

Tri-Township Park District

Troy, Illinois 62294

MINUTES - TRI-TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

A special public meeting was convened by the Park Board at the Sr. Citizen Center at 8:00 P.M. on 10/19/88. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the voters of the Tri-Township Park District about the forthcoming Resolution to be put before the voters at the November election on construction of a swimming pool in the park.

Commissioner Tim Greenfield made the presentation of information and statistics compiled during the past year as a result of community interest in a swimming pool. An information packet was distributed to those in attendance containing the following information:

1. A description of the pool complex.
2. Fees developed as a result of a survey of other operating pools in the area.
3. Construction and financing information. Since the Illinois State maximum allowed to Park Districts in tax monies is $17\frac{1}{2}\%$ per \$100 assessed valuation, the Board would be required to resort to a ten year Bond Issue for construction of a pool.
4. Operating Income and Expense information obtained from a survey of other pools in the area. It was noted that Greenville operated in the red with the help of revenue from a game room, concession stand, etc. The closure of the Madison pool was area related.
5. Data sheets on the advantages of the aluminum pool.

According to the Hartford Insurance agent, the park insurance premium would be increased by \$1500. for pool coverage. Some doubt was voiced due to the high cost of insurance but Commissioner Greenfield explained that the Park District insurance premium (\$8,000.) already recognizes a high risk potential. Other pools surveyed have higher insurance premiums but they are not connected with a park district.

It was stated that it will take 400,000 gallons of water to fill the pool and 1500 to 2000 gallons per day thereafter.

The meeting was then opened to questions from the audience. The following questions were heard and answered:

1. Mine subsidence? - The aluminum pool would not be effected unless the whole area caved in.
2. Will the increase in taxes be dropped after the 10 year Bond Issue is paid off? - Yes.
3. Why such a large pool? - Only one other Olympic size pool this side of the Mississippi and none within 50 to 100 miles in Illinois. - Of the cities surveyed which have smaller pools, one

which is a 25 meter pool is already considering a new pool. The consensus is that once a pool has been built it cannot be enlarged and the growing population of the area does warrant the larger pool.

4. What security measures are there? - The area will be controlled. Amenities at the complex will be for paid swimmers only. The manager and life guards will be responsible for enforcing pool regulations. The pool area will be enclosed with a 12 foot fence. Lockers will be available and the area will be well lighted. The parking lot will be closed in winter months. The water level of the pool will be lowered in off season months. Very strict statutes provided by the State will be adhered to.
5. How will a concession stand offset cost of the pool? - The concession stand is expected to offset operating costs of the pool (not construction costs).
6. Will the pool support itself or will there be other tax increases to sustain the pool? Greenfield explained that there is no way he can assure that the pool will be self-supporting but the surveys indicate that the pool will be self-supporting.
7. Can the District impose increases in taxes repeatedly to sustain the pool? No. There is a limitation imposed upon Park Districts of $17\frac{1}{2}\%$ per \$100 of assessed valuation. Tri-Township Park District has been operating on 7% for the last 24 years. The 1989 tax levy was increased to 17% this year. Commissioner Wiesemeyer explained that there is a possibility that, if the resolution is passed, the accepted bid for construction of the pool will be lower than expected. Assessed valuations will probably grow in future years bringing in more tax dollars on the same levy (17%).
8. When will bonds be sold? - The Columbia Securities Co, Chicago, Ill, will sell the Bonds thru a Bonding Co. (Chapman and Cuttler) if the resolution is passed.
9. Will the District advertise before the election the impact of the construction of a pool upon the taxpayers? Yes - in the Tribune and thru the distribution of the information packet distributed at the meeting.
10. Is the Park prepared for the influx of people that will be caused? Greenfield and Wiesemeyer explained that the park is involved in a five year plan, which calls for numerous improvements including lighting, roads, restrooms, and a multi-purpose building.
11. Was a covered pool considered for 12 month use? Yes but the cost was prohibitive not only for construction but for yearround management together with the fact that the demand is not as great as in summer.
12. Why wasn't a multi-purpose building, which would be much cheaper to construct, given priority over a pool? The Board members have attempted to respond to a long standing desire of many members of the community which has been steadily increasing, to install a pool.

Various points as follows were made by the audience:

1. Many backyard pools in the area. Consequently the demand may not be as great as expected.
2. Taxpayers will be unable to afford their homes if taxes

- continue to rise. Future building will be stifled due to high taxes.
3. There are other priorities which will be needing additional tax monies such as the School District and bringing more water lines into the City. One taxpayer observed that these issues should have a higher priority than a swimming pool. Commissioner Greenfield replied to this observation that the Board is aware of these priorities. The Board intentionally waited until the voters have felt the effect of the recent school tax increase and the library tax on their 1986 taxes before bringing this resolution to the ballot. Other priorities have not developed and the Board has an obligation to respond to requests from the community.
 4. A young woman commented that the needs of the children should be a high priority.
 5. One individual spoke out on his knowledge of pool attendance - crowded during June and July and the crowd drops off in August. There is only one pool in the area the size of the proposed pool and that is Woodriver, which has an extremely good industrial tax base as opposed to Troy with primarily homeowners and farmers. Only about 10% of the population will use the pool. He cautioned that the school district pulled off their referendum in November due to other tax increases.
 6. Another individual stated that a swimming pool is merely a babysitting facility - that there are inconceivable major problems.

The Commissioners closed the meeting by reminding the attendees that they had no preferences either way about the pool - that this meeting was merely to educate the public about the details of how, why and at what cost the taxpayers can expect to have a swimming pool. It is up to the voters to determine if the majority of the population is in favor of the pool and the ensuing cost.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.