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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 7, 2013

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Golf Course User Fees

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is requesting legislative approval of a new user fee schedule effective June 1, 2013, for Elma Meadows and Grover Cleveland Golf Courses. The modest increase in user fees will help cover the cost of operating and maintaining the courses without burdening residents who do not utilize the golf courses.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Troy Schinzel at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Troy Schinzel, Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Golf Course User Fees
Date: May 7, 2013

SUMMARY

Legislative approval is requested to approve a modest increase in user fees at Elma Meadows and Grover Cleveland Golf Courses to help cover the increasing cost of course operation and maintenance. The modest increase in user fees will help cover the cost of operating and maintaining the courses without burdening residents who do not utilize the golf courses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that Erie County will realize approximately \$90,000 annually in additional revenue.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

It has been the longstanding policy of the County of Erie that golf course user fees be calculated so as to generate sufficient income to pay for the cost of maintaining and operating the courses. This policy prevents burdening the residents who do not utilize the golf courses from having to pay for its upkeep through other tax sources. Currently, the cost to operate these facilities are greater than the revenue they generate. This fee increase will help close this gap.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Golf course fees were last raised in 2009 and operating expenses have risen since then. The revenue the golf courses generate is now significantly less than the cost of maintaining and operating the courses.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County would receive less revenue and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry could be forced to identify other methods to make the golf courses revenue-neutral, including cutting staff and reducing the number of hours open.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry will implement the new fees at the Elma Meadows and Grover Cleveland Golf Courses.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY**

RE: Golf Course User Fees

WHEREAS, Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry owns and operates two golf courses, Elma Meadows and Grover Cleveland Golf Courses; and

WHEREAS, it has been the longstanding policy of the County of Erie that the user fees collected at its golf courses be sufficient to pay for the cost of maintaining and operating the courses so that residents who do not utilize these facilities will be burdened with its costs; and

WHEREAS, the modest increase in user fees will help cover the cost of operating and maintaining the courses without burdening residents who do not utilize the golf courses; and

WHEREAS, golf course fees were last raised in 2009 and operating expenses have risen since then. The revenue the golf courses generate is now significantly less than the cost of maintaining and operating the courses; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is proposing a new fee schedule for Elma Meadows and Grover Cleveland Golf Courses in order to generate additional revenue; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee schedule is in line with other comparable golf courses across the region; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry plans on proposing a new fee schedule for season passes after the current golf season is complete.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature, by two-thirds affirmative vote, hereby approves the following schedule of golf fees, effective on and after June 1, 2013:

Fees	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Club Rental	\$10.00	\$11.00
Pull Carts	\$4.00	\$5.00
Range Balls	\$4.00	\$5.00
Gas Golf Cart (18 holes)	\$24.00	\$25.00
Gas Golf Cart (9 holes)	\$13.00	\$14.00
Grover Weekday Greens Fee	\$16.00	\$18.00
Grover Weekend & Holiday Greens Fee	\$18.00	\$21.00
Elma Weekday Greens Fee	\$18.00	\$20.00
Elma Weekend & Holiday Greens Fee	\$21.00	\$24.00

Twilight Greens Fee	\$11.00	\$12.00
Senior/ Youth Greens Fee	\$11.00	\$12.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Erie County Legislature, to increase the annual golf season permits starting with the 2014 season, as follows:

Golf Season Permit	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Grover Cleveland Regular	\$270	\$300
Grover Cleveland Senior/ Youth	\$210	\$230
Grover Regular with Tee Time	\$310	\$340
Grover Senior/ Youth with Tee Time	\$250	\$275
Elma Meadows/ Grover Regular	\$380	\$420
Elma/ Grover Senior/ Youth	\$290	\$320
Elma/ Grover Regular with Tee Time	\$420	\$460
Elma/ Grover Senior/ Youth with Tee Time	\$330	\$365

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, Director of Budget & Management, County Attorney, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and County Comptroller.