

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
NORTH SHORE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the convened monthly meeting for the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees held at the district office, 117 Northfield Road, Northfield, Illinois, Saturday, May 3, 2008. President Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Trustee William Zimmer.....Present  
Trustee Otto Cesario .....Present  
Trustee Carol Blustein .....Present  
Trustee John Zbesko .....Present  
Trustee Nelson Howard .....Present

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Superintendent Robert Berry  
Attorney Norman Rosen  
Office Manager Jennifer Zimmer  
Communications Manager David Zazra

**I. MINUTES**

Attorney Rosen noted that he was erroneously marked present for the April meeting. Trustee Blustein submitted a few typographical corrections. Minutes of the regular board meeting April 5, 2008, were approved with corrections. Motion to approve made by Trustee Zbesko and seconded by Trustee Howard. All ayes.

**II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS**

1. President: No report
2. Vice President: None
3. Treasurer: Trustee Zbesko read April financials. Total receipts were \$82,474.75, total disbursements were \$94,562.22, and total assets were \$1,280,176.45. Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Zimmer. All ayes.

4. Secretary: No report

### **III. REPORT FROM LEGALCOUNSEL**

Attorney Rosen reported that, once again, Commonwealth Edison will require a signed agreement between the NSMAD and the power company before the district can gain access to spray the grass areas under their power lines. However, Superintendent Berry noted that this year, unlike past years, the company has already begun mowing those areas to create easier access.

Attorney Rosen said that he would have one action item to introduce under the Superintendent's "action items."

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Action Items**

Superintendent Berry reported that the advertisement seeking bids for the district's 1993 Chevrolet half-ton pickup was placed later than planned so no responses have been received yet. The board gave Superintendent Berry permission to finalize the sale as soon as the best bid is received.

Attorney Rosen explained that the Cook County Assessors Office (which has an active agreement in effect) now wants a formal document signed by any agency making use of the Assessor Office's aerial photos. Board Secretary Howard will be required to sign a certificate of resolutions authorizing the agreement. Superintendent Berry will write up a description of how the Assessor's information will be used (such as spotting neglected swimming pools or ponds) and will agree to prohibit any use of the photos for purposes other than our mission. Trustee Zbesko moved and Trustee Blustein seconded a motion to sign the agreement with the county. All ayes.

The NSMAD will be using aerial photos of the district's five townships in combination with parcel maps that include addresses and alleys and assessor data that allows street name overlays. Supt. Berry said that now that we are working with GIS in Glenview, he wants to get an external hard drive to work more efficiently with the county assessor's data. We are still building a database, noting unimproved alleys that are "friendlier" to mosquito larvae. Over the winter, district inspectors drove all the district's streets in order to compare maps with the computer database.

Superintendent Berry said that field workers are always on the lookout for undiscovered catch basins. When they are found, the workers will be able to click the location into their personal GPS systems. This process is part of the district's long-term plan for GPS integration.

#### **Informational Items**

Superintendent reported that we have now hired 13 seasonal workers and have not yet heard from some of last year's workers. The district picked up two senior citizens who

are augmenting our work force right now, before students can start working, and can continue finishing the mosquito season after student summer workers return to school.

Marlon Henry has been doing maintenance on the district's traps and will be putting them into the field soon. The district had a booth at the Northbrook Earth Day festivities and received a very good response from the public.

Superintendent Berry reported that a belt on the district office's furnace broke. He is getting bids from several heating/air companies. So far, one bid is for about \$500. Last year, one similar expense was over \$700. Superintendent Berry will have a full report on the bids at the June meeting.

Trustee Zbesko asked if the district's expanded use of GPS mapping might be helped if one or two high definition computer screens were purchased. Trustee Zbesko suggested, and the board agreed, that Superintendent Berry should look into getting two large flat-screens. Under the district's purchasing guidelines, the cost of such screens is now low enough to be purchased by the office without a board vote.

Dave Zazra reported on a study of truck GPS navigation systems that he and Amy Runde conducted. They concluded that Garman makes the best system for our use. The Garman model has a 4-inch screen, a good picture in low light, a voice announcing streets as the driver comes up to street. "Shut off houses" can be loaded in to GPS. Not having to read printed maps with a flashlight allows the drivers to more safely navigate their routes. The prices found for this system were \$349.00, \$319.00, and \$312.99 each. The district will need six units to equip six trucks. The two lowest prices were from ABT and CDW. Discussion followed about best vendor to choose. Both ABT and CDW are "local" and dependable. Trustee Zbesko moved that six Garman GPS systems be purchased from the vendor chosen by Superintendent Berry. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes.

Superintendent Berry said that in the future, handheld GPS systems capable of more detailed information transfers might be desirable. They could instantly download field information into the office computer system instead of requiring hand entry of that data. Presently, the cost of two handheld GPS systems from B&G Sentinel, with proprietary database software, totals about \$10,000. There is no immediate need to purchase such equipment. Superintendent Berry will be sharing some of our data with Glenview GIS as first step toward a more detailed and integrated database.

## **V. LAB REPORT**

Traps aren't out yet, so no mosquitoes have been trapped. Larva has been found but a recent cold-snap killed some larva in the area. The district has not yet received any mosquito complaints but "flood conditions" exist in some forest preserve areas with water still not soaking into the ground. Superintendent Berry is concerned that if hot weather comes, early spraying may be necessary.

The lab has still not received any applications for the entomologist job opening.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

Trustee Cesario reported that he and Ms. Zimmer investigated Rossini's restaurant as the possible site for the 2008 office employee Christmas party. Ms. Zimmer reported that Rossini's had a December 19, 2008 date open for a reservation. However, it was noted by board members that Rossini's does not have round tables for the most sociable seating and has no private room. It was agreed that the search for the best site will continue.

In further discussion of the district's present employee benefits, Trustee Blustein reported that Cook County does not pay any medical premiums for retirees while the Des Plaines Valley district pays 100% of their employees' premiums. The village of Morton Grove offers benefits that fall in the middle of these extremes. Trustee Blustein's teachers' pension benefits also fall below the 100% level.

There was a extended discussion about whether a reduction of district funded retiree medical benefits would be prudent and, if so, how it might be handled. A number of considerations were discussed, including the expectations of new hires versus long-time employees, and the impact of a generous benefits package on employee retention when base salaries may be below private sector averages. Trustee Zimmer urged the board to keep in mind the impact reduced long-term benefits may have on each employee's life.

Trustee Zbesko asked Superintendent Berry to put together an information packet specifically stating what is presently done for existing retirees, as well as comparisons with the policies of other government agencies.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS: None**

Trustees Zbesko moved to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

ATTESTED  
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED  
Secretary, Nelson Howard