

A motion was made by	William Schneck
And seconded by	Joellen Vohlken

To: Adjourn public hearing

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>		
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X		Motion	
Greg Sanders	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

Citizen Input: None

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	Barb Smith

to: ***Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting dated January 12, 2026.***

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>		
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X		Motion	
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	Amanda Wilkie

to: ***Approve the Minutes of the Closed Session dated January 12, 2026 with correction to year, address, and Sanders name removed and Amanda Wilkie name added.***

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>		
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X		Motion	
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	William Schneck

to: Approve the Warrant #648 and unpaid bills dated February 09, 2026 and Warrant #649 and unpaid bills dated March 09, 2026.

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Motion</i>	
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X			
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	William Schneck
And seconded by	Joellen Vohlken

to: Approve Ordinance 2026-01 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Motion</i>	
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X			
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	Amanda Wilkie

to: Approve the Purchase of a Ferris ISX3300ZBZE4072SS-40 HP 72 inch with Tweel Turf Tires and keeping the factory tires for \$17,429.15.

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Motion</i>	
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X			
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	Amanda Wilkie
And seconded by	Joellen Vohlken

to: Approve 2025 Fiscal Year Audit Engagement Letter for Audit Services with CJ Schlosser and Company to perform audit services for a fee not to exceed \$11,360.

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Motion</i>	
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X			
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	William Schneck

to: Authorize staff to proceed with the Release of the Advertisement for Bids for Solar Projects at 712 Franklin Ave and William S. Wait Park.

Vote:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Motion</i>	
Barb Smith	X					
William Schneck	X					
Joellen Vohlken	X					
Lynn Ulmer			X			
Amanda Wilkie	X				Approved	Not Approved
<i>Total</i>	4	-	1	-	X	-

Directors Report:

Director Sauerwein reviewed the following with board members.

Sauerwein announced to the Board that Carrie Dunn would be leaving her position with the District. Sauerwein and the Board thanked her for he service to the District.

Office, Bathroom Facility, and ADA Ramp Construction

Robinson has completed installation of the RFP panels and has installed the doors for both the bathroom facility and the downstairs area. Exterior metal siding has been installed on both sides. The remaining metal will be used to cover other areas with vinyl siding. More material is needed to close off the west wall and should be installed by March 19th. Now that Robinson has completed the bathroom Harris install the toilet and sink in the new bathroom. Sauerwein is looking at purchasing some mats for the walls.

Pool

Chester Pools has confirmed via email that the necessary repairs will be completed under warranty. A repair date has not yet been scheduled.

Legislative Breakfast

The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) has asked Sauerwein to facilitate the 2026 Southern Illinois Legislative Breakfast. The event will be held via Zoom on March 23rd at 10:00 a.m. The invitation and agenda are included in the Board packets. Commissioners interested in attending should notify Sauerwein by March 17th.

Jaycee Park Parking Lot

District staff has been coordinating with the City's Public Works Department regarding repairs to the Jaycee Park parking lot. Portions of the lot required repairs following construction work related to the Dewey Street project. New rock was put down, and the lot will be oil and chipped later. The lot was used for stockpiling during street repairs so some work needs to be done to the lot.

Nature Preserve Trail Policy

Greenville University has not yet followed up on the proposal submitted prior to September meeting.

Economic Interest Statements

All the economic interest statements for Commissioners have been filed.

Curry covered the following February Recreation Report:

March Recreation Report

Soccer:

The soccer season has begun. The older group met Monday and Tuesday of last week. The league will have a one-week break due to GU spring break and will resume the week of March 16th. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who help make this program possible: Frank Snyder Financial, Thacker Insurance, FCC Preschool, Capri Markets, Bond County Secret Santa Society, Sew Unique, Roof Rescue, Bond County Realtors, Bradford National Bank, Neely's Fire & Ice, Edward Jones, Kahuna's, and FNB Community Bank. This season had the most enrollees than we have seen in previous seasons.

Dance:

Dance classes are still going strong, and enrollment continues to steadily increase. Instructor Kara is great with the kids. The district's program is intended to be a feeder program for kids to see if they like it and then move on to another studio.

Baseball / Softball / T-Ball / Soft Toss:

Registration is currently open online for our summer little leagues. Flyers went to the schools on March 9th. The early bird registration deadline is March 23rd. The final day to register and be guaranteed placement on a roster is April 6th. Sponsor letters will be sent out soon.

Barn Quilts:

Barn quilt classes continue to fill quickly, often selling out in 24 hours or less. The April class will be announced soon.

Summer Hiring:

Summer hiring has begun and is moving slowly, which is typical for this time of year. At this point, there is no concern. The two previous pool managers have reapplied. We have received a couple umpire applications and still looking for a night supervisor. Maintenance applications are coming in as well.

Lifeguard Class:

Lukas Moore will again serve as our Lifeguard Instructor (LGI) this year. The class has been scheduled for May 22–24. Class maximum size is 10.

Aquatics:

Staff is brainstorming ways to increase aquatics revenue. Some ideas include bringing back water aerobics and creating designated water walking times. These programs would help fill schedule gaps created by the absence of a swim team this year. We are also working with FNB to plan another EPIC community pool party.

Yoga:

Yoga will be returning to the park district. An instructor recently reached out, and we are excited to offer this program to the community again.

Kickball:

We are in the preliminary planning stages of starting a fall kickball league for ages 8–12.

Curry the 2025 pool and recreation report.

With the loss of the swim team, pool guarding hours will go down approximately 150 hours. Curry presented a breakdown of the estimated increases for expenses at the pool for 2026. The Board reviewed the report. Curry proposed that pool passes will remain the same but a .25 cent increase to daily admissions.

Sauerwein reviewed with the Board several points from his recent evaluation and goals for 2026.

Bond Planning & Finances

2024 bond cycle ends in 2026, with a planned roll in 2027.

District has historically used 2–3 year bond cycles.

District Currently operating conservatively, using about one third of its G.O. Bond Authority.

If the board wants to accelerate capital projects, they must increase G.O. bond rate which would raise taxes.

Several short-term projects need completion:

Fence at JC maintenance shed (delayed due to road work)

Patriots Park bathroom doors

Additional concrete work at maintenance building

Building tuckpointing

Possible pool shade structures

Sauerwein reviewed the section in the evaluation that calls for the Board to list the 5 most pressing needs for the district or what should be prioritized in the coming year. He broke them into categories; financial, new recreation opportunities, land development, new office use, and marketing/staffing.

Financial

- **Pay debts (Sauerwein assumed this meant the debit certificate for the new office)**

Two options previously considered:

1. Use OSLAD proceeds, or

2. Pay off debt with the next bond issue (2027).

Sauerwein stated the assumed strategy was to use the 2027 bond issue.

New recreation opportunity

- **Possibly have kayak rentals at city Park Lake**

Sauerwein is doing research on a rental system similar to Silver Lake in Highland

Land Development

- **Expand Laura Mollet Park**

Continues to serve as flexible open space for:

Soccer and flag football practice

Pool overflow parking

No immediate expansion planned.

- **Property along route 40**

Previously discussed; board consensus was to leave the land idle for now.

Focus remains on current priorities rather than new development.

Funding Constraint

With current priorities:

OSLAD at William S. Waite Park

Future OSLAD at Jaycee Park

Sauerwein noted that expanding Laura Mollet Park or developing Route 40 is not feasible under the current tax rate.

- **Bike paths**

Supported conceptually, but:

High cost in development

Require multi-agency cooperation

Park district should not be the lead, as the park district does not own the right of ways

Would likely require increased funding/taxes

New Office

- **Finish the office and start offering Tumbling and other programs**

Sauerwein stated that the progress has been slower than expected, but moving forward, programming rollout will follow project completion.

Marketing/Staffing

- **Prioritize the needs for expanded personnel, Hire part-time office staff, marketing KPD.**

Future staffing adjustments tied to:

Debt certificate payments ending after 2026

Immediate need accelerated due to:

Dunn's resignation

Transition from part-time evening to daytime coverage

- **Determine the next OSLAD project and completing a grant for an all-abilities playground and securing a spokesperson to aid in fundraising.**

Next OSLAD Project – Jaycee Park

Focus on developing an all-abilities playground.

Sauerwein and Curry have been working on a redevelopment plan.

A marketing firm’s proposal has been received to assist with fundraising and outreach.

Project Details

Initial playground concept: approximately \$700,000

Additional potential improvements:

Ballfield grading

New fencing and backstops

Irrigation

Sidewalks

Estimated total project cost: estimate \$1.2 million

OSLAD is a 50/50 match

District share: \$600,000

General Board consensus:

Project is a positive and needed addition to the district.

A motion was made by	Joellen Vohlken
And seconded by	Barb Smith

to: *Adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting at 7:40 pm.*

All present signified with Aye.