

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, November 1, 2008. President Howard called the meeting to order 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Superintendent Robert Berry  
Attorney Norman Rosen  
Office Manager Jennifer Zimmer

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes of the regular board meeting Oct. 4-, 2008, were approved with no corrections. Motion made by Trustee Zbesko and seconded by Trustee Zimmer. All ayes.

**II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS**

1. President: None
2. Vice President: None (absent)
3. Treasurer: Trustee Zbesko read financial as well as April bills and payrolls. Total receipts were \$326,933 total disbursements were \$60,117 and total assets were \$862,597 (all totals rounded). Office Manager Zimmer commented and Superintendent Berry confirmed that the district's next major inflow of tax receipts is expected in March 2009. Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Zimmer and seconded by Trustee Howard. All ayes.
4. Secretary: None

5. Assistant Treasurer: Trustee Cesario confirmed that the district employee Christmas dinner will be December 19 at the Via Veneto restaurant.

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

Attorney Rosen reminded the board that the board must discuss the 2009 budget and then publish the proposed 2009 budget for public review before the next monthly open meeting on December 6. The final budget must then be submitted to the County before the third Tuesday in December (December 16).

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

**Action Items:** None

#### **Informational Items**

Superintendent Berry reported that the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) has announced it will increase its employer contribution percentage to make up for shortfalls in the fund's investments in the falling market. However, the increases will not affect the district's budget until 2010.

The district submitted adulticide and larvicide data for the years 2002-2007 to the Cook County Department of Public Health's epidemiology study of West Nile Virus experience and control methods.

The district staff participated in the Skokie Health Fair on Sunday October 26, staffing an information booth. The staff reported high public interest. All of the district's informational materials were distributed.

Per an earlier inquiry from trustee Zbesko concerning possible affect of shifting energy prices on the cost of insecticides, Superintendent Berry reported that the Clarke Mosquito representative said their prices are set "for the year." Their prices are not subject to daily or weekly changes in the price of energy. Trustee Zbesko commented that the district should always keep an eye out for equally effective products with competitive prices. Superintendent Berry said he has observed that insecticides suppliers are always competitive with their prices. Trustee Zbesko wondered if there was any advantage in varying chemicals so mosquitoes don't build up resistance. The question of whether mosquitoes have been shown to develop chemical resistance was not discussed further in the meeting.

### **V. LAB REPORT**

Superintendent Berry reported that the first week in December he is scheduled to interview a new candidate for the district's ecologist position. Mr. Berry said the interviewee has a promising resume.

The district is planning to change West Nile Virus lab-testing techniques in 2009. The lab will no longer use the VecTest, changing to RAMP® (Rapid Analyte Measurement

Platform) testing instead. This change has been recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health to get more precise data on mosquito infections. Superintendent Berry said that in the past, RAMP testing would identify only West Nile Virus. It now can test for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and St. Louis Encephalitis, however, they are separate procedures using the sample pool sample. While NSMAD will test only for WNV, the presence SLE will be detected in follow up testing by the Illinois Natural History Survey. Using RAMP tests will also be more efficient since Vec test kits have, at times, been hard to get and sometimes are flawed. RAMP testing offers a much more accurate testing method. The cost of RAMP testing equipment will be about \$4000.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Zbesko inquired about the increases in the 2009 budget versus 2008. The budget reflects a 3% increase in the 2009 budget's bottom line. Although the district can increase the budget bottom line by up to 5% without a public referendum, Superintendent Berry said he believed this smaller increase was adequate for the districts projected needs. There was additional discussion of the possibility of rebating funds to taxpayers if the districts surplus is beyond a level considered prudent.

Trustee Zimmer commented that in his experience with municipal government, a 25% revenue surplus is considered a safe level for contingencies. The board expressed concern that with the number of home foreclosures growing, some communities are projecting tax receipt decreases.

Trustee Zbesko, speaking in favor of a fund surplus rebate to taxpayers, commented that even with the extremely wet 2008 weather that could have resulted in a much larger mosquito population, the district managed to intensify its abatement activity while also improving the district's facilities, fleet and services.

Other board members agreed that the district's proactive abatement tactics and good management during this year's exceptionally "mosquito friendly" weather, kept the public protected without breaking the district's budget. However even with this reassurance, the general consensus of the board was that next year's economy and the resulting tax receipt outlook are still extremely uncertain and the board should not reduce its available funds at this time.

The board agreed to meet in closed session at 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2008 for a final discussion of specific 2009 budget line items, including employee salaries. The board will then conduct an open meeting at 10:00 a.m. to publicly present the proposed 2009 budget. After public discussion of the budget, the regular December meeting will follow immediately.

Trustee Zimmer moved to accept the preliminary 2009 budget. Trustee Howard seconded. Three ayes; trustee Zbesko voted nay. Motion passed.

Trustees Zbesko motioned to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ATTESTED  
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED  
Secretary, Nelson Howard