



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
October 26 2020**

PRESENT: Tim Reid, President
Erik Hanberg, Clerk
Andrea Smith
Aaron Pointer
Jessie Baines

IN THE CHAIR: Tim Reid

PLACE: Remote call in meeting

PUBLIC HEARING

GENERAL TAX LEVY OF REGULAR PROPERTY TAX FOR COLLECTION IN 2021

EXCESS TAX LEVY FOR UNLIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION (UTGO)
BOND REDEPTION

Erwin Vidallon, CFO opened the public hearing by reporting that Metro Parks Tacoma has a regular tax levy rate limit that totals \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value. He reported that originally, the tax levy authority was \$0.50 per \$1,000 until the levy lid lift occurred in April of 2010, which gave the district another \$0.25 capacity.

Staff noted that in November 2007, the State Legislature approved legislation that imposed a 1% annual property tax growth limitation. This means that regardless of assessed valuation growth, property tax revenues cannot grow more than the 1% limit on the highest amount of regular property taxes levied to date. This limit prohibits a taxing district from levying regular property taxes in any year more than 101% of the highest amount of regular property taxes levied to date. Mr. Vidallon commented that Metro Parks has now surpassed the previous highest levy in 2020 to \$16,877,900 in 2021. This will become the New Highest Regular Tax used to establish property tax collection for the ensuing year related to the 1% limit.

Mr. Vidallon stated that in addition to 1% revenue growth limitation, there's also another protection for property owners. At any point in time, taxing districts combined cannot have a tax rate higher than \$5.90 per property. This does not including school districts, ports, public utilities, conservation districts, and emergency management service. The \$5.90 only includes senior taxing districts such as the City of Tacoma and Pierce County; and junior taxing districts like Metro Parks, flood control, etc.

Staff continued to explain that taxing districts with a population of over 10,000, can impose an inflation factor for substantial need. If the Implicit Price Deflator inflation (or IPD) for personal consumption expenditures rate is less than 1%, the taxing district could increase its

levy up to the allowable 1% with “A Finding Of Substantial Need” that needs to be passed through an additional resolution by a super majority vote of the governing body. Metro Parks last executed this resolution for a finding of substantial need in 2016 when the IPD was at 0.95%. Mr. Vidallon commented that the impact is approximately \$65,000 more of property taxes if 1% maximum allowed.

Several graphs of property tax distribution were then reviewed. Staff indicated that of the total \$13.52, MPT receives approximately \$1.22 for every \$1,000 assessed home value paid by each property owner. Of the \$1.22, Regular Tax Levy is approximately \$0.5426 and Excess Tax Levy is about \$0.6774.

Staff commented that based on information provided by the County Assessor, the regular tax levy for 2021 is at \$16,877,900 before any final state assessed value and new construction value, which are calculated by the end of the year. Additionally the excess tax levy for 2021 is at \$13,003,000 based on our debt payment schedule.

Staff will be recommending for Board consideration and approval of the Regular and Excess Levy Tax Resolutions in future Board meetings, which allows for the following:

- Adopts a substantial need
- Certifies the highest lawful levy; and
- Authorizes excess tax levy for our debt service payments of our issued Bonds to date.

Mr. Vidallon also reviewed the current proposed schedule of District Budget meetings and hearings as follows:

- **October 26th** – Board Meeting (Discussion: Presentation of Preliminary Community Survey Results)
- **November 2nd** – Committee of the Whole (Discussion: Preliminary Operating Budget and 2021-22 Work Plan Initiatives)
- **November 4th** – ZTA Board Meeting (Discussion: Approval of Sales Tax)
- **November 9th** – Board Meeting (Discussion: First Reading of Regular & Excess Property Tax; Public Hearing #1 of Operating & Capital Budgets)
- Presentation of 2020 3rd Quarter Financials
- **November 23rd** – Board Meeting (Discussion: Second Reading of Regular & Excess Property Tax; Public Hearing #2 of Operating & Capital Budgets)
- **December 14th** – Board Meeting (Discussion: Final Adoption of Operating & Capital Budgets)

Being no additional comments the Public Hearing was closed

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Reid at 6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Reid urged the community to continue wearing masks, practicing social distancing and recreating responsibility in parks.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Smith commented that JMAC met on October 9, 2020.

The Committee discussed agency legislative agendas. The committee also heard a proposal relative to exploring Rainforest strategies as it relates to common work being done by agencies in response to COVID-19.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Shon Sylvia commented on the following:

- The Board was reminded of the following upcoming meetings:
 - Tuesday, October 27th 12 Noon, Study Session with City Council
 - Tuesday evening, October 27th , 5:30pm, Community Budget Workshop
 - Monday, November 2nd , COW at 5:30 pm
 - Wednesday, November 4th , MPT/ ZTA Joint meeting at 5:30pm
- Late yesterday a truck was found approximately 100' down the embankment at Point Defiance just beyond the parking area across from Fort Nisqually. Two occupants, who were found to be uninjured and out of the vehicle as emergency responders arrived, were able to walk back up to the parking area. The vehicle damaged fencing and a storm water line on its way down the cliff. The vehicle was removed this morning and a plan for repairs is in development.
- 18 people were served at the warming center set up in collaboration with the City of Tacoma at Eastside Community Center this weekend, the center will operate until tomorrow morning due to predicted cold temperatures tonight.
- There was a major break-in at the MPT crew shop area on the STAR Campus. Several trucks and trailers were broken into and damaged and multiple tools were stolen. A police report has been filed.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS None

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Hanberg and passed on a vote of 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA None

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. PW46-20:** DICKMAN MILL EXPANSION AND HEAD SAW
BID#: J2020-14 CONTRACT AWARD TO REDSIDE CONSTRUCTION LLC

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Hanberg.

Staff commented that this was reviewed by the CIC on October 20th . Staff stated this Project became possible with Cambia Health Solutions wanting to reflect upon their centennial, and wishing to recognize their hometown of Tacoma and the logging industry from where they came.

Work under this contract will consist of an upland wood decking plaza, restoration of the historic mill pulley on placed wood decking; restoration of the historic mill head saw placed on a new base , installation of an artist-designed “Ghost Log” placed on the restored log carriage; a grated overwater walkway and overwater viewpoint with wood decking; habitat mitigation; and landscape planting.

Clarification of the art budget was briefly discussed.

Being no additional comments the question was called and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS None**SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS** None**FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS** None**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None**NEW BUSINESS****UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

Sandra Eliason began the update by commenting on the out reach work that has been done thus far including 3 all staff work shops, 3 Advisory Council work shops, co-facilitated workshops with the Urban League, Asia Pacific Cultural Center and a general community work shop.

Ms. Eliason noted additional workshops are planned with LatinX community. Additional budget outreach includes on going updates and information on the District Website, District newsletters, social media and e-blasts, public hearings and board meetings.

Ms. Eliason commented that the District had 3,173 surveys completed. She then commented on some for the summary data including that 56% of the respondents were female, and 78% of the respondents live in Tacoma. Staff commented that the survey has not captured a good representation of Hispanic and Black communities.

Staff reported on the following data from the survey:

- Most agree with and support Board priorities: across the board an average of 87% agree and strongly agree
- Intentionally **overcoming systemic racism** (80% agree/strongly agree)
- Improving **access**/proximity to parks & programs for underserved populations (86% agree/strongly agree)
- Improving **health** outcomes/reducing health inequities (89% agree/strongly agree)
- Advancing **environmental sustainability**/livability/overall community resiliency (90% agree/strongly agree)
- Concentrating on economic sustainability /**collaborating** to avoid inefficiencies (91% agree/strongly agree)
- Achieving equity and inclusion in parks/programs/facilities/decision-making/**engagement by listening to community** (87% agree/strongly agree)

Ms. Eliason explained that the survey also allowed respondents to go through a budget balancing exercise to see how they might prioritize funding. Those results showed that respondents are willing to sacrifice some level of park aesthetics, in order to provide programs serving youth and individuals with special needs. Results also showed a desire for enhanced amenities to support free outdoor self-directed recreational and fitness opportunities. In addition, funding prioritization supported Greater equity in infrastructure and access to programs/facilities, emphasis on safety and increased investment in preventive maintenance.

Shon Sylvia commented that the community survey is one of many data points and means for collecting information and sentiment from the community during the budgeting process.

Commissioner Hanberg commented on the need for the community's needs right now for child care. Discussion ensued about how the District would shift out of childcare once the county is out of the pandemic and community needs shift.

Commissioner Pointer commented that he supports prioritizing youth programming for after school with this budget.

DISTRICT POLICY REVIEW

Hunter George commented that staff is currently reviewing several policies for future Board action. Mr. George then provided the following summary of the policies as follows:

- Purchasing Policy: increases purchase amounts per updated RCW.
- Small Works Roster: implements a small works roster process for awarding public work projects.
- Apprenticeship Training Program: updates our certified payroll requirements on projects receiving federal funding to improve efficiency by eliminating redundant paperwork processing.

- Special Leave: authorizes the Executive Director to provide additional paid leave during circumstances such as the planned closure of most District operations between Christmas and New Year’s Day.
- Authorizing electronic signatures (new policy): working remotely has prompted us to find ways to provide approvals, and electronic signatures through services such as DocuSign have proven to be a more efficient method that we intend to keep post-COVID.

Commissioner Baines commented that he would like be involved in review of the small works roster policy.

It was determined that staff will bring the Special Leave Policy to the November 2, 2020 COW for Board Discussion. The other four policies will be discussed at later November COW meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

After some discussion about the joint study session with the City Council planned for tomorrow the Board expressed that if they are not going to be involved with the presentation that they would prefer a future meeting with the council to share information about joint work beyond just the budget.

Commissioner Hanberg requested staff immediately look at the fencing at cliffs and look out points at Point Defiance Park to ensure visitor safety.

ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary