

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, Nov. 7, 2010. Vice President Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustee Nelson HowardPresent
Trustee Otto CesarioPresent
Trustee Carol BlusteinPresent
Trustee John ZbeskoPresent
Trustee William Zimmer.....Present

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Robert Berry
Attorney Norman Rosen

I. MINUTES

Minutes of the regular board meeting Oct. 2, 2010, were approved with corrections. Motion made by Trustee Zbesko and seconded by Trustee Howard. All ayes.

II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS

1. President: None.
2. Vice President: None
3. Treasurer Trustee Zbesko read financial as well as October bills and payrolls. Total receipts were \$20,414, total disbursements were \$63,309 and total reserves were \$1,354,580 (all figures rounded to nearest dollar). Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Zimmer. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko then reported he had spoken with an official at the County Clerks' office and had inquired about specifics on how receipts from property tax bills are distributed to county governmental agencies. He learned that the tax levy percentage established for the mosquito abatement district and applied to each individual property tax bill is always round up to 3 figures. So, for example, .0073 is rounded up to .008. Because of this rounding up, each year the district has been

receiving amounts of money beyond the district's budget request. It was estimated that the district could receive total funds of \$1.629 million in 2011, or about \$135 thousand more than the requested funds.

Superintendent Berry said that the appropriation applied for by district each year is for expected costs and proposed expenditures. The rounding up results in more money coming in than was applied for by the district. The state establishes the "multiplier." Excess funds are placed in the district's cash reserves account.

Trustee Blustein and Trustee Zimmer both commented that the municipal organizations in their communities are running low on funds, in large part because of the depressed economy, so a cash reserve in these times is something to be appreciated. Trustee Zbesko complimented Superintendent Berry and the board for keeping the district's budget under control, even in one of worst mosquito years in recent memory. Mr. Berry said that expenses for this year still needing to be paid will bring district expenditures up to the level appropriated for 2010. He added that all district employees are very aware of the need to control costs and are always trying to find ways to save.

4. Secretary: None
5. Vice Treasurer: None

III. REPORT FROM LEGALCOUNSEL

Attorney Rosen reminded the board that after reviewing the district's proposed budget, it must be published 7-14 days before the December board meeting. Trustee Zbesko had a question for counsel resulting from his conversation with the county official: Could a taxpayer file a "rate objection" to protest a tax assessment basing the objection on tax reserves already held by a county unit. Attorney Rosen said the possibility exists if reserves are "too high" in a county unit. Attorney Rosen said some attorneys sometimes do "shoot across the bow" of large governmental bodies with very large budgets.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Action Items:

- Superintendent Berry asked for approval of a letter of engagement from the district's auditors, McClure Inserra. Their proposed fee for 2011 is \$7,750. Trustee Zimmer moved to approve and Trustee Howard seconded. All ayes.
- Superintendent Berry asked for approval to replace the building's hot water heater. The heater is over 20 years old and is showing rust. It is in an area where some files are stored, although the files are safely shelved above the floor. Replacement cost from Bill's Plumbing & Sewer in Skokie is \$2045. Trustee

Blustein commented on the energy saving advantage of a new heater. Trustee Zbesko moved to approve the purchase, Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes.

Info items:

- An elderly woman accidentally ran her car from the Senior Center parking lot over bordering barriers and into the District's property, damaging the barriers and destroying the district's gas pump. The district's insurance company is dealing with the driver's insurance company. The district should recover its \$500 deductible. Total damage was about \$12,000. Because the mosquito season is over, trucks are not refueling regularly and the pump is not presently a necessity.
- A new 2011 Ford 250 truck equipped with a snowplow has been purchased for \$28,609. The district chose to purchase the truck through the "Ford Fleet Program" (it offered the most advantages) and will receive the truck in January. In the meantime the districts has an older truck capable of plowing snow if necessary.
- District workers are using up their vacation days during this non-mosquito time because district policy now disallows "carrying over" vacation days.
- The district's winter project, geocoding storm sewers, has begun.

V. LAB REPORT

- Final lab report for 2010: 1,269 mosquito samples tested, 160 positive pools found. -- Two human WNV cases were reported: in Evanston and Northbrook.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Blustein asked about the district's ecologist position now that the "summer ecologist," Justin Harbison is gone. Superintendent Berry responded that Chris Xamplas is now permanently filling that role. The board also inquired about employee Lou Blankenberg who had been ill. He is now back at work and doing fine.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

President Zimmer said he had heard about a government tax credit for wind turbines to supplement a building's electrical needs. Although tax credits don't apply to the district's situation, he suggested that the district learn more about this power source for future application. Superintendent Berry said that since the energy saving windows were installed a few seasons ago, the amount budgeted for heat and air conditioning has been reduced by 16%.

Trustee Blustein asked why the proposed budget line item budgeted for "education" is down 72%. Mr. Berry said that there are now many more webinars available, reducing

the need to attend out of town seminars. He added that the “education” budget does include expenses for educational materials for the public.

Trustee Zbesko made a motion to include a draw down of \$500,000 from the district’s bank account cash reserves as a revenue line item in the budget, thereby reducing the dollar total requested from the county for 2011. The board agreed that, if it were possible and prudent, some type of reduced request for dollars would please the public, although measured on a per household basis, the amounts would be extremely small. After a discussion of the feasibility and mechanics of such an action, reference to the auditor’s previous recommendations for prudent levels of cash reserves, the uncertainty of future revenue levels in the present depressed economy and the real possibility of increased chemical costs, President Zimmer called the question. Trustee Zbesko voted aye on his motion, Trustees Zimmer, Howard and Blustein voted nay, and Trustee Cesario abstained. The motion was defeated.

President Zimmer entertained a motion to adopt the proposed 2011 budget. Trustee Blustein made the motion to adopt the proposed budget of \$1,493,711. Trustee Zimmer seconded. Four voted “aye.” Trustee Zbesko voted “nay.” The motion was adopted.

Trustees Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

ATTESTED
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED
Secretary, Nelson Howard