

To: NGCA Members
From: Barney Caulfield, Chairman NGCA
Re: Minutes of NGCA monthly meeting of May 18, 2016

Members Present

Bernard Caulfield
J.P. Mereen
Richard Podurgiel
Michael Driscoll
Richard Strouse
David DiBattista
Charles Whitty

Others Present

Bruce Morse, Superintendent
Mike Svab, Pro Manager
Sandra Kuchta, Finance Department
Bob Malouf, Member's Club
Gordon Binkhorst, Senior Hydrologist, ALTA Environmental Corp.

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Caulfield.

Minutes

- A motion to receive and accept the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the Norwich Golf Course Authority was made by Mr. Mereen, seconded by Mr. DiBattista, and approved unanimously.

Upon Chairman Caulfield's request, a motion to suspend the rules to allow Gordon Binkhorst to make a presentation to the Authority on testing to determine the availability of a water supply at the course was made by Mr. Mereen, seconded by Mr. Podurgiel and approved unanimously.

Mr. Binkhorst indicated that he and his company had first examined the Norwich Golf Course for water supply in 1998 making five test borings, two of which showed some promise. In connection with his current examination, he had also examined a DEP map and identified older test well sites tested by the DEP in the 1970's, some of which also showed promise.

He re-tested the two borings which showed promise and one appeared capable of producing 300-500 gallons per minute. In his opinion this location and perhaps others on the course would be able to produce a sufficient water supply whereby the

Authority could draw up to 50,000 gallons of water per day as presently allowed without permitting. Mr. Morse indicated that the golf course uses approximately 20,000,000 gallons of water per year and in 2015, a dry year, he had used 21,550,000 gallons of water.

Mr. Binkhorst indicated that locating a water supply was the first step; as the course would also need a place to store water. Mr. Morse indicated that in hot weather he can use a million gallons of water in four days. Mr. Binkhorst suggested we should consider a lined pond for storage. If installed, a well would have a pump within it and water would be transferred by pipe from the well to the lined pond. A pumping station would need to supply the water from the pond to the irrigation system. The pumping station would probably make use of variable frequency drives which Mr. Morse opined were not that expensive to run.

Recognizing that 50,000 gallons per day would not be adequate to meet the courses needs there was discussion regarding permitting. While the process could be time consuming and expensive there was consensus that the easiest permit to obtain would be one to allow the diversion of up to 250,000 gallons of water per day by well.

Based on work done at other course, Mr. Binkhorst estimated a pond required to hold the water supply we would need would require the removal of approximately 40,000 cubic feet of soil and might cost \$60,000-80,000 to build and line. He indicated permitting would probably cost at least \$50,000-60,000 and he did not have figures for a pumping station or the additional piping which might be necessary to transport the water from the well and to the irrigation system. Following general discussion it was consensus that these matters should be looked into further.

Financial Report

Sandra Kuchta presented the financial report.

Revenues for the month of April 2016 were \$109,083.42 compared to budgeted revenues of \$164,897.62, \$55,796.20 under budgeted revenues and \$136,091.33 under April 2015 revenues.

Year to date revenues for April 2016 were \$406,247.96 compared to budgeted revenues of \$355,186.70, \$51,061.26 over budgeted revenues and \$52,231.71 over year to date April 2015 revenue.

Expenses for the month of April 2016 were \$104,461.15, compared to budgeted expenses of \$111,894.14, \$7,432.99 under budgeted expenses and \$8,501.24 under April 2015 expenses.

Year to date expenses for April 2016 were \$294,228.76 compared to budgeted expenses of \$310,147.99, \$15,919.23 under budgeted expenses and \$7,236.07 over year to date April 2015 expenses.

Revenues exceeded expenses in the month by \$4,622.27. Revenues in excess of expenses year to date through April 2016 are \$112,019.20, compared to the budgeted figure of \$45,038.71, \$66,980.49 over the budget projection.

Cash balance at the end of the month of April 2016 was \$154,399.70.

The lease for the Caddy Shack was overpaid by \$1,750 as of the end of April 2016. On May 18, 2016 a card swap took place such that the rent is paid in full through the end of May 2016.

Ms. Kuchta also reported that the charges from ALTA for its work were \$3,400 through the end of April 2016. A workers' compensation audit had been completed resulting in a refund of \$1,400 to the Authority in May of 2016.

A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Podurgiel, seconded by Mr. DiBattista, and approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Caulfield indicated that the Authority had received a letter from Service Station Equipment reporting that the soil tests were good and within range in connection with the removal of the underground storage tank near the maintenance building. This letter will be turned over to the city treasurer.

Chairman Caulfield reported the Authority had received a letter from Mr. Binkhorst and ALTA.

Chairman Caulfield reported that the Authority had received a letter from the Superintendent's Association thanking the Authority for permitting the biannual use of the Norwich Golf Course for its tournament.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Caulfield expressed his thanks to the Norwich Department of Public Works for its assistance in restriping the parking lot.

Chairman Caulfield also reported that a tree had snapped on the 14th hole. The maintenance crew had cleaned up and removed the same.

- **Clubhouse Committee**

No report presented.

- **Greens Committee**

Mr. Strouse reported that the bids to do work on the cart path next to the 7th tee came in high. Mr. Morse had indicated that he had received a verbal bid of about \$6,000 as well as a higher written bid and was expecting one further bid but did not expect that it would be much below the figures received. Mr. Strouse suggested that a section of the existing path could be cut out, the tree roots which are causing the bulging be cut, and the path be allowed to remain as dirt or be patched with millings. The path is on a level spot and drainage is not a problem.

- **Planning Committee**

No report presented.

- **Marketing Committee**

No report presented.

- **Beautification Committee**

Mr. Podurgiel spoke favorably on course conditions and appearance.

- **Budget Committee**

No report presented.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morse reported that the greens had been aerated on Monday and Tuesday a week ago and needed about 5-6 more days in order to return to good condition. They are being watered to assist the process. The sand used in connection with aeration is still on the green and causes damage to the mowing reels and will continue to do so until it is completely dissipated.

Mr. Morse reported that he will be plugging tees on the course on May 19, 2016 and temporary tees would need to be used during that process.

Mr. Morse reported that course conditions are dry and he will be watering fairways for the first time on May 18, 2016.

- **Pro Manager's Report**

Mr. Svab reported that the Authority has received \$318,750 in membership fees to date. The budgeted estimate was \$320,000. With the play packs that we have instituted this year we are effectively ahead on membership revenues.

Mr. Svab also reported that the high definition cameras are more effective tools in monitoring the course.

- **Member's Club**

No report presented.

Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m. Mr. DiBattista made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Podurgiel, and approved unanimously.