

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, July 12, 2008. President Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Superintendent Robert Berry
Office Manager Jennifer Zimmer
Communications Director David Zazra

(Attorney Norman Rosen was absent.)

I. MINUTES

Minutes of the regular board meeting June 7, 2008, were approved with minor corrections. Motion made to approve by Trustee Blustein and seconded by Trustee Zbesko. All ayes.

II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS

1. President: None
2. Vice President: None
3. Treasurer: Trustee Zbesko read June financials as well as June bills and payrolls. Total receipts were \$6,182.32 total disbursements were \$153,409.99 and total end-of-month operating funds showed a deficit of (\$149,227,67). Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Zbesko and seconded by Trustee Howard. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko asked why a deficit was shown for the month when substantial funds remained in CDs held by the district. Superintendent Berry said the CD funds were not withdrawn before the date of the monthly statement because specific funding requirements for increased adulticiding had not been determined at that time.

4. Secretary: None

III. REPORT FROM LEGALCOUNSEL

Superintendent Berry reported for Attorney Rosen in his absence. Com Ed has performed mowing beneath their power lines, but has still not sent a written contract for the district to sign. However, Superintendent Berry was told the contract has been approved by Com Ed and is being circulated within Com Ed for signatures.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Action Items

Superintendent Berry requested that the district purchase an additional software license for a copy of GIS software so he can monitor and guide projects being worked on by NSMAD staff. The license is \$1200. Superintendent Berry is optimistic that the projects will move more rapidly in future months.

Trustee Zbesko expressed his concern that the GIS mapping project has moved more slowly than expected. He then asked for a closed executive session to discuss the possible causes of this slow progress. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes. At the end of the closed executive discussion, Trustee Zbesko moved to conclude the session. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko made a motion to authorize purchase of the GIS software license requested by Superintendent Berry. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes.

Informational Items

Superintendent Berry reported he took a portable hard drive to the county offices and downloaded nearly 400 gigabytes of GPS data.

The district was represented in several July 4th parades. All went well except for a late parade placement in Skokie that caused a problem in scheduling later parades. He stated that he would probably not include Skokie again since this problem has also occurred in past years. There was a positive response from parade spectators toward the passing district trucks in Morton Grove and Evanston.

Superintendent Berry presented a map showing that the eastern 2/3 of the district has now been adulticided. This year, spraying was started earlier than usual because floodwater

mosquitoes are becoming a source of nuisance complaints. The first round of spraying for the entire district will be completed within two weeks from the date of this meeting.

Four summer workers will be taking the state's pesticide handler certification test. Successful completion of the test should give the district the ability to simultaneously put up to seven trucks in the field.

V. LAB REPORT

The district has performed 255 Vectests since the season began. Activities by the state's Natural History Survey discovered one positive pool in Evanston but the positive was "weak" (not at transmissible stage). Superintendent Berry said he was very concerned about this summer's excessive heat and rain. He anticipates a potentially bad situation in the near future.

Superintendent Berry discussed the district's present "no-spray" policy and the public's growing awareness of the positive results of adulticiding and their increased support for this activity. The vast majority of the public now wants spraying. Ms. Zimmer said she is now receiving many calls requesting spraying. However after spraying occurs, some people call saying they wish they had received prior notification. The no spray list is diminishing and, at this point, Superintendent Berry said he believes the no spray policy should be revised.

Superintendent Berry also related another reason to clarify the no-spray policy. The Evanston public health office recently sent out a mailing to about 3,500 residents that incorrectly encouraged recipients to contact the district to be put on a no-spray list. However, the proper list to encourage was the "prior notification" list. Because of this error, the district received a number of calls from people who had no medical reason to request no-spray while prior notification was a proper alternative.

Trustee Zbesko reported that the Evanston public health department has new personnel in charge, which may explain the confusion. Unfortunately the recent publication put out by that office created unnecessary problems. A resident of a multi-unit building requesting an unnecessary no-spray shut-off creates a major problem. A concerned resident can use prior notification to avoid spray exposure. Spraying cannot be stopped for multi-unit buildings. Mr. Zazra mentioned that the toxicity of the spray being used is less than the toxicity of aspirin. Ms. Zimmer said she is very fastidious about giving prior notification. For one area, she has called 200 people personally to prior-notify, then called a second time. She said she always asks for the name of the person receiving a call and makes a note of when the call was made. Trustee Zbesko said he believes there are email and automated phone message software products that are now affordable and could make public notification more efficient and successful.

Mr. Zazra said that he agrees that the "no-spray list" should be changed. Mr. Zazra said the NSMAD should have a policy similar to the DesPlaines Valley District. DesPlaines only does a shut off when there is a medical reason requested by a physician. Trustee

Zbesko said he felt that we should keep the no-spray policy since abandoning it might cause a strong reaction from the most vocal citizens. Instead, Trustee Zbesko suggested the district should more strongly emphasize prior notification as a reasonable action. He suggested the solution might be better public communications by the district.

Superintendent Berry said adulticiding now represents about 10% of the district's operation. Discussion continued. The board reached a consensus that the district needs to find the best way to frame the message that the district is always working to balance the use of pesticides with the risk of getting West Nile Virus.

Trustee Zimmer moved that the present no-spray policy be clarified to restrict the no-spray list to people who have a physician's request, while people on the present list will be "grandfathered" to stay on the list until they request removal. The effective date for implementing this revised policy will be left to the discretion of the superintendent.

A vote was called with Trustee Zimmer, Blustein, Howard and Cesario voting aye. Zbesko voting nay. The motion was passed.

Mr. Zazra reported that the NSMAD's efforts to combat West Nile Virus and nuisance mosquitoes has been covered this season on WBBM radio and television, the Chicago Sun Times, the Chicago Tribune, WLUP radio, ABC TV, Pioneer Press and the Northwestern University newspaper.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Berry reported that the ecologist position is still open. An ad for the position is still on college websites.

Trustee Zimmer suggested that the board set a new date for a discussion of employee benefits after the summer season has ended. Per Trustee Zimmer's suggestion from the last meeting, the district has purchased ball caps that clearly identify the district workers when they are on the job in neighborhoods. They will not be allowed to wear the caps off duty.

VII. NEW BUSINESS: None

Auditors report

The board considered the recommendations of the auditors and agreed that the district will be expanding Quick Books reports. The board also agreed that in addition to the end-of-year recorded board vote authorizing the following year's employment and salary of the NSMAD superintendent and attorney, a written annual contract for these positions is also a prudent policy. Per the auditor's suggestion signature stamps of board members that are infrequently needed for check writing will be kept in the superintendent's office under lock and key. The superintendent has implemented tighter purchase order procedures and will make more specific notations on receipts for credit card purchases.

On the auditor's suggestion, the superintendent is investigating a possible exemption from paying the federal unemployment tax.

The board discussed the auditor's suggestion to revise payment procedures to part-time workers but the board agreed with the superintendent and office manager that retaining the present methods of payment avoids a number of problems unique to the seasonal realities that affect student workers.

With the board agreeing that appropriate procedural changes suggested by the auditor will be implemented, Trustee Zbesko moved that we accept the auditor's report. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Howard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

ATTESTED
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED
Secretary, Nelson Howard