

**Chicago Heights Park District
Board of Commissioners
Special Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to Order: The Special Board meeting of the Chicago Heights Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Upon roll call, the following board members were recorded present: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, Commissioner Zuniga and President Benavides. Commissioner Nichols-Brown was recorded present via phone. A quorum was established.

Public Participation: President Benavides informed everyone that they had 2 minutes to participate in Public Participation:

John Stanfa: Mr. Stanfa was the first to participate in Public Participation. He requested that the Chicago Heights Park District Board request a Forensic accounting review of the Chicago Heights Park District. He stated that the taxpayers have a right to know what the report finds. He ended his statement by saying that he hopes the board do the right thing and vote for the forensic audit to be done.

Ron Antonio: Mr. Antonio was called next upon his request to participate in the Public Participation. He did not reply when his name was called.

Lena Tovar: Ms. Tovar stated that she would like to know how the money is spent by the Chicago Heights Park District.

Rosemarie Lewandowsky: Ms. Lewandowski stated that she supports the forensic audit.

Motion: On a motion to retain an Independent Certified Public Accounting Firm to conduct a forensic audit of the Chicago Heights Park District financial accounts for the years 2018-2019;2019- 2020; and 2020 to present by Commissioner Mancina, seconded by Commissioner Strazcek. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Mancina, and Commissioner Strazcek. The following nays were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commissioner Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Zuniga and President Benavides. Motion passed.

Discussion followed: President Benavides stated that the Chicago Heights Park District has been and is to follow its mandatory Annual Audit. However, we have received an extension from the county due to the park district having a new accountant. Our accountant is looking into an Independent Audit. Superintendent Perez has expressed to me that this annual audit will be completed by the next board meeting. I see no need for a forensic audit currently. We should allow

the auditors to complete its audit in which myself, the superintendent, the accountant, and the board of commissioners can review the findings and determine if there is a need for a forensic audit. Commissioner Mancina started to share her statement with the board. She thanked President Benavides for calling the special meeting that she and Commissioner Strazcek asked for to discuss on voting on conducting a forensic audit of the Chicago Heights Park District. Considering a forensic audit that was completed at the Chicago Heights Library and the various similarities at the Chicago Heights Park District. President Benavides interrupted Commissioner Mancina's statement. Commissioner Mancina stated that she should be able to finish her statement. He stated that we should move on with the roll call. She informed President Benavides that she would like for her statement to be put on record and for the public to listen to her statement. She asked President Benavides again to please let her read her statement. President Benavides stated she had already made her statement. She replied that this was a new statement that she wanted to read to the board and to the public. Commissioner Mancina attempted again to read her statement. However, President Benavides interrupted her again as she attempted to read her statement. He informed Commissioner Mancina that the Superintendent will expedite the audit. After the audit is complete each commissioner will be allowed to review it along with myself, the superintendent. Commissioner Mancina stated that President Benavides interrupted her in the middle of her statement and that she witnessed Superintendent Perez give him the permission to stop her from making her statement. Superintendent Perez said to Commissioner Mancina she can call CBS News or do whatever she wants to do. Superintendent Perez stated that that was not true. She replied and stated that she witnesses him do that. President Benavides called for a roll call again. Commissioner Strazcek stated that under the Open Meetings Act the law states they can discuss the items that is on the agenda. He stated that the item on the agenda is to have an Independent Certified Public Account do a forensic audit. He stated that President Benavides has not allowed anyone on the board to speak. President Benavides stated that we are here to conduct business. He informed to the clerk to please move forward with the roll call. Commissioner Mancina asked if everyone on Zoom were able to hear the meeting? President Benavides moved forward with roll call.

Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn the Special Board Meeting by Commissioner Leon, seconded by Commissioner Strazcek at 7:17 p.m. The following ayes were recorded: Commissioner Kyles, Commissioner Leon, Commission Nichols-Brown, Commissioner Mancina, Commissioner Strazcek, Commissioner Zuniga and President Benavides. Motion passed.

Secretary

Date