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**TINLEY PARK-PARK DISTRICT TAKES FIRST STEP TO NAMING CONTRACTOR
FOR NEXT PHASES OF VACANT LAND CLEANUP**
*Board of Commissioners Votes to Begin Environmental Cleanup & Buildings Demolition
Work in Phases at Former Tinley Park Mental Health Center Site*

TINLEY PARK, Ill. – The Park District of Tinley Park today announced the Board of Commissioners took a first vote Tuesday to select a contractor for the next phases of the state-funded cleanup of the former Tinley Park Mental Health Center site. The Board’s vote is the first of two votes to move ahead with key work as part of the next phases of cleanup: removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials inside vacant buildings followed by demolition of all buildings on site.

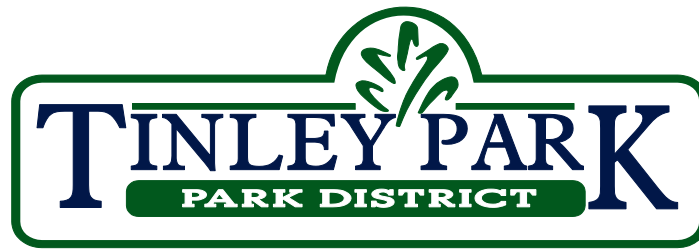
The Board’s Tuesday vote gave preliminary approval on the abatement and demolition contract to Omega III LLC. The Board also gave full approval for the third-party air monitoring contract to Shawn Brown Enterprises Inc. to conduct independent air monitoring while the work is underway to ensure the safety of the surrounding community.

The Park District and its team of experts undertook extensive evaluation of the five bids received for performance of the abatement and demolition work and the six bids received for performance of the independent third-party air monitoring. The standard for the decisions as indicated in the Invitations to Bid is that contracts will be awarded to the lowest and most responsible and responsive bidder, taking into consideration whether the selected bidder and bid is the best value for the Park District. Both Omega III LLC and Shawn Brown Enterprises met those standards and provided bids that were the lowest in cost. Both bidders also were determined to be responsible and responsive to the bid specifications.

The Elgin-based company Omega has operated in Illinois and the Midwest, including projects with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, the City of Chicago, and Crete-Monee CUSD. Projects for which Omega has served as the prime contractor for abatement and demolition work include the Edwards Hines VA Hospital, Schaumburg Atrium Center and Huntley Outlet Mall. Omega has also worked alongside experienced construction companies, including Walsh Construction.

Next Steps

The extensive cleanup project of all 280 acres of vacant land is being funded through \$15 million in state grant funding awarded to the Park District as the new owners of the site after over a decade of sitting vacant. The state of Illinois provided the funding to the Park District to begin the cleanup work under its current fiscal year budget, based on a 2014 cost estimate of cleanup. However, through its formal bidding process, and the continued degradation of the abandoned



buildings and structures on site, the Park District has determined those costs have risen, requiring the Park District to request additional funding from the state to complete full demolition of all buildings and structures as well as the soil sampling work that will follow under the IEPA's Site Remediation Program to obtain a "No Further Remediation" (NFR) letter from IEPA, paving the way for redevelopment of the land.

As a result, the Park District intends to take the next steps of the cleanup process in phases to ensure as much cleanup work as the current state funding can provide will continue at the site, while the Park District works with its partners at the state level to secure additional funding to complete the cleanup. With Tuesday's vote, the Park District will seek to negotiate a contract under those terms with Omega, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, with the Board of Commissioners approving a formal contract in a second vote.

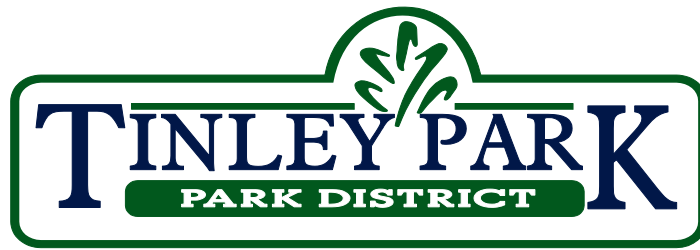
"The cleanup of all 280 acres of vacant property is long overdue, and we are anxious to continue work at the site to restore this land for our community," said Lisa O'Donovan, Park District Board Commissioner and Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee, which is overseeing clean-up of the site. "We strongly believe in being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensuring that the state of Illinois funds this entire cleanup process. With our phased approach, work will continue to proceed at the site to minimize delays in this project. We are confident our partners at the state level will work with us to provide funding to ensure the entire 280 acres of land is cleaned up."

Once a contract is in place, the first phase of work is anticipated to start immediately, beginning with removal of asbestos and regulated materials and waste inside the vacant buildings. The safe removal of asbestos and other wastes must be done prior to buildings being demolished.

Importantly, the Park District will have the independent, third-party asbestos monitoring contractor Shawn Brown Enterprises Inc. to help oversee the asbestos removal process and monitor air quality while the work is underway to ensure the community's safety. Shawn Brown and his team bring extensive oversight experience to the project and will serve as an additional layer of expertise for the Park District and the public. As with every step of this process, cleanup efforts are being overseen by numerous environmental experts.

"Through every step of this process, we will continue to update the community on our progress cleaning up all 280 acres of the vacant land," said Ashley Rubino, Park District Board Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee. "We understand the community's strong desire to see the land finally cleaned up using state funding, not Tinley Park taxpayer dollars."

"The Park District is moving through the cleanup process carefully and responsibly," said Marie Ryan, Park Board President. "Under our plan for the next stages of clean up, we are ensuring work will continue at the site, while we secure additional funding to complete the project. With



this approach, we can ensure delays in this long overdue cleanup are minimal and is fully funded by the state of Illinois.”

“Our work continues to move ahead on behalf of the Park District and all of the Tinley Park residents who have wanted to see this blighted property revitalized for our community,” said Donald Cuba, Park District Commissioner.

“As a longtime Tinley Park resident, I am proud to continue to work toward turning this property into a place we all can visit and enjoy,” said Bernie O’Boyle, Park District Commissioner.

Background

The Park District began cleanup efforts last fall by engaging in an updated environmental study, conducted by Tetra Tech, to determine the extent of remediation needed (Tetra Tech’s report is on the Park District’s [website](#)). Last winter, vegetation and overgrowth on the property was cut back to provide access to roads and buildings on the site and that work continues. In February, crews safely removed three underground storage tanks that remained on the property, and recently the IEPA determined that no additional environmental clean-up work is necessary from the tank removal, giving the Park District its first NFR letter.

The Park District officially tendered \$1 to obtain the site in February, saving Tinley Park taxpayers over \$4.5 million to purchase the site, which was what the Village of Tinley Park previously offered for the land.

The clean-up process is being led by the Park District’s expert team of former Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano, leading environmental attorney Elizabeth S. Harvey, Tetra Tech environmental specialist Tom Hahne, and Project Manager Michael Maloney to help ensure safe environmental work done at the site and ultimately receive the IEPA’s stamp of approval to redevelop the site once the clean-up work is completed.

Learn more about the next phases of cleanup work in the Park District’s [guide of frequently asked questions](#) that covers these issues and more. More information and updates can be found on the Park District’s [website](#).