PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Special Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President Dralle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll call.
The following Commissioners were present: Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Gary Gillis, Mike Dralle, and Kyle Cain. Commissioners absent were: Steve Sours and Kristen Walraven. Also in attendance were: Abi Almandinger, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary.

4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.

5. Public Input: None.

6. Executive Director's Report:
The ED and the Business Manager gave a slide presentation on the District's financial position, titled "Where We Stand." The ED said the presentation followed her meetings with each department head, the business office, and each Commissioner, and that department heads saw the same information on October 8.

The Business Manager reviewed the main factors: the Illinois minimum wage rising from $8.25 in 2018 to $15 in 2025, with roughly 270 seasonal employees at the summer peak; the cost of goods and services rising 22.5% from 2021 to 2025; property tax revenue growing 17% over the same period; and replacement tax revenue falling 61% from its 2022 peak of $2.62 million to $1.03 million in 2025. He noted that the October 2026 replacement tax receipt was about $140,000 higher than the year before.

The ED reported that the December 15, 2025 bond payment was not made on time and was paid on March 27, 2026; that the District's short-term borrowing totals approximately $1.75 million, including two bank lines of credit, loans from the Park District Foundation, and the loan that cured the missed bond payment; that the District lost its credit rating; and that

the District's baseline monthly operating cost is approximately $542,000. She reported that capital projects have been paused, including the golf restrooms at Parkview and Lick Creek and the arena parking lot; that purchases over $500 now require quotes, a purchase order, and ED approval; that she is reviewing each department budget line by line; and that all District contracts are being collected for review and possible rebidding. She outlined upcoming Board decisions, including the levy, and committed to a quarterly budget and debt report and prompt notice to the Board of serious matters.

Commissioner Cain asked whether the District could pay less than minimum wage to employees under 18? The Business Manager said it could be considered for certain positions and discussed with department heads. President Dralle asked what makes up the replacement tax? The Business Manager said it comes from state taxes on businesses, including corporations, partnerships, and public utilities. Commissioner Gillis asked how the approximately $542,000 monthly figure compares with the District's approximately $10 million annual budget? The Business Manager said monthly costs vary with seasonal payroll and that the budget also includes transfers between funds. Commissioner Gillis requested charts comparing the growth in payroll and in goods and services, and a timeline comparing costs, revenue, and program fee increases. The Business Manager said he would prepare them. Commissioner Gillis asked whether the plan will include revenue increases as well as cost cutting? The ED said yes. Commissioner Cain said the goals were clear and easily measured.

The ED presented a draft Board and Staff Communication Policy for discussion. No action was taken. Commissioner Cain asked where Human Resources fits in the policy? The ED explained the role of the Supt. of Human Resources & Risk Management and said she would add language on Human Resources to Section 5. Commissioner Gillis said protecting an employee's anonymity is the biggest concern, and that employees should go to Human Resources first but feel free to go to the Board. The ED said such concerns should go to the Board President or Vice President. The ED will send revised language to the Board. Commissioner Gillis said an additional policy may be needed for the Foundation.

Commissioner Gillis asked whether the District has a policy on voting by email? The ED said she would look into it. Commissioner Gillis noted the Board's past practice of raising issues at the first meeting of the month and voting at the second. Commissioner Gillis asked whether there is a policy on required attendance for Commissioners? The ED said she would look into it and, if there is not one, one can be created.

The ED announced that staff will attend only the first Board meeting of each month going forward.

The Board discussed its meeting schedule, including cancelling the October 22 meeting due to an anticipated lack of a quorum. November meetings will be held November 5 and November 19, and December meetings on December 3 and December 17. The City of Pekin's fire station presentation will be scheduled for November 19.

7. Staff Reports: None.

8. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Cain said the Parkside Garden is fantastic. Commissioner Ranney said he has calls in to building trades contacts to help rehabilitate the Depot. The ED noted there is no signage identifying the Depot.

9. New Business:

   A. Discussion of Independence Park.

      President Dralle reported receiving an email from the Village of Creve Coeur asking that a portion of Independence Park be donated back to the Village. President Dralle said the Board should go out and look at the property and determine whether there are any restrictions. Commissioner Gillis asked what the Pekin Park District would have to gain? Commissioner Cain said the Illinois Land and Water Reserve listing shows the reserve covers 270 acres, which appears to be all of the property, and that the Village needs to be made aware it is a Land and Water Reserve area. No action was taken.

10. Adjourn:

    Motion Kyle Cain; Second Greg Ranney.
    All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried.
    Time: 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary, Pekin Park District