

**MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.**



**TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**4550 WOJCIK MEMORIAL DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482**



- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Hull Parks Commission was called to order on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Janeen Cooper, Jim Mendyke, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski

Excused: Brian Hicks, Mike O’Keefe

- 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 PARKS MEETING.**  
*Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.*

- 3) **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NONE.**

- 4) **ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.**

Wilz I appreciate everybody being here and serving. Brian and Mike are excused this evening. This Parks season I anticipate three meetings, similar to last year. One now, one in mid-July and one after Labor Day.

Mr. Archie Sawyer called from the township the other day and asked for permission to use Meadow Manor baseball field, I’m guessing for some sort of practice for baseball teams. He says they want to use it quite a bit. Barb had e-mailed me and asked if they can utilize it and I said absolutely. I haven’t called him back to follow up but it looks like someone found one of our play fields and wants to utilize it which is great.

Trivia question, we’ll see if you read your spring newsletter: What percent of your 2012 individual property tax bill you received in December, payable in 2013, goes to support Hull services?

Mendyke 12%

Cooper 15%

Wilz You’re choices are 10, 15, 25, 40 or 60.

Stoltz I know I read it.

Schroeder I was going to say 10%.

Wilz It's 15%. John put that in there because we need to stress that if you've got a \$2,000 tax bill for your particular home, taxes go out for other things like the school district, voc-tech, Portage County but almost the smallest percentage of that goes to your municipal government that gives you the most of your services. We forget to remind citizens of that when they're at meetings. If you've got a \$2,000 tax bill, about \$300 went to take care of everything you see looking out the window. The rest of it you may or may not receive a direct benefit for.

We bid out our refuse contract since we met last as the contract was up. We had 3 vendors involved. The current one is Harter's which took over from Wittenberg Disposal when they had some financial problems. Then we had Veolia and IROW. We gave them all the information and they bid on it. Then we asked them to supplement it and put their numbers in. We asked for curbside service similar to what we were receiving before which is, you put your cans out and it got picked up by the guys in the truck who had to jump out and dump it in. Everybody bid it 2 ways except for Harter's. The other 2 bid it 2 ways, the curbside service and then the carts like what we currently have and that's the way the industry is going. Municipalities have been doing it for years. In fact Harter's said they wouldn't even bid on curbside, they're just not going to do that anymore. There are too many loss-time injuries from backs going out. There's equipment out there that makes it so efficient. Their cart service was significantly less than everybody else's. In fact, the cart service we ended up with them, our trash bill went down for the whole township about \$20,000. That contract is roughly about \$280,000. So it went down about 8-9%. There was some concern. How would residents react to the big cans?

Cooper They are huge!

Wilz I know. There may be an opportunity to get smaller ones.

Cooper I think so too because when I was looking at the parks today, I saw some smaller cans. So I thought I'm going to ask her if they've got smaller cans. I don't know where we're going to put those big ones.

Stoltz They do have smaller ones if you need them.

Wilz If you call down here, Barb can explain to you how you can get those. It was one of those things that became very apparent to us that if we get a contract like we had, it'll be the last one we get so we might as well start moving that way. Especially as we couldn't increase our taxes anyway so we were looking for ways to pare down expenses. Other than the size, I think people are quite happy with it. I'm amazed, if you've ever watched them do that, that guy never gets out of that truck. He comes down that street and they've got to be 2 or 3 times faster or more efficient. That was part of the cost savings too. They would be able to get a lot of volume done in a shorter period of time. I don't know how they handle the recycling once they take it down to the recycling center because all that gets dumped in and I know they sort down

there. They want you to put newspapers inside paper bags but when he dumps it in upside down, where does all that go?

Stoltz           It squashes it and must just break those bags.

Wilz            So that's what's happening with our contract. I think that's a 5-year contract with them. They get some relief based off of an index so they don't have to come back and negotiate. It's monitored financially. We're pleased that Harter's got it and they've done a good job taking over from Wittenberg.

I want to point out a few things in the newsletter that are different this year. Spring cleanup – with the Trash & Treasure Days, that's not really new but if you haven't utilized that before, it's becoming pretty popular. The idea is that if they pick up your trash starting on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> in your area; put it out the day before. People are getting the word out. Barb, in the past has even put something in the Buyer's Guide. People come through and they pick the garbage and they utilize it. So if you haven't done that before, consider it. The other thing in the newsletter that's different this year, we're having brush pickup which starts next week Monday but we resized the piles. We made them larger, right Pete?

Kaminski       Yes.

Wilz            Almost twice the size. People can put in twice the amount because we raised it up to what the road crew can accommodate. They used to use the chipper then they got the big claw. That should help some people out.

Also different this year is that in the past we would bring in a dumpster for tire collection. It got heavily utilized. Unfortunately we weren't certain who was utilizing it. We were taking your tax money and hauling away those dumpsters full of tires and they were getting quite costly. We didn't have a real handle on who was putting it in there. We also had some local business guys who were putting in big monster tires. So we talked about how do we control costs and still have the service. Barb did some investigation and through some of our other township friends we found a company by the name of Wellers. They'll come in for 2 days and set up dumpsters. They'll help you put your tires in there for a nominal fee. Cheaper than it would be to drop it off at a tire store. At the same time, which is different, they'll also help you with your recycling of electronics. So if you've got tires to bring over and you've got an old computer and don't know what to do with it, an old TV, they'll help you out with that at 20 cents per pound and it'll save you from having to run it down to Plover. So that's different and new this year.

John wrote an article about a water study that has been on-going now for a year or two in the Town of Hull. We're committed, as a Board, to continue to study this. In fact we put some money in the budget to do some sampling once we can get a little more cooperation from the City. We'll start testing. We'll ask citizens in certain areas to participate.

Stoltz           Talking about wells, has anybody been talking about their water tables going down since the.....?

Wilz            They are. John is moving forward on that, trying to get that information, if it's hearsay or what's the science behind it because the City needs to know that. That mayor has

been out to a meeting a few years ago and he formally said, “If that thing draws down and we can get data on that, we’ll have to make it right by you.” So he put it out there. So we’re committed to do some sampling.

The building expansion which had been talked about a number of years ago that was put on hold because of budgetary things has been kicked off again. Where we’re moving on it is not a new building but we’re talking renovation in the areas that are needed in this building with an addition going out the front towards the parking lot. Adding on the equivalent of about the length of this room in terms of square footage on the front. Instead of a complete job at around 2-3 million like we estimated a few years ago, we’re looking at \$350,000 to \$400,000. That thing will start getting legs in a few months so we’ll keep you informed.

Portage County has put together a task force for bikes and pedestrian safety and opportunity. The concept is what can municipalities throughout Portage County do together to create more safe recreational opportunities for citizens. Portage County has hired a nationally reputable firm out of Madison who comes in to study everything from where schools are to why aren’t the kids riding their bikes to school, how can we make that safe? Things like, we have a biker who wants to go from this township to that township, how can they do it without taking their life in their hands, or what recommendations can we give? I serve on that committee as a representative of Hull. It’s broken up into 3 areas now, the City, the villages/townships, and the County with technical support. They’ve been studying the County for 4 or 5 months. They’ve been doing bicycle counts this time of year and coming up with recommendations like whether we add to the sides of the roads or it can be a multitude of items. The idea is that they should be able to be implemented if the funding is there. They’re also going to help us discover ways to fund some of these things. It’s a plan to do it across the County. That’s a good thing. Instead of everybody doing their own thing and trying to do stuff, why can’t we hold hands together and get that going.

## 5) REVIEW OF PARK INSPECTION SHEETS.

### *Meadow Manor – Jim Mendyke*

Mendyke Changes from last year, I don’t know about the picnic tables but the one out there is peeling pretty good. I don’t know what the schedule is for repainting.

Kaminski I think most of them are.

Stoltz I think mine are.

Schroeder Mine too.

Mendyke So that was the main maintenance item out there. It’s already filled up with chips and looks good from that standpoint. I did notice that we only have one new planting from those 3 new lilac bushes we planted. The other ones didn’t make it?

Kaminski The other ones, no. We had 2 trees in there plus the 3 lilac bushes. One died and I think we pulled it out last year.

Mendyke Then there's an evergreen by the sign that's dead, all brown. I didn't notice that big oak, did we take that down last year? The one by the sign?

Kaminski No, we didn't take that down. Once they die, you're supposed to wait like 2 years. If it was a hazard, like if I see dead limbs hanging down.

Mendyke Looking around, until I looked at my notes, I didn't even remember that it was dead. Although this time of year it's kind of hard to tell sometimes. Overall the equipment was in good shape. That merry-go-round is still a little wobbly.

Kaminski You can't do anything with that. We stuck in new bearings and that's just the way it is, it's just wore out.

Stoltz I think the one at Sorenson is the same way, it's got a little bit of play in it but they sure use it.

Mendyke The fence by the baseball diamond is in good shape, so if they want to use that field, that's just a grass infield there.

Kaminski He doesn't want it worked up there, was he asking for that?

Wilz No, he was asking permission to get a large amount of kids out there organized to practice and I said they can go ahead and do that. That's what it's there for.

What is this spinner-ok, didn't notice cracks.

Mendyke Last year I had a note on there, I didn't see it but I didn't look specifically for them. I don't know if you caulked them.

Kaminski Yes, we did caulk them.

Mendyke So that park's in good shape. Once it's mowed and the leaves are picked up. Other than that dead evergreen.

Kaminski Did you notice our new siren in there?

Mendyke No, I didn't notice it.

Kaminski Really? Wow!

Wilz It's quite large.

Kaminski There's a big post in the ground, it's like 65' up.

Mendyke See, I didn't look up.

Wilz            If you're out in that area about 11 a.m. on a Saturday morning, you'd notice it. It's working great from what I understand. That was important to get that up.

Mendyke        That's good.

Wilz            It sounds like a little bit of clean up and paint.

### ***Somerset Park – Janeen Cooper***

Kaminski        That last fall fertilizer application, I cut it in half. Right now it's kind of early yet but I'll check the parks this summer and if they still look as lush as they did last year.

Stoltz            There's a lot of dry spots in the parks because of that drought last year.

Cooper            One thing for sure, there's a tree that's hung up in the branches right next to the ball diamond so that's really got to come down because it's really close and it's broken off at the bottom. The other thing is that pathway that goes through the back to Somerset Drive, those people have that split rail fence there, I think they own that right?

Kaminski        Yes.

Cooper            On the bottom in the ground, there's a few pieces of the wood still left but the other ones have rotted out so there are nails sticking straight out. If I would have had a hammer today when I went and looked, I would have ..... I stepped them down as best I could but they've got to get pulled out. I can go tomorrow too, if you think.

Kaminski        No, I can take care of that.

Cooper            I didn't think it was ours but some little boy is going to stub his toe.

Kaminski        I believe he has steel pipes out there. His fence is right on the property line. It does belong to him but like you say, with those nails, if some kid would come tearing along.

Cooper            Everything else seems to be in pretty good condition except the picnic tables need to be scraped and 2 of the 3 benches. The paint is coming off the jungle gym but it's really smooth, it's coming back down to that regular steel so it's not a problem. On the top of the big swing set, you might want to take a look at that and see if you need to paint that.

Kaminski        We did it 2 years ago and it wasn't like 2 weeks later there were some kids out there with sticks chipping at the paint. They also take our chains on the swing sets and they wrap them around that.

Cooper            On the monkey bars, take a look at a couple of those washers, a couple are getting kind of rusty.

Kaminski        I've got washers here.

Cooper            There's just 2 of them so I don't know why they're doing that. Everything else looked really good.

Kaminski        That guy that used to use that baseball field, he doesn't live around here anymore?

Cooper            No.

Kaminski        So do you want me to keep that park's baseball field graded?

Wilz              There's a question here by Janeen and Mike, are we going to continue to re-grade? We've got it there, we might as well.

Cooper            It was getting a little overgrown but you can still see it. The garbage can behind the backstop, did you move that?

Kaminski        We had it there when they're playing baseball. We opened up our parks today and cleaned out the garbage cans.

***Jordan Acres – Done by Brian Hicks*** who was excused/not there. His report will be submitted at a later time.

### ***Sorenson – Maurice Stoltz***

Stoltz            Sorenson is in good shape. It's hard to tell if the trees are because they aren't budding yet. The picnic tables need paint. The park sign could use paint by the end of the year, it's getting pretty faded. The fence for the backstop on the baseball field is in good shape. All the bouncing things are good. The climbing wall works good.

### ***Treder's Woodland – Maurice Stoltz***

Stoltz            I walked through that. All the trees seemed to be okay. Some animal has a hole dug up to the north. It wasn't very deep but there's a big pile of dirt so somebody is starting to make a nest there.

Kaminski        Probably a woodchuck.

Stoltz            All the spruce trees have grown nice.

Kaminski        Without watering them last year, they would have all died. We lost a lot inside your (*Dave Wilz*) park.

Wilz              Yes, and those were 2 year ones.

Kaminski        They were a lot older. Some of them were about 8 years old. They were already 25' tall. I cut down about 8 last fall.

***Eastwood- Dave Wilz*** (Near Oakridge where part of the park is in Hull and part in the City)

Wilz Eastwood is in pretty good shape. Of the 2 parks I inspected, the paint on the benches and the picnic tables were in phenomenal shape because they did it during the season last year and that paint held up very well. Everything is in really good shape with the exception of the shelter. It has 2 or 3 shingles missing again. It had them missing last year and I know you replaced them because these are different ones so the wind must get at that in the wintertime. The chips all need to be raked back into place in all the landing zones although the chip level is pretty adequate. From what I could tell, the trees looked like they were budding out but when I was out there, it's kind of hard to tell. The newer activity center looks good. Overall it's in great shape other than that shelter.

Schroeder Did the City ever grind up that trail for granite?

Kaminski No, I didn't see anything.

Wilz I walked those trails and the granite, other than grass that grew through, some of the plastic is starting to pop. They really do need to redress. Do you have a relationship with Schrader over there?

Kaminski No I don't. I think you used to go to him right?

Schroeder Yes. I'll call the forester. Sometimes I can get more work done with him.

Wilz It's not in rough shape but you can tell it's going the wrong way.

Kaminski It needs maintenance.

Schroeder They said they were going to do that.

Stoltz Every spring, they used to just do that, shallow rotor till it.

***Pleasant View West-Dave Wilz***

Wilz This is the one by my house. The ball diamond is being used heavily again as the little kids are getting ready for their season and it's in pretty good shape. All the benches and the picnic tables there are for the most part okay. There's just little spots where it's starting to chip. It's not real rough but a quick scrape and a touch of paint, and the sign there could use a little touch up. The equipment is in pretty good shape overall. The new activity center still looks super. Chips needs to be brought back in (raked). The trees appear to have buds. The only thing there is the paint. Seats were in great shape on the swings.

Stoltz Are you replacing all the swing seats with the solid ones eventually?

Kaminski Last fall I bought a bunch and we replaced inside Jordan and Somerset, I think we're almost done.

Schroeder I think mine are all done.

Stoltz            There's one at Sorenson, there's one hard one and two strap ones yet.

Kaminski        Usually whatever I take out I put back in. That's what the people seem to be used to. Nobody really requests anything special.

Stoltz            I was just wondering if you were switching over to hard seats instead of the strap ones.

Kaminski        I have hard ones for the younger kids and straps for the older ones.

### ***Pleasant View East – Roland Schroeder***

Schroeder       Overall Pleasant View is in excellent shape. All of the chips are very good because I think you did that in the fall. The only area I think we missed the chips are the walking trails. I couldn't see hardly any chips on those trails. I think part of that was because there was a lot of wind damage. Pete's crew must have spent a lot of hours in there because of the trees that could be hazardous and they got them cleaned up. You've got some piled and the rest are all laid down. So it's better that the trail didn't look like you could use it because I don't think it would have been good for them to be on it.

Kaminski        I cut up a bunch of white pine in there. Can I leave that stuff in the parks? I've got it off our walking trails.

Wilz             I would think it would be suitable for the animals in there, especially in that location.

Kaminski        That's what I was thinking. Anything that was rotten, I cut off so it's not a hazard. We cut out all of the dead wood, in your park too.

Schroeder       Right, I noticed that too. So they spend a lot of time there. The picnic table, to consider that; to paint it somewhere along the line. The park sign, the entrance, everything is good. The spruce trees that have been in there for quite some time, they've grown a couple of feet. They're right along 39/51 so that's going to make a nice barrier through there. Then there were a couple that you planted, it looks like the sap wants to pour out so I'm not sure. It'll take a little longer, some more warm weather. You might have to yank some of those. Other than that I don't think there was anything that I saw that needed anything. All the swing seats, they're all in excellent shape. It's really being used. I noticed a lot of cars, a lot stop with their kids playing.

Stoltz            Even Sorenson is used a lot.

### ***Conifer Acres – Roland Schroeder***

Schroeder       Conifer, everything is great. It appears someone might have tried cooking at that picnic table because it does have burn marks and it looks like a little hole down through the center of it. I don't know if someone put a small charcoal grill or something on top and it went through or caught on fire. I watch that fairly close when the kids are over there. They like to

sometimes crawl up on that shelter roof. But that's the only thing I noticed there. There was no garbage can. I know there was one last year.

Kaminski Yes, I'll get one.

Schroeder But if we don't need one there, they could dump it over in the City-side though.

Kaminski I've got old barrels here I can use.

Schroeder We always had that cardboard neighborhood watch sign. If we could get a metal one like we have down on the other side, that will really enhance it. You can't hardly read it. With all the cutting of the wood and the stuff that blew over, the stuff that was hanging up and might have fallen on the trail, those are all down and it looks great. A lot of them are also laid down along the side of the trail so they know where the trail is. I think we're keeping that in its natural state like we said we would do, same as over here at Plover Heights.

Wilz That's a neighborhood watch sign, is that what you said?

Schroeder Right. That's the one that if you see something happening, you call the police.

Wilz Do you have those?

Kaminski I think I have some, yes.

Wilz Otherwise that's Portage County Sheriff's Department.

Kaminski I did order some, I know, a while back.

Schroeder We always put them up before, right?

Wilz Yes.

Kaminski We only do it if people ask for them. We don't advertise it.

Wilz That original program, to become a neighborhood watch, you had to bring the sheriff in and do the community meeting with the neighbors. We have a very active neighbor in our neighborhood that still organizes it every summer and we get together in the park in the middle of August for a cookout. Deputies come in and then occasionally they'll bring an extra sign if yours is getting a little faded. It's almost like you had to earn it to get the sign. But they work, I know that. People will notice if those signs are in the neighborhood.

Schroeder If you have a sign when you do call in like when they're having a party, more off to that back end, like the sign says, if you see something unusual, especially if it's after 10 p.m., they rather you call and not go back and check.

***Plover Heights Conservancy – Pete Kaminski***

Kaminski I walked through it, it looks good. The trees are growing, budding. The grass is turning green. The water was running in the back there. It looks good.

Stoltz We don't have to cut the tops of those pine trees off for that guy with the solar collector?

Kaminski No.

Mendyke A couple of his new plantings died too.

Kaminski Yes, 2 of the little spruces.

*A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to accept the inspection reports, motion seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.*

**6) OTHER EQUIPMENT NEEDS – REQUEST FOR ATTACHMENTS FOR SMALL TRACTOR – PETE K. (handouts were looked at)**

Kaminski This first one would be a King Kutter rotary tiller. That would be the one to attach to the tractor to work up the ball diamond. This is a Fleet Farm price, I don't think you will find it anyplace cheaper. I've been kind of watching.

Wilz So this is for baseball diamonds. Is there any other purpose that it can be utilized for in the Town of Hull?

Kaminski Yes. When a guy builds a road, once you're ditches are set, you can work them up and seed grass in them. Do we have a lot of use for that thing, no.

Wilz Probably not. Okay. What's the next one?

Kaminski That one there is \$1,600. The next one is a box scraper.

Wilz What do we do with that?

Kaminski I could use it for shouldering by hitching it up to the tractor. I can use it inside the parks too with the trails. You can put the chips on, pull them, level them, push them, sand, whatever. It is just a good piece to have.

Wilz So that's for parks and roads. So it can be utilized for more than one thing.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Then, page 3.

Kaminski The next is a seeder/fertilizer spreader. The fertilizer spreader we have now is an old time the little pull one we put behind the Murray tractor that's on its last leg. That tractor is probably 40 years old. This we could utilize it with seeding grass, spreading fertilizer. This goes on the back of the tractor. I could even spread salt in the wintertime but I don't want to use it for that because I don't want it rusted up.

Wilz With an attachment like this, let's say you had to go and replace the one you're currently using for the parks, does this one broadcast out a larger swath than that?

Kaminski Yes. You can adjust it for how many pounds you put on per acre, with your speed, your Power Take Off running.

Wilz Oh, this is PTO fed, not just wheels throwing it out. You're disbursing it with this.

Kaminski Yes. This would be used for parks and for ditch lines too when we build a road and seed the ditches.

Wilz If you had to replace the one that you currently have, to tow behind some other piece of equipment, what would that cost?

Kaminski My little spreader? I've never bought one Dave. I'm guessing about \$150.

Wilz What's the next one?

Kaminski The next one is for doing landscape. It's called a landscape rake. If you would rotor till up our ball diamond and then hitch this thing up, it'll clean up all your rocks and weeds. It pulls everything to the top. Your sun dries it out. I can use this again, too, for seeding the ditches, seeding grass, different uses.

Wilz The next one, the Harley Rake.

Kaminski This next one would be used for shouldering, we could work up the sod on the shoulder and we could use it inside the baseball diamond instead of buying that other tiller. This one I would use for my roads and parks. But this one comes with a price tag of \$9,700.

Schroeder It's almost like a thatcher, isn't it.

Kaminski Yes. It'll take sod, mix it up, gravel like on our gravel park trails. We could mix it and do it ourselves. It's a different style.

Wilz But right up there on the money, but another \$10,000.

Stoltz If you go to that King Cutter rotor tiller on the first page and this one here, there's a big difference.

Kaminski I could probably find some of this stuff used off of Craig's List. When I see it, if I can buy it, I've got to have whatever money you would okay. Do I need a new tiller? No. I could buy one that's 5 years old.

Wilz You would like to get authorization tonight to purchase some equipment within a certain dollar amount.

Kaminski Correct.

Wilz So that whenever you bump into it you can take advantage of it.

Kaminski Exactly. This box scraper, I would like to go buy that new. This one for \$589, you're not going to find it any cheaper.

## **7) REVIEW OF PARKS BUDGET – 2013.**

Wilz We have a playground equipment budget of \$7,000. We have a landscaping portion of the budget at \$5,000. Equipment and maintenance is \$2,000. But there are other items that go into some of those line items. As far as equipment goes this year, we had decided last summer the big items, part of that 7-8 year plan, got done, you put the last piece in last year. Now we were going to take some time and update things, keep things safe, replace and that sort of thing. But we were for a long time spending \$15,000 to \$18,000 a year. We don't have those expenditures now. That's why the budget item went down to \$7,000 with replacing things. Pete, based off the budget you see here, if we were to look at the Equipment and Maintenance portion which is \$2,000, how much of that do you think is available for equipment?

Kaminski Oh, \$1,000. The Equipment and Maintenance is where I mainly buy filters and oil for my lawn mower, blades, wheels, whatever I need.

Wilz We can't do anything with labor and FICA because that's all driven by labor and retirement. How much of Landscaping do you think might be available to go towards these items?

Stoltz Your landscaping is strictly your chips and fertilizer.

Kaminski And I buy flowers for the front sign by the highway.

Wilz Occasionally we've picked up a tree here and there if we felt we needed it. About how much do you think?

Kaminski Probably \$1,500.

Wilz So there would probably be \$1,500 left. I know chips can be expensive.

Schroeder This year we might not need as much, right? Because we did them later last year.

Kaminski We still do them every year.

Schroeder But last year we used quite a few.

Wilz In Playground Equipment we have \$7,000 for the 2012 approved budget. We've got \$7,500 in there for 2013. In the Playground Equipment Pete, how much do you think would be left over?

Kaminski We're not buying anything this year, not anything big. I'm going to buy a bunch of swing seats, stainless steel chains.

Schroeder I'd like to see a couple more bouncy things over at Pleasant View. We've only got one. I think we should have a couple more.

Kaminski If I remember right, those were \$500 each.

Wilz That's why we're doing this now. Rollie is right. We don't have to put it all in equipment. We can buy other things that we could use.

Schroeder I don't know if any other parks need it. I think I had it on my report that we should have a couple more there. You get a lot of small kids in that park.

Kaminski I think it was \$460 last year.

Schroeder If we took Playground Equipment and just looked at \$2,000. If other parks need some of these bouncy things.

Wilz I was going to say out of the \$7,500 that's been approved, to take half of it and set it aside for future use.

Schroeder You could take chips out of that equipment so to speak because it is a maintenance item for the equipment. We can move the money around. What I'd like to do on the equipment, I'd suggest, I would take these 3 new parts and I would move Pete to be authorized to purchase those and we can juggle the budget and deal with the cutter separate.

Wilz I'm good with that but I'm trying to see how much we really have here to apply to that.

Schroeder What we looked at right now, I think you already covered. I'm talking about the King Kutter box blade at \$589, the Seed Spreader at \$519 and the King Kutter landscape rake at \$399. All three of them are really a combination tool for here and for there (*parks and roads*) and that's a selling point and it's going to cut down on labor.

Wilz The Seeder/Spreader just makes a lot of sense because we use that every year.

Stoltz Those 3 parts are like \$1,500.

Wilz We had talked last year about if we could make that tractor happen that we would end up having to buy some things to really be able to utilize it. But I'm with Rollie too, we don't want to not do some things that we should be doing in the other parks.

Schroeder It's going to hold your labor costs down. These are labor-saving devices. You send a person out there with the tractor and you don't need a couple of people.

Kaminski I saw from last year when I was putting down chips, it only took 2 days instead of the 2 weeks it took before when we used only a wheelbarrow and 2 guys.

Wilz The prime example of labor savings, I wouldn't have believed it, but you asked us to consider buying a new lawn mower and we did that even though we had good life on that other one. With the new technology, we got something that is so fast, so efficient that it just cut the mowing time by 30 – 45%.

Stoltz He can cut it in 45 minutes.

Kaminski I think that was like \$15,000 too.

Wilz We paid for it just in the first season with labor savings and we got a brand new machine out of the deal. That works. Janeen, do you have any thoughts on this?

Cooper I think it really makes a lot of sense.

Wilz The only other thing I'd like to add is that we utilize this equipment and do some of the things people have talked about before whether it's cutting walking paths through areas that we didn't have a way to do before without just using manpower. Maybe if we're done with the parks that we take opportunities to do those types of things, whether it's Meadow Manor or maybe over by you.

Schroeder When you're reporting, you report at the Board meeting?

Kaminski Yes.

Schroeder When he reports at the Board meeting, he then can highlight that with the additional list, we'll be able to do this and this and still maintain our labor budget. Before we concentrated on the 2 part-timers but they could keep tractors running and so forth. We had more labor and there was some question as to whether the parks were really correct at times. So with the new mower, the labor is there and we put it with the equipment so it's a balancing act. We looked at the whole thing rather than just one item and concentrated on that.

Wilz I think overall, the feeling from the rest of the Board is that with the help of this Commission and the decisions we've made over the past couple of years, the whole Parks operations have been very well managed and we're getting our arms around things.

Schroeder The other thing is now you have to go around the parks and ask them if they like the parks, is this there and whatever. Before, we'd get comments like is it going to be playable for us and the kids. Now I see a mother reading a book and looking up once in a while and the kids are having fun. The older kids playing. We've come a long way.

Stoltz People making comments are from out of state and they're saying, "I can't believe the parks you have." Just on our side over there, there's 3 between Conifer Acres, Pleasant View East and Sorenson within an 8 block area.

*A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to take these 3 new parts and Pete to be authorized to purchase the King Kutter box blade at \$589, the Seed Spreader at \$519 and the King Kutter landscape rake at \$399. Motion was seconded by Janeen Cooper. Motion passed.*

Schroeder On the other two pieces of equipment, I would suggest that Pete give us an idea of how much he would... would you want this one and this one?

Kaminski No, just one of them.

Schroeder If he can go on the Internet and look. Because the Harley is a little more money to come up with scraping out of our budget. Whereas if this one is going to do the better job, I would hate to see us spend money on this first one here.

Kaminski There was a used Harley earlier this spring on Craig's List at \$3,500. But I didn't have authorization so I couldn't do anything.

Wilz I understand. Hopefully there will be another one.

Kaminski I'll keep watching.

Wilz You'd have to make that pitch on the benefit of the roads. Because even at \$3,500, how can the Parks take half their budget to rip up 1 or 2 infields?

Schroeder If you needed a motion for endorsement, if you feel we should go ahead with it, because minimal use would be with the parks and maximum would be for the ditches. I would support getting this piece of equipment up to \$5,000 and that gives you a little breathing room. Then if you can get it for \$3,500, you'd look like a hero.

Wilz I know we voted on those specific pieces of equipment but he's bringing forth another idea to be supporting of this.

*A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to authorize Pete to look for the 4<sup>th</sup> piece of equipment (Harley) up to \$5,000. Motion seconded by Dave Wilz. Motion passed.*

Kaminski These 3, you gave me the authority?

Wilz            When you need them, at your discretion, if you want to find a better deal.

Stoltz           You'd get them from Fleet Farm?

Kaminski       That's where I looked on-line but I can watch Craig's List and buy them used. The box scraper I would not buy used.

Wilz            Let's talk about the Parks budget that Patty passed out to you. We have the 2012 right along with the proposed budget. They are basically the same with an increase to the Sign the Town by \$500 and Playground Equipment we increased by \$500. The only other thing was the retirement expense which went up because of some calculations. Basically our budget is almost the same as it was, \$23,302 versus \$22,249. Historically that's significantly less than where we had been for 7 or 8 years because we had always had that extra \$15,000 to \$18,000 for the big equipment. The budgets were always \$38,000 to \$40,000. We've got Parks set up and we've got Equipment in pretty good shape. I'm feeling pretty good about this.

Cooper           What is the increase in the Sign the Town? Are we going to be doing that now?

Wilz            What did this group do?

Kaminski       I think I brought that up to replace that sign by Hwy. 66 and put some landscape block and do a nice job. Randy Herman, from our road crew, he's a landscaper and he could whip that out real quick. I'd like to talk to him to get some ideas. I know that road right of way is ours. I've got a letter inside of my office. But if we take down the old stuff, are we allowed to put up new, or maybe it's got to stay the way it is because it's grandfathered in there. I guess I'd have to find that out.

Wilz            You better find that out. You answered Janeen's question. That's how we got there, was his suggestion.

Kaminski       We should do something really nice there.

Wilz            The original \$300 of Sign the Town was always in there and I wasn't going to remove something that was already in there.

Schroeder      What had happened was John Holdridge addressed our group. We were having a hard time keeping Commission people and one thing we just couldn't get a budget to buy equipment and that's where you see the \$20,000. He committed to that. But then he said, "I'd like to see the Town Sign to be something like Whiting." Well how do you sign the town, where is the Town of Hull? With Whiting, you're coming in and it looks really great. But this would make sense and it would show up. I think our citizens would really like that.

Amman           Is he talking about changing the sign or just the base?

Kaminski       I would like to replace that whole sign and everything, put something more modern up.

Schroeder When you're doing something on a house, if you're just replacing, you can leave it, you'd just be replacing something that's dormant.

Stoltz You might have to leave one timber up and build around it.

Kaminski I would leave it the same size but like I said, put nice landscape blocks, do a round oval, now we've got a square.

Wilz Refresh it.

Kaminski Plant flowers and put nice rock in there.

Schroeder Who handles that? Is that the zoning people for the county?

Wilz That's where I'd start.

Schroeder So I would start there and say you want to replace that sign.

Wilz Talk to Chuck Kell.

Kaminski I got a letter last year that's inside my office that John gave me because we're always wondering about that. People are sticking their voting signs up and that is our responsibility to keep that clean.

Wilz While we're talking about projects, is there anything this group can remember that we had talked about in the past, that once we got this equipment and got the pieces to do things with, that we said we're going to want to do this because we should give Pete the go ahead on that tonight. I remember there was talk about near Meadow Manor. You had mentioned putting some sort of walking trail. More cleaning.

Schroeder That's a beautiful area there. It was one of the citizens that came across because they thought we were going to take out those swing sets and he said, "You don't move them, you can put new stuff, but you don't move our swing sets." That area has a nice little brook running through. If we'd start to clean it up, it doesn't flood too often back there. It would be nice for picnic tables. If it was cleaned up a little bit, the mosquitoes wouldn't be as bad. I looked at it more as a natural nature thing which we seem to endorse. We could have some trails.

Stoltz How far does the property go back there?

Kaminski To that fence. I know from walking through there at all times of the year, it is more swampy lower ground. There's not water there at all times but 60% of the time there's probably water there.

Wilz           Pete, sometime between now and the next meeting in July, would you get out there, take a look at it and make some recommendations on what you think would work and what you guys could do and bring that back to the July meeting.

Kaminski      What I'll do is take a measurement of the area and write up a paper so you can look at the measurements.

Schroeder     Sometimes wetland you can't fill in. But I was thinking if we were scraping off and add some piles of dirt, we could actually expand that and terrace it down and make it look more like a pond.

Wilz           So if you could put together some ideas and concepts based on your understanding of the water table. We don't want to do work that's just going to disappear next spring. What you might recommend to the group for us to consider. Is there any other areas like that? That is the one I remember you had brought up. It needs cleaning up and it makes sense.

Kaminski      You were talking about Somerset too, that corner there. Years ago the guys pulled some stuff out of there. It was just brush and now there's burr oaks in there.

Schroeder     Any of those areas we own, we should clean them up and make them look better.

Kaminski      There's all young brush coming in there now. It is a good nature thing too. It all depends on whatever you guys want.

Wilz           That would be great, Pete, if you can bring that back. Does anybody have anything else?

*A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to accept the discussion about the Parks Budget. Motion was seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed.*

Schroeder     If we're going to put in some of these bouncy things, is Brian working on a few of the small ones? Or do you need a motion to buy 4 or 5 and spread them around? I'd like to see 2 over in Pleasant View.

Cooper        Are you talking about those little animals that you put your children on?

Kaminski      Yes, ladybug or whatever.

Schroeder     I call them bouncy things because I don't know what else to call them.

Wilz           We don't have any here. Whatever we've purchased, you put those in place right away.

Schroeder     I know it's not a big thing to install them.

Stoltz I know those surf boards and that stuff over in Sorenson, there's someone on those things all the time.

Schroeder I'd like to see Pleasant View have a couple then I don't know if there's any other parks that need them.

Stoltz There's none of those spring ones by Kirchling East (*Pleasant View*)?

Wilz Yes, that one is a tractor, kind of looks like a tractor. That play area there is small because what dominates there is the baseball diamond. Then Eastwood, we've got buttons and bouncies all over the place. That one is in really great shape so I don't need any.

Cooper I've got two. We've got a lot of equipment there, little and big stuff.

Schroeder We used to have 3 of those older ones with springs and they were too dangerous so we took them all out and we never really replaced them there but we put the big jungle jim in. I don't know if it was that one where we put one more in that area, but there's only one.

Stoltz I know in Sorenson we have 2, a little duck and another one.

Schroeder I was wondering at this meeting, if we'd want to approve purchasing 4. We'll take 2 and put 2 in other parks that don't have any.

Kaminski They're simple to put in. You dig a hole, buy some concrete, throw them in.

Cooper You have 2 in each of your parks them?

Wilz I'm pretty well set over there with the big piece of equipment.

Stoltz Are you talking Kirshling (*Pleasant View*) by your house?

Wilz Yes. That's Pleasant View West.

Kaminski You want it in Pleasant View East right?

Schroeder Yes, I meant east.

Cooper So you want a total of 2 in your park?

Schroeder Two. We have one then we'll have 3. I notice when the little ones are there and playing, one wants the what the other has. Before, when they were spread apart, they would be on this one and run to the others. It makes sense.

Stoltz I know when the grandkids come over, they've got to play on every piece of equipment, not just one.

Wilz            Whether we get Brian involved or you look in a catalog or I look in a catalog, we're capable of picking out a few items.

Kaminski      I'll order them. Just tell me how many you want.

Schroeder     Do you think there are other parks that need some?

Kaminski      Meadow Manor has got 2 of them.

Wilz            I can't say it's always like this but in the past few years when we've ordered equipment, they're giving us the best deal when we order it even if it's on August 1<sup>st</sup>. They just want to sell so we don't have to do that kind of pre-planning.

Stoltz          You had to have it ordered by March otherwise you'd lose the discount.

Wilz            If we order 2 more and find we need 2 more, we can order them later on.

Kaminski      Is there room in that park (Pleasant View) in that existing area?

Schroeder     I think you can get it right in that area because the one is way off in this corner and I think we could easily move them around.

Wilz            I think buying new equipment is great if we feel it'll be utilized.

*A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to buy 2 bouncing park equipment pieces and put them in Pleasant View (east) on the end of Audrey's Lane. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.*

**8)      DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** *The next Parks Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 6:30p.m.*

Wilz    This would be to see how things are going and to listen to Pete's report. Then we'll follow up later on in the fall (*with budget*).

**9)      ADJOURNMENT.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with a motion made by Maurice Stoltz and seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman  
Parks Commission Secretary  
Town of Hull, Portage County