MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Phoenix Opera House, 112 West Lafayette, Rushville, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Phoenix Opera House, 112 West Lafayette, Rushville, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Mr. Schleich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. John Biernbaum
Ms. Linda Butler
Mr. Jerry Cremer
Mr. Dave Maguire
Mr. Phil Murphy
Mr. Kent Schleich
Mr. Jaylen Lyttaker

Member Absent: Mr. Kevin Meade

Also present were Mr. Curt Oldfield, President; Mr. Brett Stoller, Vice President, Ms. Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Mr. Brad O’Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Mr. Colin Davis, Director, Foundation; Mr. Rob Kirkham, Director, Rushville Center, Mr. Joe Clemens, Diesel and Power Systems Technology Faculty; and Ms. Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant, President/Recorder.

Also present: Tim Ward, Rushville Fitness and Community Center;

1.3 Invocation

Mr. Lyttaker gave the invocation.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Mr. Schleich welcomed the guests who were in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Mr. Schleich asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were no requests for public comment.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 September 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lyttaker, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the September 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

In the month since our last board meeting, most everything has been on hold until after the November election.

The Veto Session that has been scheduled to start November 17 may be scaled back. There is a push by some to meet to consider the agenda that has been put forth by the Black Caucus. Depending on what the Speaker decides, it may happen or be incorporated into an extended Lame Duck Session in January 2021. A major factor in the decision will be the results of the vote on the proposed Illinois State Constitution Amendment concerning income taxes.

Our Association has been participating in the recent project began by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to developing a new 10-year strategic plan for higher education. The strategic planning process will be designed to address systemic inequities that have affected Illinois’ postsecondary outcomes, the needs of the state’s economy, and postsecondary attainment. Any early 2021 target date for the plan is expected.

If you have not viewed the ICCTA website lately, there is a picture of our three state award recipients featured on the front page. Again, congratulations to award winners for their well-deserved recognition.

At the national trustee association level, the 2020 ACCT Leadership Congress was held virtually at the first of the month. As part of the registration, all general sessions and the 60 concurrent sessions are now available for on-demand viewing. Through my conference registration we should be able to access all of the sessions. If you are interested in a listing of the sessions and possible viewing any of the sessions, I have passed the information on to President Oldfield. Using my registration link we should be able to get you access.

The next ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting has been scheduled for Saturday morning, November 14, 2020 in Schaumburg. Prior to this meeting, the association has been surveying trustees for input on ICCTA 2021 state legislative priorities. The revised agenda is scheduled to be adopted at the November meeting. It is still not too late to make any suggestions if you have some you think should be included.

In my conversation this morning with Executive Director Reed, there is concern as to whether we need to change the meeting to a virtual meeting environment. The meeting is in IDPH Region 10 and just recently regions in that area have been put on more restricted status. Pending possible action to be taken by the Governor and the Illinois Department of Public Health, there could be an announcement forthcoming from the ICCTA office.

I have also included with my report a list of upcoming dates and meetings of interest with my report. Let me know if there are any questions.

**Upcoming dates and meetings of interest:**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

November 3 Election Day
November 12-13  Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting (via Zoom Teleconference)
November 13-14  ICCTA Board of Representatives and committee meetings, Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg
November 17-19  Illinois General Assembly Veto Session, State Capitol

**DECEMBER 2020**
December 1-3  Illinois General Assembly Veto Session, State Capitol
December 4  Illinois Community College Board meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
December 8  Illinois Board of Higher Education meeting, Malcolm X College, Chicago
December 14-21  Filing period for April 6, 2021 trustee elections

**JANUARY 2021**
January 15  Illinois Community College Board meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield
January 28  Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting  Joint meeting with Chief Academic Officers and Chief Student Services Officers Via Zoom videoconference

**FEBRUARY 2021**
Date TBD  ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting (in conjunction with the Community College National Legislative Summit)
February 7-10  Community College National Legislative Summit, Washington, D.C.

**MARCH 2021**
March 11-12  Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting, location TBD
March 12-13  ICCTA Board of Representatives and committee meetings, location TBD
March 26  Illinois Community College Board meeting, Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove

**APRIL 2021**
April 6  Consolidated election (including community college trustees)
April 14  Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois banquet, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield
April 11-14  American Association of Community College (AACC) virtual convention

**MAY 2021**
May 31  Scheduled Adjournment of the Illinois General Assembly

**JUNE 2021**
June 3 – 5  ICCTA Annual Convention and Board of Representatives Meeting Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel & Conference Center, Normal, IL

1.8  Report – Student Government Representative

Mr. Jaylen Lyttaker presented the following report:

Students are registering now for spring and summer 2021 courses. Students registered by Friday, November 13 will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card.

Students are encouraged to submit photos for the pumpkin decorating contest. The three entries receiving the most votes will be awarded prizes.

The speech and debate team took part in a synchronous virtual practice tournament on October 21, where they learned the ins and outs of competing in a virtual speech season. While slightly
smaller than usual, the four students on the team having been prepping events and engaging in weekly coaching sessions with their advisor, all to refine their performances ahead of their first competitive virtual tournament on November 21st.

TRIO activities in October include:
* FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion
* Planning your transfer to a four-year institution
* Virtual murder mystery event through teambuilding.com

SRC Theatre presents August Strindberg’s 1888 drama *Miss Julie* November 13-15. All performances will be masked, socially distanced, and fully compliant with all State of Illinois and SRC restrictions.

Mr. Schleich asked what the general mindset is of the students and the virus. Jaylen said a lot are concerned about being around others and being exposed. Many are being very cautious, and some are actually wearing two masks.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Mr. Colin Davis presented the following report:

- Financials: Revenues: $36,960.49
- The SRC Foundation Board met on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 a.m., remotely via IVS.
- The Foundation voted to accept its annual audit, which was completed with no comments or concerns. Thanks go to Sarah Gray, Katey Davis, and others who worked with Wipfi on a clean audit. Additionally, the Foundation created its membership committee to recruit, evaluate, and recommend new members to begin terms on July 1, 2021. If you have suggestions, please pass along to Colin.
- Colin gave an update on the annual campaign. The text of the first letter is done and design work is being wrapped up right now. Simultaneously, a mailing list of donors and alumni is being created from a combination of SRC’s data, USPS data, wealth screenings, etc. This list of 7500 people will get the first mailing, which centers around a non-traditional student at SRC who received a hardship grant from the Foundation this summer. Then there will be some analysis in December and January, followed by tweaking of the mailing list when we start the process all over again in January (for a mid-March mailing) and April (for a late May/early June mailing). The first mailing is scheduled to go out in mid-November.
- At the same time, though, we’re preparing for our #GivingSPOONday campaign, which takes place this year on December 1. We’re working on ways to be more “out there” in the community for this campaign and building upon what we normally do – while still setting an attainable stretch goal and drawing in new donors while not overloading those donors who have given via #GivingSPOONday in the past, since they will be sought as part of the annual campaign/mid-November appeal. More details and a walk-through of our full plan will be available at the November meeting.
- The Foundation golf outing took place on September 25 and raised approximately $18,500. While we were down a little bit in the number of teams due to the change in date and safety concerns, we still had a very successful event. Thank you to all who made the event possible, and we’re tentatively looking forward to returning to our normal end-of-July event for 2021.
- Our annual Thanksgiving postcard that goes to all of our donors in the past couple of years is being printed as we speak and will be sent out in early November. This is just one of the ways that we stay in contact with our donors throughout the year to say “thank you.”
- Work continues on the SRC Community Chorus project for this winter, and we have some big plans for it that will involve our annual campaign donors, our #GivingSPOONday donors, and all of our donors to the Foundation. We’re super excited to tell you more about it at the November meeting, after the promotion of the project begins.
• The next meeting of the SRC Foundation will take place on November 18 at 7:30 a.m., remotely by video.

Mr. Murphy said the community chorus will be unique. Colin said there will be 50 to 60 people involved in it. Phil said it will be online and a unique way to deliver the concert.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Mr. Schleich thanked Trustee Butler for arranging this site for the meeting and hopes it is communicated to the proper people that we appreciate the opportunity to meet here. Linda said it is a nice facility.

Mr. Maguire mentioned that the Macomb Chamber of Commerce hosted a zoom meeting with Congressman LaHood yesterday, and Dave said he and President Oldfield were able to attend. Dave said his questions were about broadband access and online access for our students. He received the standard answer that it is being worked on. President Oldfield asked about short term training certifications for Pell. The Congressman sounded open to it, but President Oldfield said he isn’t sure the Congressman understands the importance of Pell for those short term training opportunities for the students. President Oldfield said it is important to have that short term training to help students get back into the workforce quickly. Mrs. Butler asked if the Congressman said what funds are available for broadband. President Oldfield said he said it is through the State, and the challenge for the providers is that last mile for the fiber from the road to the house. President Oldfield said he saw the FCC allowed for internet to be used over the white band for TV. That could better serve rural areas. Mr. Murphy asked how most rural areas get TV. President Oldfield said most still rely on antenna or satellite. Mr. Maguire asked about providers for rural service. President Oldfield said McDonough Telephone, Cass Communications, and MidCentury in Fulton County. Mrs. Butler said Frontier also provides internet. President Oldfield said in the Fulton County area, MidCentury has done a good job with expansion, and McDonough Telephone has for Macomb as well. Dave said there was discussion with ICCTA this morning about the amount of bandwidth that families are needing now. President Oldfield said the speed of access is also challenging now.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield introduced Rob Kirkham, Director, Rushville Center.

• Rushville Center Update – Rob Kirkham

Mr. Rob Kirkham presented the following report:

I originally considered shortening this year’s report to just one word, “COVID-19.” That one term sums up the past year fairly well, and though everyone would probably nod in understanding of that report, it is a bit sarcastic. As I am not paid to produce sarcastic one-word reports, I will expand it a bit.

My second thought was to produce a three-paragraph report. The paragraphs would be headed “Before COVID-19,” “COVID-19,” and “After COVID-19,” which is a nice, tidy, three-point outline on which any public speaker could build. At this point, however, it is difficult to remember the world before COVID-19, and there is no promise of a post-COVID-19 world. That brings us back to where we started: COVID-19. So here is a report on how we are dealing with the unusual circumstances that this year has brought.

Our Campus Assistant, Heather Vining, is doing a fantastic job. In addition to her usual responsibilities, she leads the battle against the novel coronavirus: she has wallpapered the
center in signage; she disinfects and ventilates between classes; she makes sure the students have bottled water, sanitizer, and masks available; and she spaced out and marked the seating in every room to six feet so that everyone is socially distanced. If you get a chance stop by our center and notice our attempts to deal with the pandemic in a responsible and thorough manner, most of what you would see is due to Heather’s efforts.

Cyndi Johnston has been hard at work with her ESL class. In the past, she has had two or three community volunteers to help her with this class, as the attendees have different English skill levels and one teaching method does not work for every student. She often split the class into two smaller sections that met in different rooms, a beginner’s level and the other more advanced. She lost her community volunteers when the Covid-19 outbreak occurred, and we understood their reluctance to continue; they were retired people at higher risk from the virus. I have never heard Cyndi complain about the loss, but I know it added a lot of work to her load; nevertheless, the classes appear to be smooth and consistent. Our GED class is also going strong, and Janet Young has been putting in a lot of time with us getting those students registered.

Amivi Akoto is our work-study student this year; I always appreciate our work-study student. This is her first semester in the position watching over the facility in the evenings. She has my cell number should she need me, which happens occasionally. She is also helping with our GED class as homework for one of her own courses.

We went from face-to-face to online at midterm this spring, a change that was difficult for both instructors and students. We are endeavoring to be well prepared this fall should something similar occur. During this transition, we lost one of our favorite instructors, David Haney. Dave has taught English, Speech, and World Religions in Rushville and Havana for many years; he is another retired person who understandably felt the need to socially distance, so he did not return after completing his spring class. John Dodd stepped in for fall, and we are grateful to have John with us.

In spite of the many challenges this is not a gloomy report; the uncertain spring and quiet summer have led into a good fall semester. We have had no cases of COVID-19 in our facility, our employees and students are doing well, and attendance is holding its own. We’ve actually seen an increase over last year in both students and credit hours, as well as in adult education enrollment.

One of our brightest spots has been the continuing partnership with Rushville-Industry High School. A year ago I reported that we had a larger than usual number of local graduates who planned to attend Spoon River College and actually I closed my report with a picture of the group of high school students who signed with us on our Senior Signing Day. This year we did not get to have a Senior Signing Day because schools were not in session. We did get to add a joint effort to our partnership. Some time ago I reported that we moved our IVS classes to a larger room because we were having more students using interactive video. That left the small former IVS room vacant; we were using it as a small group study and additional testing room and to house our food pantry. This year we joined with the high school to turn that room into a mock hospital room and launch an on-site CNA program and we are halfway through our first semester. Every morning we have a class of eight high school students working on their CNA certificate. I am attaching a picture of this project as I close. If you get a chance, please stop by sometime to get a look at this newly outfitted room.

Mrs. Butler said she will stop in to see the new set up. President Oldfield thanked Rob for his report and asked him to thank Heather for all of her efforts at the Center. He thanked Rob for taking the lead with the school district and the CNA class. Mr. Murphy asked Rob of the 23 students who came to visit the Center last year actually enrolled. Rob said most did enroll. President Oldfield thanked Rob for all he does for SRC.
President Oldfield announced the following hires. Abby Beck has moved to Macomb for TRiO Advisor position formerly held by Bonnie Swedell. With Abby’s position open, Andrea White, advisor at Canton Campus, took the Canton Student Success Coach position that was Abby Beck’s. Andrea also serves as our Counselor. Because of that change, Missy Wilkinson is in the search process for an academic advisor for the Canton Camus. Missy and Janet Munson will be interviewing shortly to fill this vacancy.

President Oldfield shared that our Nursing Program, right after the September Board Meeting, received notification of accreditation approval. The accrediting agency is ACEN, and that is the national accreditation our faculty have been working on for about the last five years. The on-site visit occurred early in the Spring 2020 semester. This is a first for our nursing program. Kudos to our faculty!

President Oldfield said we have not had official word on the EDA grant that we applied for earlier this year. He has talked with a contact from Congresswoman’s Bustos’s office and asked for an update. The contact told President Oldfield this morning that he thought we would hear something one way or the other this week. Mr. Murphy asked about the match for EDA. President Oldfield said the match is $2 million dollars, and that is addressed later in the agenda with the bond items.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month October 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$ 524,883.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)</td>
<td>1,178,048.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable Travel Expenses</td>
<td>1,490.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses</td>
<td>484.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic payments (Health/Life Insurance)</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Refunds – Accounts Payable</td>
<td>5,177.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)</td>
<td>464,462.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** $2,174,545.97

Following a motion by Mr. Biernbaum, seconded by Mr. Cremer, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month October 2020:

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**TOTAL:** $2,174,545.97

2.2.2 Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College’s eligibility to impose the levy.
President Oldfield presented this item and explained that the amount is .0409 cents for $398,000. Mr. Murphy asked how it compared to last year. Brett said it is a slight increase, and the action will be on the December board agenda.

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved adoption of a Resolution of Intent to Levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College’s eligibility to impose the levy.

2.2.3 Adopt the Resolution authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of improving buildings and facilities and purchasing equipment, in and for the District, and for the issue of General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2020, of the District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, providing for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

President Oldfield said this is the first step in the bond process which creates the debt. That debt is then what is created to go out to the bond market. January is the final step in this process. The total is $4.8 million. Brett said it will end up with an extra $20,000 for the issuing costs. Mr. Maguire asked if we have already transferred funds for the CDB project. Brett said it is set up for the transfer and there is a meeting next week to finalize the engineer interviews.

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Biernbaum, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved adoption of the Resolution authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of improving buildings and facilities and purchasing equipment, in and for the District, and for the issue of General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2020, of the District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, providing for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

2.2.4 Resource Allocation and Management Plan (RAMP) Project. Authorize submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater Addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is $12,876,000 of which $9,657,000 is being requested. A local match of $3,219,000 is required.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board’s consideration. He explained that this is the new policy that ICCB has created so we are off of the normal schedule. The former RAMP list has been addressed, so there are no requests that remain. ICCB reanalyzed the management, and the new rules were released early this fall, and this is our proposed project. This will put us on a list that ICCB will put in rank order. President Oldfield said some trustees have asked why we wouldn’t put the remainder of Macomb East on the list. There are many unknowns with that project at this point, and since we have the expenses and costs for the Auditorium/Theater project, we went with this project. We can add a second project at some point when we have the details for Macomb East. Mr. Biernbaum asked how far you have to be along. Brett said it would be at least 18 months for design which would determine the cost. From that point, we would have to scale back to hit a target cost. President Oldfield said a year from now the Board could change its submission. Brett said we could also keep this one out there and add another project. Mr. Biernbaum said he has concerns about removing a project from
a list. President Oldfield said the rules with ICCB would allow for a project switch, and we have experienced that in the past. Mr. Murphy said a number of large projects have been accomplished since he has been on the Board and many immediate needs have been completed. President Oldfield said he and Brett have the goal of getting Macomb under one roof. Mr. Murphy said we are getting close, and considering financial constraints that we worked under for so long, that is major. President Oldfield said not having solid enough numbers for Macomb East is why the Auditorium/Theater project is presented. Phil said by the time we bet Macomb done, we will be in a better bonding position. President Oldfield said yes.

Following a motion by Mr. Cremer, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Resource Allocation and Management Plan (RAMP) Project. Authorize submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater Addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is $12,876,000 of which $9,657,000 is being requested. A local match of $3,219,000 is required.

2.2.5 Tax Abatement – Rushville Fitness and Community Center

President Oldfield introduced Tim Ward who is here on behalf of the RFCC. He asked for Tim to come forward. Tim thanked the Board, and he said Rushville does support SRC and is very happy with Rob and all he does for his community. They are very pleased that Linda Butler serves on the Board. Tim said his oldest son graduated from SRC in 1999 and went on to WIU and completed his degree. He is very successful in the St. Louis area. SRC means a lot to the students and the community.

Mr. Ward provided a background and said in 2014 a group met with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs. The goals were reviewed for the next ten years, and this facility was a part of that. The dream became a reality four years ago with this Fitness and Community Center. The one issue that the group didn’t have hindsight on was the State of Illinois. The group was approved as a 501c3 group but was denied sales and real estate tax exemption. They lost the appeal process. So, the group is now addressing tax entities requesting abatement. It is a 30,000 square foot facility with real estate taxes of $170,000 each year. He represents the group to ask consideration of the abatement. Most entities have granted anywhere from 2 to 5 years for the abatement to help get their feet on the ground. SRC is the last board for the group to make the request.

President Oldfield thanked Tim for his presentation and also for his support of SRC. We appreciate what the fellow board members have done for the facility.

President Oldfield read the Agreement for Abatement into the record:

**AGREEMENT FOR ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES**

**THIS AGREEMENT** made this ____ day of ____________, 2020, between the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 534, Fulton, Mason, Knox, McDonough, and Schuyler Counties, State of Illinois (hereinafter “COLLEGE”), and the Board of Directors of the Rushville Fitness and Community Center, Schuyler County, Rushville, Illinois (hereinafter “RFCC”), a 501c3 not-for-profit organization (hereinafter collectively referred to as “PARTIES.”)
WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Section 10, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Illinois authorizes units of local government and school districts to contract or otherwise associate among themselves to exercise, combine, or transfer any power or function in any manner not prohibited by law or by ordinance, and to contract and otherwise associate with individuals, associations, and corporations in any manner not prohibited by law or by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the PARTIES find it is in the best interest of the community to provide quality fitness and recreational opportunities to those in the community; and

WHEREAS, the RFCC has developed a fitness and recreation center which is situated within the corporate boundaries of the COLLEGE (hereinafter referred to as the “PROJECT,” and collectively within the PROPERTY referred to as the “PARCEL”), and

WHEREAS, Section 18-165 of the Property Tax Code provides that any taxing district, upon a majority vote of its governing authority, may, after the determination of the assessed valuation of its property, order the clerk of that county to abate any portion of its taxes on certain types of property, including the property of any commercial firm having been newly created within the State during the immediately preceding year; provided, however, that the abatement shall not exceed a period of two (2) years.

WHEREAS, Section 8-5 of the Property Tax Code delegates to the Illinois Department of Revenue (hereinafter the “DEPARTMENT”) the duty to direct and supervise the assessment of all property so that all assessments are made relatively just and equal, and to confer with, advise, and assist local assessment officers relative to the performance of their duties (35 ILCS 200/8-5).

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by and between the PARTIES as follows:

1. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated by this reference into this Agreement for Abatement of Real Property Taxes (hereinafter the “Agreement”) as if fully set forth and restated verbatim in this Paragraph 1.

2. ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES. The TAXING BODIES acknowledge and agree to abate taxes for the PARCEL for tax years commencing with 2020 and continuing through 2021 as follows: For tax years commencing 2020 and continuing through 2021, the COLLEGE agrees that the PARCEL will receive a one hundred percent (100%) abatement of the real property taxes extended to the PARCEL for purposes of determining the amount of property taxes owed to the COLLEGE for the PARCEL for those tax years.

3. SUPERSEDING LAW. The PARTIES agree that this Agreement at all times shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, as well as local and federal law. Any provisions of law that invalidate, or otherwise are inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement or that would cause any of the PARTIES to be in violation of law, shall be deemed to have superseded the terms of this Agreement, provided, however, that the PARTIES shall exercise their best efforts to accommodate the terms and intent of this Agreement to the greatest extent possible consistent with the requirements of law.

4. NEGATION OF PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT VENTURE. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall constitute or be construed to be or to create a partnership or joint venture between the COLLEGE and RFCC. Each party hereto shall
be solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities assumed by it under this Agreement, and no party shall be liable for the acts or omissions of any other in performing its responsibilities.

5. **WAIVER.** Waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach by any party.

6. **JURISDICTION.** Jurisdiction and venue for the enforcement of this Agreement shall be the Circuit Court of Schuyler County, Illinois. The PARTIES agree that any disputes arising out of, related to, or connected with this agreement shall be litigated, if at all, solely in the Circuit Court of Schuyler County, Illinois.

7. **DEFAULT.** In the event of a default of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement, notice of said default shall be sent to the defaulting Party by the non-defaulting Party within thirty (30) days of said default occurring. The defaulting Party shall have thirty (30) days to cure the default. In the event said default is not cured within such time period, the non-defaulting Party shall have all legal remedies available at law and in equity for enforcement of the Agreement. In the event legal action arises from said default, the non-prevailing Party shall be liable to the other party for attorney’s fees and costs incurred by reason of such default.

President Oldfield said this is asking the Board to consider the abatement for 2 years at 100%, which would amount to approximately $6,500 each year, with review again when it expires. Mr. Schleich asked if we need a legal review of the agreement. President Oldfield said this is the template that we used with legal review for The Villas.

Mr. Biernbaum asked if we said no as a board, what does that mean and what is the liability. President Oldfield asked what the City decided on a TIF district and if it requires all of the taxing bodies. Mr. Ward said he doesn’t believe so. President Oldfield said that would then mean any that denied would then receive taxes paid by RFCC. Tim said the number that they have based on the appraisal is difficult because there are no comparisons, and the tax estimate is about $170,000. JB asked if there is concern about setting a precedent with tax abatement. Mrs. Butler said that is always a concern, and her view is this is a charity that does not receive the charitable treatment from the State and is not on the tax rolls yet. They are looking for ways to stay off of the tax rolls. JB feels this is a slippery slope and asked if President Oldfield is recommending this. President Oldfield said yes, and the two year time period is key and would be revisited again at that time. President Oldfield said the Board has followed the lead of other taxing entities in the past which have a much larger impact. JB understands that but feels this is a slippery slope. President Oldfield said he does not disagree and wants to be very aware of the decision. Mr. Schleich said he doesn’t feel any prior abatements have been granted lightly and feels JB’s point is well taken. Mrs. Butler said the Board has had the discussions each time it receives special requests. Linda said it doesn’t mean when you do one you will see a lot of requests. Mr. Murphy said it is important to him to look at each request individually. Mr. Maguire said if his memory serves him correctly, all of our abatements, with the exception of The Villas, have been tied to either a TIF or Enterprise Zone property and not an individual entity. With that being said, Dave said he agrees that this is going to be a slippery slope but is willing to support the community. He hopes this group is able to get the details of their needs worked out so they don’t have to continue to request future abatements. Dave said he will support this two year request but isn’t sure where the Board will be in two years. Mr. Biernbaum said in two years it needs to be turned around, but he also wants to support the community. Mr. Cremer said in the history of abatements with the college has there been an award and then not a future. President Oldfield said there has not. There was the abatement for The Villas which benefitted the College. President Oldfield said in November of 2016 we approved
an expansion of the Macomb Enterprise Zone which included a partial abatement of
taxes but we haven’t seen the benefit of that yet. Mr. Maguire said if they are being taken
out of the TIF district that is a onetime deal. He said he doesn’t think we would have a
deal if you go out of a TIF district. President Oldfield said you can move to exempt
yourself out of a TIF district but you can’t put yourself back in. Dave said the Board’s
approval is contingent upon them not being in the TIF District. President Oldfield asked
if that is a question. President Oldfield said the TIF District involvement is the
abatement that then takes them out of the TIF district. Tim Ward said the property is a
part of the TIF district, and as such, property taxes could go to the TIF, however, the TIF
is limited as to how much they can provide. Mr. Ward said the Rushville City Council is
willing to let them out of the TIF district if they get the abatements approved from the
taxing bodies. Mr. Biernbaum said he is a reluctant yes on this topic because it is a
slippery slope.

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Lyttaker, and a roll call vote of
unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Tax Abatement – Rushville
Fitness and Community Center.

2.3 Institutional Planning

2.3.1 Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024

President Oldfield presented this and explained that a draft is available at their seat as
well as in the October folder in SharePoint. This has also been reviewed by President’s
Cabinet. This is a three year plan that is proposed for the Board’s review. President
Oldfield said we have five main goals and each one has three strategic objectives, and he
asked the Trustees to review and provide input. This is still a draft, and he will bring this
back to the Board for November consideration. It would be effective January 1. No
action is needed tonight.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Schleich commented on the recent ICCB numbers on enrollment and asked why John Wood’s
numbers are so good. Missy Wilkinson said she has not heard anything from the John Wood area.
President Oldfield said he hasn’t either and said that McHenry was also up. Kent said he was looking
more downstate, and we were down 10-11%, but JWCC was like a 4% decline and was curious as to why.
Missy said she has not heard anything, and JWCC hasn’t shared any best practices. President Oldfield
said JWCC has also added soccer, and that may have helped. President Oldfield said they also provide
a program for students with learning disabilities and physical and mental disabilities and provide support
for them. Mr. Cremer said they could have gained some students when Vaderock College closed.

Mr. Maguire said he has spent some time in Quincy over the last few months, and JWCC has been
aggressive across the river because there is not a community college in close proximity. President
Oldfield said they do have an agreement to not charge an out of state rate at JWCC. Mrs. Butler said
they are also very aggressive in their media market. Mr. Maguire said JWCC has been very successful
with their foundation as well. President Oldfield said the Quincy economy is very strong. Linda said
Quincy was the top growing city in Illinois. There is also a lot of good benevolent money there as well.

Mrs. Butler said on behalf of Schuyler County she thanked the Board for the support of the abatement,
and she said this is an important facility for the County. She said she and President Oldfield had talked
about JB’s and other’s concerns as well. Linda said she feels there will be opportunities for SRC with
this facility as well.
4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (120/2, c.), the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for: 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Mr. Schleich said there was not a call for Closed Session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Biernbaum, and unanimous approval, the October 28, 2020 Board Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

__________________________________________
Mr. Kent Schleich, Chair

__________________________________________
Date

__________________________________________
Mr. Phillip Murphy, Secretary