

For Immediate Release
August 27, 2020

Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association Statement

In Response to TribLive article dated August 26, 2020

West Deer Township— For Immediate Release

August 27, 2020 — Today, in regards to the article published online by TribLive, Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association Board of Directors would like to express their sincere and complete disappointment in the statements made by Township Manager, Dan Mator, regarding electricity use in Bairdford Park.

“We are deeply disappointed in the statements made by Mr. Mator,” said Jay Fraser, President of Deer Lakes Youth Baseball, “and would like to address several falsehoods perpetrated by him in the article today.”

Facts Regarding Electric and Light Use at Bairdford Park

- The lights in question were purchased by Deer Lakes Little League, nka Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association, for \$100,000 and were installed by DLLL volunteers in 2005, as a part of a signed agreement with West Deer Township.
- West Deer Township committed to paying the final \$30,000 needed to fund the project, with the agreement that Deer Lakes Little League would work off the balance in volunteer hours over the next five years.
- Since 2005, DLYBA has requested that West Deer Township provide a separate meter for the electricity used to power the lights, with invoices to be paid by

DLYBA. As recently as this spring, a meter installation was discussed, to date, no such meter has been installed.

- From 2006-2014, DLYBA paid for the electric charges resulting from the usage of the lights on field B1, as well as electric use for the entirety of Bairdford Park, including the pavilion and field lights when in use by West Deer Township and other community organizations.
- From 2014 on, no invoices for electric were provided to DLYBA, despite numerous written and verbal requests to Mr. Mator. Funds allocated for these charges were line items in league approved budgets for the time period.
- DLYBA had notified West Deer Township, Mr. Mator specifically, about light usage in 2019 and 2020, in attempts to reach an agreement regarding a lease and light usage. To date, no such agreement has been provided by West Deer Township and Mr. Mator.
- DLYBA replaced a broken lock on the light box, in addition to replacing broken locks on all equipment closets and the concession stand this past spring. Since DLYBA has a key to the aforementioned light box, no illegal activity need have occurred to use the lights.

Facts Regarding Maintenance at Bairdford Park

- Maintenance of all playing fields at Bairdford Park, including the purchase of dirt, clay, mounds, pitching rubbers, bases and base plugs, and maintenance of the aforementioned plus maintenance of dugouts, fences, and backstops is done solely by DLYBA on the

baseball fields. Maintenance provided by West Deer Township includes cutting of the grass.

- Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association has funded the installation of dugouts for each baseball fields, the installation of a batting cage near B3, as well as fencing projects on several of the fields.

Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Mission and Objectives

A local organization for more than four decades, Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association incorporated and received nonprofit status in 2006. DLYBA serves the local communities of West Deer, East Deer, and Fraser Townships.

DLYBA offers recreational and tournament baseball leagues in the spring, summer and fall, as well as free winter development clinics for ages 4-14. Deer Lakes Youth Baseball Association operates under the mission to provide baseball for every child in the local communities who wishes to play, regardless of athletic ability or financial status.

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For more information, press only:

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