

Approved 15 December 2011

## Mosquito Control District Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2011

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District conducted a meeting on November 17, 2011 at 7 PM in the main conference room at Town Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance:

John Latsha – Vice Chairman

Al Raccio

John Poulos – Chair

There was no public input.

Mr. Poulos opened the meeting by speaking to the quantities of mosquitoes trapped over the 2011 season. Over 2500 batches were trapped and tested with each batch being between 50 and 75 mosquitoes. While a number of towns around Litchfield reported WNV, our town had no positive results. Mr. Poulos then noted that while it would appear that the first frost ended the threat, the warmer weather we are experiencing could have a positive effect on mosquitoes and residents are urged to follow the guidelines as broadcast on the local cable channel concerning the proper precautions.

Mr. Raccio then mentioned that we had spoken previously about the purchase by the town of additional traps that could be used by Municipal Pest Management to broaden our coverage in town. Mr. Raccio then made a **motion** to postpone the acquisition of those traps until 2013 at the earliest, at which time the MCD would have a better understanding of the State's budget and reimbursement potential and the impact of such a purchase and testing on our budget. Mr. Latsha seconded the **motion** and it passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Poulos then updated the MCD on the filed legislation to increase MCD membership from 3 to 5. Lynn Ober, the state representative who filed the legislation for us, notified Mr. Poulos that she usually gets about one week's notice and that notice could come between now and January. We will be advised when it happens.

Mr. Poulos then called for the approval of the October 20, 2011 MCD meeting minutes. Mr. Raccio made a **motion** to do so, Mr. Latsha seconded and the **motion** then passed 3-0-0.

The 2012 budget then was discussed. Mr. Poulos advised that in both 2011 and 2012 the secretarial services budget of \$600 was cut in its entirety. Notification funds of \$90 were also cut completely. Mr. Raccio then made note of the fact that there is an RSA requirement that our committee provide minutes within a specified timeframe to the town. He then **moved** that we petition the BoS to reinstate secretarial services in our budget so as to make meeting that requirement more attainable. Mr. Poulos seconded. To the best of our knowledge no other town entity was doing their own minutes and to force such a burden on the MCD was unfair. Mr. Latsha asked that we explain to the public how the minutes have been getting done. Mr. Poulos stated that he has done the minutes himself while listening to the DVD provided by the cable operator, Russ Blanchette. He then asked Mr. Raccio about his time as

chairman and Mr. Raccio stated that, because of an inability to hire a recording secretary he was forced to do it himself. Mr. Poulos stated that a town policy called for a draft of all meeting minutes to be provided within 48 hours of the conclusion of all meetings. This puts a large burden on our committee because we all have lives outside of the District. Mr. Raccio added that we are fortunate as a town that our activity had been limited due to our practices and process. Should we find ourselves in a period of high mosquito activity and positive test results, our meetings would, of necessity, become more frequent and of longer duration, further increasing the burden on the chairman. Mr. Poulos added that as an example of increased activity we should recall the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the additional work we had to do then centered on the barrier spraying at the schools. Mr. Latsha then spoke to the need for precision in record keeping.

Mr. Latsha then expressed his concern that this additional burden was too much to continually ask of a volunteer committee. He stated that he didn't think he could meet the requirement if called upon due to his work and neither could Mr. Raccio. The committee agreed that if the Budget Committee believed that their mission was to have a positive impact on the tax rate they should look at items that drive the tax rate. Cutting \$600 from the MCD budget each year has no impact on the tax rate.

Mr. Poulos then called the **motion** and it passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Raccio then motioned that we let a subcontract for a sum not to exceed \$550 for secretarial services for the MCD, said contract to be initiated prior to December 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 and funded from the 2011 budget. Said services to be for the calendar year 2012. Mr. Latsha seconded for discussion. Mr. Raccio stated that our current BoS approved budget included \$600 for secretarial services and they did not cut that item. This would allow us to provide services through a subcontractor and by committing the work to 2012 but paying for it in 2011 we would have no negative impact on the 2012 budget. Any remaining money would be returned to the town and the 2012 budget would be \$90 less than the 2011 budget, (there had been an additional \$90 for "Public Notice" cut), thereby achieving a net decrease. The **motion** passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Poulos will prepare the request and have the other members review it prior to submittal.

Mr. Poulos then stated that he had contacted Mr. Bryant of the Recreation Commission to ask for his committee's representation at the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> MCD meeting along with representatives from Municipal Pest Management Services. We want to help the Recreation Commission to protect the town's children from mosquito-borne and tick-borne diseases. Mr. Latsha stated that he thought such a meeting was a great idea. Mr. Raccio stated that he hoped that the meeting would take place no later than January if the December meeting didn't take place. By so doing it would allow the committee time to take recommended steps. Mr. Poulos verified that we had made the request directly to Mr. Bryant.

Mr. Latsha then asked that a member of the Conservation Committee also be asked to attend that meeting for information purposes. He stated that we had worked very closely with them in the past and we should continue to do so. Mr. Raccio then suggested that we think about asking the Planning Board to send a representative to that meeting. Storm water management was an important element to the town's planning and Mr. Morrison might be able to provide them with some beneficial information vis-à-vis wetlands and storm water management and the latter's impact on the former. Mr. Poulos agreed to extend the invitations.

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Mr. Latsha inquired if Mr. Morrison had walked the site of the new soccer fields and if he had seen a plan of the site? Mr. Poulos replied that he had never walked the site nor had he seen the site plan. Mr. Latsha then asked if a copy could be provided to Mr. Morrison prior to the meeting. Mr. Poulos agreed to try to see that both things happened. A discussion of the site and the plans as they were originally seen took place and the members agreed to attempt to walk the site prior to the meeting.

Mr. Raccio requested that the MCD consider researching federal money in the form of grants to augment our efforts. Mr. Poulos and Mr. Latsha agreed to look into federal money in the coming year. Mr. Raccio then spoke about a data collection company and the possibility of hiring them to amalgamate data for us such that we could research the data and take some steps to increase our budget. Mr. Poulos agreed to add the subject to a future meeting's agenda.

Mr. Latsha then suggested that we ask the cable committee to remove the slide show on mosquito protection from the channels during the winter as we have done in the past.

Mr. Latsha wished all our viewers happy holidays and Mr. Raccio made special mention of thanks to our veterans everywhere. The other members echoed his sentiments.

Mr. Raccio then **motioned** for adjournment, Mr. Latsha seconded and the **motion** passed 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.