

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 2, 2026**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, February 2, 2026 at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 Call to Order** –Chair Knizhnik called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.
- 2.0 Roll Call** – Secretary Shelton called the roll and five committee members responded: Chair Sara Knizhnik, Vice Chair Adam Schlick, Member Esiah Campos, Member Carissa Casbon and Member Kevin Hunter. Absent: Member Mary Ross Cunningham and Member Paras Parekh.

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, <i>President</i>	Alyssa Firkus	Dan Stearns
Alex Ty Kovach	Mary Kann	Maureen Shelton
John Nelson	Kevin Kleinjan	Nataly Lara
Ron Davis	Steve Neaman	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Alex Eichman	Rebekah Snyder	

- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Schlick led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Vice Chair Schlick, second by Member Campos to approve minutes from January 5, 2026. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.
- 6.0 Public Comment** – None
- 7.0 Correspondence** – None
- 8.0 Unfinished Business** – None
- 9.0 New Business**

9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Dell Marketing L.P., for purchase of a three-year license for Microsoft software products, in an amount not to exceed \$187,153.98. Motion by Member Campos, second by Member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Chief Operations Officer, John Nelson, introduced this item and explained that this was deferred from the January meeting to work out purchasing details. Director of Administration, Mary Kann, provided information on the three-year contract. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

9.2 For Information Only - Update on ThunderHawk Golf Club equipment purchases. Mr. Nelson introduced this item and explained that in the past these equipment purchases would warrant review and approval by the Board, but with the most recent change in the State purchasing law and our purchasing policy the purchasing threshold increased to \$60,000.00 and we don't expect these purchases to be above the threshold amount. Therefore, staff are providing this update for information to this committee.

Director of Golf, Alex Eichman described the equipment changes since the approval of the 2026 budget. Noting that the new Golf Course Superintendent at ThunderHawk re-evaluated the condition of the existing equipment and maintenance goals and determined that the condition of the two primary fairway mowers budgeted to be replaced are satisfactory and those units do not need immediate replacement. Instead, golf staff recommend and intend to purchase other electric or pull behind pieces of equipment.

Member Casbon asked if the district is required to follow State purchasing law. Attorney Norton answered that the purchasing policy is written that our rules follow State statute, and he responded yes to an additional question on whether the policy could be changed. Member Casbon requested that President Vealitzek be the emissary for further discussions on this matter.

- 9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the purchase of police computer equipment from the County of Lake in the amount of \$68,250.00. Motion by Vice Chair Schlick, second by Member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced this item noting that Lake County is purchasing this equipment through a Sourcewell contract. Chief Ron Davis provided details on the purchase and the cost savings provided to the District by joining the County's purchase of the Toughbooks. Member Hunter stated that acquiring the same computers as used by the Sheriff's Office made sense operationally at this point and shared that other emergency service providers are starting to opt for other types of computers that could cost less. Vice Chair Schlick echoed that statement and requested moving forward that staff consider other alternatives that may be less expensive. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 9.4 Approve Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with Native Restoration Services, Inc. for the Lake Plain Invasive Plant Strike Team Project 2025, increasing the Contract Amount by \$53,652.62. Motion by Member Casbon, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. Dr. Pati Vitt, Director of Natural Resources, provided details of the change order noting that the change order is an extension of time and an increase in the contract amount due to additional grant funds. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.
- 9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution Pre-Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Vehicles pursuant to Section 6.0(J) of the District Purchasing Policy. Motion by Member Hunter, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced this item noting that this is the first time the district will be pre-authorizing the purchase of vehicles pursuant to the most recent change in the district's purchasing policy that allows for this new process. Director of Facilities, Dan Stearns provided details on the vehicles to be pre-authorized for upcoming purchases. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 9.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the disposal of surplus District vehicles, equipment, furnishings and other items through a public auction process. Motion by Member Casbon, second by Member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Director Stearns summarized the recommendation, and he and Mr. Nelson responded to questions about the process. Director of Finance, Steve Neaman responded to a question about the fund(s) the proceeds from the auction get applied to. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 9.7 For Information Only - Independence Grove 2025 Financial Performance. Using a presentation, Director Stearns reviewed the 2025 revenues and expenditures at Independence Grove and responded to questions.
- 11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**
- 12.0 Closed Session – None**
- 13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session – None**
- 14.0 Adjourn** –Chair Knizhnik noted that the next committee meeting will be a Joint Committee meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. and then adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen E. Shelton

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Date Approved: 3-5-2026