

Mosquito Control District Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2012

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District conducted a meeting on December 20, 2012 at 7 PM in the main conference room at Town Hall.

Members Present: Mr. Raccio (Chairman)
Mr. Latsha
Mrs. Valerie Hardy

Mr. Poulos was absent on personal business.

Mr. Raccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Raccio started the meeting by wishing everyone a happy and safe Holiday filled with family and friends and also took a moment to acknowledge the families who have tragically been disrupted in our neighboring New Town, Connecticut. Our deepest condolences and sympathies to those family members who are in the healing process.

Public Input - No Members present

Town End of Year Report -

Due on January 17th. Mr. Raccio requested that each member to provide their input if they have anything they would like to see in the Town Report which he will incorporate with the statistics and send the draft back to the members for a review and then submit to the Town.

Approval of November Minutes -

Mr. Raccio **motioned** accept the minutes of November 2012 as written. Mrs. Hardy **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried 2-0-1** (Mr. Latsha abstained).

Mosquito Testing 2013 Plan -

Mr. Raccio stated that this has been discussed at several meetings and had a couple of thoughts regarding the State Lab testing. As we come into the new year we now have the tools; the Board of Selectmen in late October or early November allocated the lap top through the end of December. At the last meeting the unit was not ready. Mr. Hoch

stated that the unit would be ready at the end of Monday night's Selectmen's meeting. We now have this for two weeks. Mr. Raccio stated that he will send a letter requesting a new hearing with the Board of Selectmen, stating that they asked for the laptop a few months ago and was approved, the Mosquito District only received the unit in the last two weeks of December and will require it for an extended period of time.

Mr. Raccio stated that he has a number of issues regarding the testing; one being to assign members to research the following items regarding the State Lab Testing: Research the availability of facilities, what facilities are available to us, research current State Capital position, research and design a draft outline of our report and research and communicate with all State Mosquito Control Districts. What is the intention of the State.

Mr. Raccio stated that he will take and arrange a meeting with the Governor elect to see what their intentions are on this Statewide problem. Mr. Raccio stated that of these initiatives without Mr. Poulos here this evening, the Board should consider tabling this until the next meeting and then assign these activities.

The Board decided to table this discussion until the next meeting when all Board members could be present.

Other Business:

Mr. Raccio stated that he has a couple of things he would like to bring up. Mr. Raccio stated that as he was sitting at home the other night watching our local cable channel, he saw a number of slides come up which reflect summer activities and would like to assign a member to work with the cable committee to update the current slides. As we move into the winter season, education is the biggest thing; however barrier spraying at the school's is an event that happened months ago. We need to coordinate with the cable committee and let them know what slides we want current and to continue to play; and these are the slides that we would like to hold for special needs. Mr. Latsha stated that he would work with the cable committee. Mr. Raccio will send an email to Mr. Pentheny.

Assign a member to work with the information and the Town Website. Mr. Raccio stated that as he goes through the Town Website and goes to the Mosquito Control District, he finds that information is either wrong or not there at all. The minutes stopped being published after 2008. Mr. Raccio stated that they need a member to engage with the Town Web Site committee or person to refresh and bring our community up to date on our activities. Valerie Hardy stated that she would take the action to work with the Town's Webmaster to update the minutes and update current information regarding EEE and west Nile virus and anything that is currently outdated. Valerie will bring this back to the next meeting.

Request all members to provide input for the Town report.

The Lab testing will be deferred to the January meeting.

Scheduling the meetings for the first 6 months of 2013. Mr. Raccio asked the board if they were content with the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. The board stated yes they were. Mr. Raccio will draft a schedule that reflects the third Thursday. **Motion** by Mr Raccio to adopt a schedule for the next 6 months of the third Thursday at 7:00 pm. here at Town Hall. Motion **seconded** by Mrs. Hardy. Mr. Raccio stated that this motion was to allow for pre-planning of the conference room and pre-planning of personal schedules; however emergency circumstances will supersede that schedule or enhance it. The motion carried **3-0-0**. Mr. Raccio will draft a schedule and submit it to the Town for consideration and Town scheduling.

Mr. Raccio stated that the next major issue he has to bring up will be education in accordance with the Mosquito Districts by laws. We need to educate the public and have the public fully aware of how important the testing is to them to drive funding issues and Board of Selectmen attention to these important problems.

Mr. Latsha wanted a review of what action was made in regards to the computer as far as the request that was made on November 7th to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Raccio stated that as they have discussed over the months and years, of having an asset available to our Board, originally they went to the Budget Committee and submitted a budget. In the first year the Board was awarded that budget and that asset stayed with them for several years. The money was there, the public voted it and the computer was purchased. Mr. Latsha stated that what he was getting at is that it doesn't really matter if they were getting it for 2 weeks, months or years; that computer was assigned to the Mosquito district and was in their budget the first year. Mr. Latsha does not understand how the computer can be taken away from them. Mr. Raccio stated that it was a vote by the Board of Selectmen in an initiative to contain costs and materials for the Town. Mr. Raccio stated that his current understanding is that the Town's position now is that they do not supply this type of material to committees or districts, however departments like police, fire, health and safety have laptop assets. It was a unified position by the Board of Selectmen enacted by the Town Administrator to collect and minimize those assets and provide a generic cloud environment. Mr. Raccio stated that it is understanding that the Town's current position is that committees and districts are not provided with these materials. That is why the original computer was reallocated in accordance to the Board of Selectmen's position. When we look at the Mosquito Control District and the context of how we function and the things that we do, we have yet to be able to justify to the Board of Selectmen the reallocation of a permanent asset.

Mr. Latsha asked if we did have that computer, would we be well ahead of the game at this particular time or would we still be where we are at today. Mr. Raccio stated that there is no question in his mind, that his personal contribution and productivity to the Board would be significantly enhanced had he a town asset to execute on and not a “cloud Service” to drive from his own personal computer and home asset. Mr. Raccio commented that it is his general understanding and feeling that the shared assets would have allowed for more productivity than we have currently seen for various reasons. Mr. Raccio stated that they have a number of alternatives in front of them; as individual citizens of this town as well as committee members. Mr. Latsha stated that this is a hot item for him, he stated that they have given the Town back over \$20,000 and then we ask for a computer back and we don’t get the computer back we purchased the first year we started. Mr. Raccio stated that was a valid view, that asset today may not be available because of its age, your point about the original computer, and sure that asset has been purged and basically rebuilt. What is relevant about your point is the people said we could have it. The people voted the money. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget committee moved it forward and the people said so be it. The people also elected the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee and those elected officials appoint us as representatives. The current Board changed their philosophies and yet we find some of those decisions have adverse impacts on various committees and districts. This has had a significant impact on our ability to function. Mr. Raccio stated that they all work and have structured lives and coming into Town Hall from 9-5 is not conducive to people who work outside of this facility and try to gain access in their free donated volunteering positions. Mr. Raccio quoted Selectman Lambert “If the cable committee asked for a camera to execute their job, the BOS would give them a camera, why wouldn’t the BOS give a simple computer to a District that needs it to execute.” Selectman Byron compromised a position and basically authorized a motion to give us direct access for a two month period, which I was very grateful as the Chairman of this Board so that we could get started, unfortunately the asset became available six weeks into the eight week window. Mr. Raccio stated they will go through this process again. They asked the BOS to up their budget by \$1,500 to go to the Budget Committee to see if we could get that approved and the BOS chose not to engage in that activity. Mr. Raccio stated that as individual citizens they also have the right to write a petition warrant article specific to allocating monies appropriate to cover a laptop and the appropriate software and bring it to the people at Town deliberative. Mr. Raccio stated that it is up to them to convince the public. The BOS act in what they believe is best for their constituents which doesn’t always please all. The BOS have made it very clear to me as Chairman that they do not believe we are justified in our request., which is a matter of public record. It is up to us to convince them or the public on how to respond.

Any Other Business

No other comments - close any other business.

Mr. Raccio stated to the Board that they have received their annual application from Municipal Pest Services Mosquito/Black Fly control to the NH division of pesticide controls, this is the same forms we get every year from Municipal Pest. They provide the state licenses required for us, they provide the mechanism to file and certify the chemicals that they use. This also is a fundamental part of our mosquito control plan for State compliance, when and if we get these funds back. Mr. Raccio will sign and date and submit back to the office for submittal to Mosquito Pest Services.

Mr. Raccio stated that the Board will see in upcoming agendas after we close on the testing issues, we will then update our 2012 state plan so that we can resubmit for compliance.

Mr. Latsha **motioned** to adjourn. The motion carried **3-0-0**. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mr. Raccio wanted the public to enjoy the holiday season, to be safe, and he looks forward to seeing you in the new year. Please feel free to join us at anytime, the Public's comments are always welcome.