**Minutes of Board Meeting………………………………………………………………………………August 21, 2018**

Attending: Howard Wilkison, Sue Fortman, Sharon Phillips, Dave Smith, Bryan Robbins, Denise Manus, Linda Ricke, Russell Wilson, Victor Dance, Tom Ogden, Robert Barker and Teresa Kovacich.

Minutes were read and approved on a motion made by Russell Wilson and seconded by Bryan Robbins.

Claims were discussed and approved on a motion made by Linda Ricke and seconded by Victor Dance.

New Business:

Robert Barker informed the Board that long time employee, Dale Veerkamp, suffered a stroke. He is currently in Hickory Creek Nursing Home.

Robert Barker gave the update on the plans for improvements to the Oddfellows Rebekah Park. He told them that $40,000.00 which was donated by Delta Faucet, is being held at the Decatur County Community Foundation for the proposed spray park. The actual cost for the spray park will far exceed that amount. David Fry has been contacting companies for actual layout ideas and quotes for the project. The proposed amphitheater could possibly be constructed by local contractor, Hagerty Construction. Frisbee Golf was considered but it was determined that there really isn’t enough space unless additional land is acquired. Pickleball courts are still being considered. He also proposed to the Board that the park name be changed from Oddfellows Rebekah Park to Rebekah Park as the Oddfellows Home that the park was named for is no longer there. Following further discussion, Tom Ogden made a motion to change the park’s name to Rebekah Park. David Smith seconded the motion which carried.

Robert Barker updated the Board on the status of the Joyce L. and Fred Springmier Estate. He said that $1,297,696.52 is to be divided between St. Paul Christian Church, Shop with a Cop, Decatur County Hospice, Greensburg-Decatur County Library and the Decatur County Parks and Recreation Department. We will receive 4-6% annually depending on how it is invested by Hilliard Lyons. In keeping with Mrs. Springmier’s wishes the money is to be used primarily for improvements to the smaller county parks.

Superintendent’s Report:

A bench was donated to our department by AKTION, ARC and Kiwanis through the Decatur County Solid Waste management. The benches are made possible through collections of plastic caps for recycling. The bench has been placed at the Tree City Bark Park.

The number of participants continues to grow for pickleball.

A student at Greensburg High School has chosen to construct a new park bench for our department for his Chautauqua project.

Our department will be partnering with volunteers from Greensburg High School

and Decatur County REMC for the annual United Fund Day of Caring. Students will be working at the Charles Buell Walking Nature Trails to clear brush, weeding, mulching and repairing areas washed out during recent heavy rains. The volunteers from Decatur County REMC will be painting the playground equipment at the park in Milhousen.

We now have fifty-four members for the Tree City Bark Park.

As a result of the heavy rainfall this past weekend, the temporary soccer fields at the Decatur County Fairgrounds were destroyed during the Power of the Past. The area will not be playable for the remainder of the season. The Decatur County Youth Soccer Club is working to find an alternative location so that the remaining soccer season will not have to be cancelled.

Football games and practices are underway at North Park.

The second phase of the diamond upgrade project is underway at the youth sports complex. Diamond 1 is being done this year. One of the smaller diamonds will be done also.

The girls’ softball officers have asked to be allowed to host a softball tournament on September 29th and 30th. We explained to them that we have planned to turn off the electric to the facility in an effort to reduce utility costs as no other activities are planned for that location. It would cost approximately $1,200.00 to keep the facility open for the tournament. Following further discussion, Sue Fortman made a motion to allow the league to host the tournament provided that they pay a non-refundable fee of $1,400.00 to cover the utility/operational costs.

Bryan Robbins seconded the motion. It was also noted that if the tournament is held, the electric could not be turned off prior to October 1. If this would result in an additional fee for October, the request to host the tournament would be denied.

The next meeting will be held in shelter #3 at the Decatur County Park. Invitations will be sent for the annual Park Board family picnic.

With no further business to discuss, Tom Ogden made a motion to adjourn. Victor Dance seconded the motion.