

**Lake County Forest Preserves
Finance Committee Minutes – January 8, 2026**

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s Finance Committee met at the District’s General Offices in Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – Chair Gina Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and confirmed electronic attendance for member Sandy Hart. President Jessica Vealitzek was present in the room to establish a physical quorum of the Committee.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and four committee members responded: Chair Gina Roberts, Sandy Hart, Diane Hewitt, Linda Pedersen; plus President Vealitzek. Absent: Angelo Kyle, Ann Maine, and Marah Altenberg.

Also Present:

Alex Kovach, Executive Director	Alyssa Firkus	Laurel Diver
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Julie Gragnani
John Nelson	Ron Davis	Sandy Meyers
Steve Neaman		

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by Hewitt, second by Pedersen to approve the open and closed session minutes of the December 4, 2025 meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment for items not on agenda – None

7.0 Correspondence – None

8.0 Unfinished Business - None

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Invoices and Requisitions - Motion by Pedersen, seconded by Hewitt to approve the legal billing for the month of October 2025. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the invoice was passed for signatures.

10.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

11.0 Closed Session – Motion by Pedersen, second by Hewitt to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:10 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:35 p.m.

12.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session

12.1 Recommend approval of a Three-Year Bargaining Agreement – Motion by Hewitt, second by Pedersen to recommend approval of a three-year Bargaining Agreement with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. Chief Operations Officer John Nelson summarized the substantive changes from the 2022 agreement, including adding five weeks paid parental leave; compressing salary ranges from 12 to 8 steps; changes to on-call; clarifying call-back procedures; increased reimbursement for footwear; timeline for bullet-proof vest replacement; longevity-based service recognition program; optional participation in the Wellness Program; lunch reimbursement procedures for off-site training programs; timing of vacation earnings to match non-

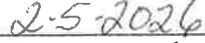
union employees; change to payment for Field Training Officer duties; identifying cannabis as a prohibited substance; revising language on physical fitness testing to align with District policy; increase monthly stipend for Interpreter; adding monthly stipends to participate in two task forces; and adding three days of paid bereavement leave. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Resolution was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

13.0 Adjournment - Chair Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gragnani, Committee Secretary



Date approved