the September 21, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number five a. was Discuss the Hold/Release of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2016. By law, executive session minutes must be reviewed every six months to release or to continue to hold. The Trustees had a copy in their notebooks for review. It is Executive Director Konsis' recommendation to release the minutes.

Trustee Jaynes moved to release the January 20, 2016, Executive Session Meeting Minutes. This was followed by a second from Trustee Cooke. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were none.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Myers asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d.

With no questions or comments, *Trustee Cooke moved to approve the Current List of Bills from September 2016 in the amount of \$14,293.58, which included check #'s 36073 - 36099; the Manual Checks for September 2016 in the amount of \$55,343.85 which included check #'s 35881 – 35884, 35914 – 35934, and 36010 – 36026; the General Journal Entries for September 30, 2016; and the September 2016 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Cooke	-	yes
Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Schroeder	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 4 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported the grand total of cash and investments as of October 19, 2016, was \$896,705.00. This compares to \$664,560.00 from the previous year at this point. He asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda item number eight, Specific Items of Business to be Transacted.

Item eight a. Report on Bond Issue Discussion. President Myers reported that he had spoken with Kevin Wills, First Midstate Bank regarding current bonding options. He gave the Trustees handouts of debt service schedules for bonding over a 10 year period. The V.C.C.D. should receive an A+ rating by Standard and Poors. The bond amount the District is considering is \$1M; the average coupon is 3.722%.

Discussion ensued, there will be no decision made at this point.

If the Trustees agree to proceed, Executive Director Konsis will need to attach costs to each of the capital projects selected to tie to the bond sale. All Trustees were in agreement to proceed with the bond purchase investigation process. President Myers stated that during the next meeting, "We can open the door", then there will be a 60 day waiting period, followed by a public comment period which will need to be advertised.

Item eight b. Discuss Contract Proposal From Jaytv. There is nothing new to report.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. IACD President Jamie Pasquale reported that Executive Director Konsis and he will attend the next meeting of the IACD on October 20, 9:30 a.m. at Starved Rock State Park. Park Districts of Rockford and DeKalb will be in attendance also.

This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Director Mark Pittman gave the report. Starting with a brief history, founded in 1984, the Outdoor Heritage Foundation was created to support the V.C.C.D. Now known as the Vermilion County Conservation Foundation, the 501 (C) 3 organization exists not only to support the V.C.C.D. with projects and funding outside their budget, but many cost sharing programs and grants for which the V.C.C.D. is not eligible. Mark reported the twelve directors and four associate directors currently serving, and the Foundation's fundraising events: Cheeseburgers & Fun and Sportsman's Banquet. He stated several major purchases and monetary means in which the Foundation has assisted the District over the past several years. Lastly, he invited the Trustees to the Foundation meetings held every other month, the next scheduled for December 9, 9:00 a.m., Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

The Trustees thanked Mark for his report and expressed their appreciation for all the Foundation's efforts.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis reported that there is an Annual Meeting in Chicago, January 19-21, 2017. In the past, Trustees have not attended due to excessive cost.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Meyers had no report. The committee has been suspended.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes stated that employee insurance committee member, Gary Wilford had tried to contact him several times today, but he was unable to return his call. Executive Director Konsis stated that the employees have expressed that they would like to wait until the Board is able to tell them what they are offering.

Charlie Rhoden responded that the committee would like to meet with the Trustees that represent the Board to see what the Board is considering for the insurance package.

Trustee Jaynes stated that he will meet with Gordon, and then set up an insurance committee meeting to discuss options.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven. Report from the Education Supervisor. Gary Wilford was not present, there was no report.

Agenda item twelve: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale reported that most of the painting of the Lake Mingo Dam gates has been completed.

He met with Gibson Communications regarding the installation of the new phone system at Forest Glen. They located the existing lines that will be replaced with new fiber optic lines, hopefully before winter.

The Kennekuk maintenance crew has been working on the woodshop at Kennekuk. To date, a little under \$15,000 has been spent. This is funded by a private donor.

Trustee Cooke clarified the details of the phone line installation at Forest Glen. Associate Director Pasquale confirmed that it will be very similar as was put in at Kennekuk.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item thirteen: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis began with the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) was awarded a \$225,000 ITEP grant for Phase II engineering costs. This will be from the St. Joseph to the Vermilion County line. Current construction consists of base rock on the east side of the trail, and the bridge over the Salt Fork installation. Dan Olson has offered to give a tour of the trail now under construction. There was some interest in a late afternoon tour. Executive Director Konsis will get in touch with Dan and try to schedule a date.

The Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area wetland engineering report finally arrived. Executive Director Konsis met with Thomas Excavating yesterday to acquire project costs of wetland construction and the culvert replacement. This will be paid with the V.C.C. Foundation's Illinois Clean Energy Sustainability grant.

Thomas Excavating will also give an estimate to make a vehicular access to the base of the Willow Creek Dam and to install gabion baskets for erosion control on Willow Creek. IDNR is requesting a scope of work to go along with the engineering report.

The V.C.C.D. was one of sixteen beneficiaries named in the Kenneth Hirsig Estate will. The District was bequeathed a Roth IRA account with Vanguard Mutual Funds.

Executive Director Konsis reported on past and upcoming meetings which included: Vermilion Dark Skies on September 22; Vermilion River County, September 29 (did not attend); and Aqua Illinois Community Investment Dinner, September 13 (did not attend).

Past V.C.C.D. events included: Revolutionary War Reenactment/Pioneer Craft Day on September 24-25 with an estimated 600 in attendance; Civil War School Day on September 30, around 400 in attendance; and Forest Glen Hayride, October 1, 35 people.

The next event is Haunted Happenings on October 22, at Kennekuk. Ticket sales are steady, although most are sold within the last three days of the event.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 4:30 p.m. at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center.

Two of the Trustees will not be available for the November 16 meeting. The workman's compensation bid openings will be a consideration for approval since they are not due until November 16. It was decided to reschedule the meeting for November 9, 4:30 p.m.,

Kennekuk Education Center. The workman's compensation bids will be reviewed and approved at the December meeting.

Two Trustees will not be available to attend the December 7 meeting. The December meeting was tentatively rescheduled for December 14, 4:30 p.m., Kennekuk Education Center.

The employee medical insurance should be ready for approval at the November 9, 2016 meeting. The insurance committee will meet prior to that date.

There were no other questions or comments.

Agenda item fourteen: President's and Trustee's Comments.

Trustee Jaynes noted that tomorrow is the Kiwanis Pancake Day and he offered tickets to anyone.

Trustee Cooke had no comment.

Trustee Schroeder had no comment.

President Myers no comment.

With no further discussion, and all business transacted, *Trustee Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation. Meeting adjourned.*

Allen E. Cooke
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees