

**MANHATTAN PARK BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Hansen Community Center**  
**397 South State Street, Manhattan IL**  
**Date: December 19, 2024 Time 7:00 pm**

**Regular Scheduled Meeting**

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

**Absent:** Kristy Byers, Vice President, Barbara Epps, Secretary

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Action and Motion: Motion to temporarily adjourn Regular Meeting for the purpose of Truth in Taxation Hearing**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0 at 7:01 p.m.

**Truth in Taxation Hearing:**

1. **Action and Motion Requested: Motion to open Truth in Taxation Hearing pursuant to notice of publication in The Herald News on December 5, 2024.**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0 at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Visitors to be Heard:** None

3. **Motion to adjourn public hearing and resume Regular Meeting:**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0 at 7:03 p.m.

**Regular Meeting Resumed**

1. **Changes to the Agenda:** None
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Communications/Guests:** None
4. **Presidents Report:** President Hope thanked staff and board for a great 2024. She specifically thanked staff for their efforts at Round Barn Farm Park with the installation of sod, decorations, new trees, and overall improvements. President Hope stated the LWSRA Hour at Winter Fest is wonderful, the partnership with JJC on marketing is great, and reductions of program cancellations is wonderful.

**5. Staff and Committee Reports:**

- a. Executive Director:** Director Kelly updated the Board on the operations of the district. He included details on events and programs, staff's participation at the Athletic Business Conference, and smaller projects underway throughout the district.
- b. L-Way Special Rec:** Director Kelly stated that operations at LWSRA are great and that the Special Needs Hour was well attended at Winter Fest.
- c. Village Government Agency Meeting:** Meeting was held this month with nothing outside of report to discuss.
- d. Foundation Committee:** Director Kelly updated the Board on the meeting that was held just prior to the December Board Meeting stating that Officers were elected, and the board is in place to move forward. The 2025 Meeting Schedule was also set.

**6. Action and Motion requested: Move to approve the November 2024, Treasurer's Report including the payment of bills in the amount of \$453,888.75 which may include lodging and travel expenses.**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

**7. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Action and Motion requested: Move to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:**

- i. November 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- ii. November 14, 2024, Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

**8. Old Business**

- a. Discussion: Project Updates:** Director Kelly provided updates on the following projects:
  - i. Hansen Community Center**
  - ii. Dog Park Update**
  - iii. Round Barn Farm Annexation Agreement**
  - iv. Prairie Trails Park Development**
  - v. Round Barn Farm Projects**
    - a. Barn Restoration Plans/Contract**
    - b. Trail Grant**
  - vi. Round Barn Restoration**
  - vii. White Feather Land**

**9. New Business:**

- a. Action and Motion Requested: Move to approve Resolution 24-16 A  
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT AND THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
#114 FOR THE MUTUAL USE OF FACILITIES**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

- b. Action and Motion Requested: Move to approve Resolution 24-17 A  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TERMS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF  
THE MANHATTAN ROUND BARN REPAIR PROPOSAL BY AND BETWEEN  
FIRMITAS LLC AND THE MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

- c. Action and Motion Requested: Move to approve Ordinance 24-7 AN  
ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION  
OF TAXES FOR CORPORATE, RECREATION AND OTHER PARK PURPOSES OF THE  
MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF WILL, STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR  
THE YEAR 2024 DUE AND PAYABLE IN 2025**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

- d. Action and Motion Requested: Move to approve Ordinance 24-8 AN  
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE  
MANHATTAN PARK DISTRICT**

**Motion:** Ed Ludwig-First, Joe Farkas-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0

**10. Motion to Adjourn for Executive Session for the following purpose:**

- a. Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) for the purpose of discussing:  
(1) The employment, discipline, and performance of specific employees.**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0 at 7:18 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Meeting:**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

Motion approved: 3-0 at 7:29 p.m.

**12. Closed Session Action Items:**

- a. Action and Motion Requested: Motion to approve the Executive Director Contract dated January 1, 2025 through January 1, 2028**

**Motion:** Joe Farkas-First, Ed Ludwig-Second

**Roll Call:** Bridget Hope, President, Joe Farkas, Treasurer, and Ed Ludwig, Commissioner

**Motion approved:** 3-0

**13. Notable Dates:**

- a.**

**14. Next Meeting: Regular meeting held, January 9, 2025, at the Hansen Community Center at 7:00 p.m.**

**15. Final Adjournment:**

- a. Motion Requested: Ed Ludwig- First, Joe Farkas- Second**

**b. Vote: Aye: 3 Nay: 0 Motion Passed 3-0**

**Adjournment:** 7:32 p.m.