

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, December 6, 2008. President Zimmer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m and roll call was taken.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Superintendent Robert Berry  
Attorney Norman Rosen  
Office Manager Jennifer Zimmer

At 9:04, trustee Zbesko moved to go into executive session for purposes of discussing employee compensation. All ayes.

The executive session was concluded at 10:33.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2009 BUDGET**

At 10:37 a.m., after a brief break, President Zimmer opened the public hearing on the 2009 budget. Roll call was conducted for the public hearing. All trustees noted above reaffirmed their presence. R. Berry, N. Rosen and J. Zimmer also remained in attendance.

With no member of the public present, trustee Zbesko moved that the public hearing be concluded at 10:38 a.m. Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes.

**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

At 10:39, President Zimmer procedurally conducted a roll call to open the NSMAD general business meeting for December. All trustees noted above reaffirmed their presence. R. Berry, N. Rosen and J. Zimmer also remained in attendance.

## **I. MINUTES**

Minutes of the regular board meeting November 1, 2008, were approved with no corrections. Motion made to approve by Trustee Zbesko, seconded by Trustee Zimmer. All ayes.

## **II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS**

1. President: None
2. Vice President: Trustee Blustein proposed that, in winter months when meetings are usually shorter, we remain at the NSMAD office after each meeting has concluded to discuss employee benefits planning in closed session.
3. Secretary: None
4. Treasurer: Trustee Zbesko read financials as well as April bills and payrolls. Total receipts were \$348,283; total disbursements were \$59,094; and total assets were \$1,156,184 (all numbers rounded). Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Zimmer and seconded by Trustee Blustein. All ayes.
5. Assistant Treasurer: None

## **III. REPORT FROM LEGALCOUNSEL**

Attorney Rosen commented that the when the board passes the 2009 budget, officers must sign the proposed budget and he will forward the proposal to the county.

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

**Action Items:** None

### **Informational Items:**

A winter street map review is being conducted in combination with a "fly-tire" survey. District field workers have been "patrolling" the district's streets, surveying new one-way street designations, and noting the locations of mosquito-friendly litter such as old tires. Inspector Binnall reported a number of tire sites in his survey. So far, Evanston has been provided with 78 tire litter site locations and Skokie has received a list of 10 sites. The State EPA has a program to do pick ups of reported litter. (The NSMAD cannot pick up tires and other litter when it is found because the district has no place to store the refuse.)

John-Paul Mutebi of the CDC has requested assistance for a January survey of over-wintering culex pipien molestus mosquitoes in underground locations. Cooperation of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago is being sought.

The NSMAD staff is preparing the 2008 Annual Report for publication in January. Communication director Zazra suggested that, to save costs, the district consider presenting the report as a pdf on the NSMAD website and not print copies for public distribution. However, there are times throughout the year when “hard copies” of the report are needed. The board suggested that the district use its high-quality in-house printer to economically print the pages of the report and use a professional print service to print the report’s cover and perhaps bind the copies.

**V. LAB REPORT: None**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**The following monthly meeting dates were proposed for 2009:**

The first Saturday of each month except for these dates -- Jan 10, July 11, September 12 (to accommodate holiday weekends in those months) and April 11 (to accommodate a local election day). Trustee Zimmer moved to adopt the proposed 2009 schedule, Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes.

**Election of officers:** Trustee Cesario moved that Bill Zimmer continue as Board President for another year, Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes. Trustee Cesario moved that Carol Blustein continue a Board Vice President for another year. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes. Trustee Cesario moved that Nelson Howard continue as Board Secretary for another year. Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes. Trustee Cesario moved that John Zbesko continue as Board Treasurer for another year. Trustee Zimmer seconded. All ayes. Trustee Zimmer moved that Otto Cesario continue as Assistant Treasurer for another year. Trustee Howard second. All ayes. Trustee Cesario moved that in the future, the term of NSMAD Board President be limited to two consecutive years, retroactively including the present president’s one year already served. Discussion followed. Trustee Zbesko questioned the need to make term limits mandatory since a future board might decide that a president finishing two years service might remain the best person to fulfill that role. Trustee Cesario said he believed there was wisdom in giving all board members a chance to chair the board. Trustee Zimmer seconded trustee Cesario’s motion. Aye: Zimmer, Blustein, Cesario. Nay: Zbesko, Howard. The motion passed.

Trustee Cesario moved that Robert Berry be retained as NSMAD Superintendent for the year 2009. Trustee Howard seconded. All ayes. Trustee Cesario moved that Norman Rosen be retained as the NSMAD attorney for the year 2009. Trustee Zbesko seconded. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko moved that all district employees be given a “cost of living” salary increase of 3.75% for the year 2009. Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes.

Trustee Zbesko commented on the district's present amount of cash on hand and questioned if we could justify the growing amount of funds when compared to expected expenses. Discussion followed. Trustee Blustein said she has been shocked by the number of foreclosed houses in her Northfield area. Attorney Rosen, commented on the number of condo owners he has as clients who are having difficulties in the declining real estate market. Trustee Zbesko pointed out that the board has an obligation to taxpayers and a responsibility to, if possible, try to help taxpayers in tough times. Trustee Howard commented that a small percent reduction in the amount of tax dollars paid by an individual household for mosquito abatement is not a sum that is going to change any family's financial situation. He added that it is very important that the board ensure the future financial stability of the district in these unstable times in order to protect the district's families from mosquito borne disease. Trustee Blustein felt we should keep tight control of the district's funds with the goal of using those funds most wisely to help the mission of district. Superintendent Berry said that the district can't really "rebate" funds on hand directly to taxpayers. The district can only reduce the tax rate requested.

Trustee Zbesko suggested that we strike the line item "contingency" amount from the budget total, in affect lowering the budget request to the county. It was pointed out that the line item was created to protect the district operation from unforeseen expenses. Superintendent Berry said that the "contingency" item could be removed without any immediate effect on operations, but if in the fall of 2009 the district ran short of appropriated money, it would be necessary to pull money from reserved funds. The following year might then require asking for a budget increase in times that may be even more economically unstable.

With discussion ended, trustee Zbesko moved that the contingency line be stricken from the 2009 budget, resulting in a reduction in the budget request by an equivalent amount. Trustee Cesario "passed." Trustee Blustein nay. Trustee Howard nay. Trustee Zimmer nay. Trustee Zbesko aye. Motion defeated.

Trustee Howard asked Superintendent Berry to explain how some budgets from past years showed increases of more than 5% above their preceding year. Superintendent Berry said those situations reflected assessment increases and tax levy extension increases passed on to the district rather than budget amounts requested by the district.

Trustee Blustein moved that we adopt the 2009 budget as presented by Superintendent Berry. Trustee Zimmer second. Trustee Zbesko requested a voice vote. Cesario aye. Blustein aye. Howard aye. Zimmer aye. Zbesko nay. The motion was passed and the budget adopted as presented.

Trustees Cesario motioned to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17. p.m.

ATTESTED  
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED  
Secretary, Nelson Howard