

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 21, 2010

The Mosquito Control District held a meeting on January 21, 2010, in the Town Hall Conference Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Alfred Raccio, Chairman
John Latsha, Vice Chairman
John Poulos

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

2009 REVIEW

Chairman Raccio personally thanked all members and former members for their assistance in 2009 and a special thanks to Joan McKibben (former member), John Latsha and John Poulos, Municipal Pest Management, School District, Recreation Commission, Health Department, Police and Fire departments, Office of Emergency Management, Board of Selectmen and Lori (Dogopoulos).

In 2009 season the Town experienced positive EEE virus. Mr. Raccio: For the season we totaled just under 19,000 mosquito samples that yielded the three variants of the EEE virus infections. Among those we had 2,800 through the three species that tested in the red. Additionally, through the work of the team, I am extremely pleased to report that the State of N.H. had refunded for the 2009 season \$4,352.37 which we received a check as being compliant with the State's ordinances and regulations regarding having our plan for mosquito protection and community services on file with the State and being part of the State's emergency profile during the season's peak, EEE and West Nile season.

Talk ensued. Mr. Raccio: With an operating budget of \$29,000 the Town received \$4,352.37 in rebates. Although we had the EEE experience, through our Fire Department, our Emergency Management, our Health Officer, we were able to manage that with good success. No reported cases of human infection in the community and no reported cases of animal infection in light of the high EEE content.

TOWN REPORT

The 2009 Town Report for MCD has been submitted on time and Mr. Raccio has not

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heard of any negative feedback. This item is closed.

2010 PLAN

Mr. Raccio: The major objective last year was to get the plan on file in order to qualify for the reimbursements as well as having an Action Plan in place in case we needed to implement the various control steps that we actually did. Last year...we fell through the first 4 steps of the Emergency Response Plan and nearly fell into the Phase 5 risk category based on the conditions. We had a lot of lessons learned and a lot of knowledge obtained through record keeping, etc...out of that came an initiative that the Board of Selectmen approved to put together a reaction plan and an organization plan and actually had assigned various departments to get together and formulate that.

Mr. Raccio said that the Board needs to revise the 2009 document, update it and resubmit it. He suggested members to look at sections of the plan and determine what needs to be updated and have it ready in thirty (30) days for group review and ready for March 18th meeting to finalize. The plan needs to be filed with the State.

PRESEASON PLANS WITH DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Raccio: This is actually what the Board of Selectmen authorized and voted on and this interfacing action will cause amendments to the phase response review. So, when we look at things like last year we had to wait for the Board of Selectmen to approve the Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management to work with the MCD and to authorize funds. When we look at discussions regarding preseason plans, and to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, things that we want to consider are like coordinating with the Office of Emergency Management, a response plan and draft a statement that says if the phased response for EEE or West Nile is enacted, the MCD in conjunction with the Emergency Management Team and Health Officer and Police Department are authorized to respond within reason. So, that gives us the ability to spend a few nickels, get the people notified, notify the Board of Selectmen that action is needed without having to call all the members of the Selectmen and say can we do this.

Talk ensued. Mr. Poulos: So, we need to streamline the process such if any of the tests show up with EEE or West Nile, we had a predetermined agreement between the MCD, the Board of Selectmen, Health Officer, Fire and Police that these are the steps we are going to take in that instance, we do not have to go and chase the Selectmen.

Mr. Raccio: Additionally, we had lessons learned how we keep the School District involved and because the Recreation stands on their own, how do we keep the Recreation Commission involved. There was a little bit of give and take regarding the Recreation and all the parks which they control and ultimately the Board of Selectmen

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controls the Town. Our second set of initiative is to bring the School Board and bring the Recreation Department in and make sure that there is a mechanism in place that now we do not have to wait for the Recreation to meet and decide whether they are going to allow us to barrier spray, etc. The Board of Selectmen last year did not blanket statement say you have the authority to go into the parks and set up barrier spraying and they did not have the authority to say you can go on school property.

Talk ensued. Mr. Raccio: As we look at the plan, we can see what questions and issues to formulate to the Board of Selectmen and we could be on their agenda in 4 to 6 weeks prior to the finalization and then if there is any feedback that could get modulated back into the final draft before the 18th.

Mr. Poulos: If we were to give them a document that says look this is what we are asking for if in the event that this shows up, we want to be able to make these phone calls and not ask for permission necessarily to put the posters up in the parks but to tell them because we found this, we are going to follow the plan and you agree the plan said we could put the posters up so we do not have that delay and it should be the same thing for all three of those groups.

Mr. Raccio further pointed out that the State can overrule the Town at any given time that they feel that there is a hazard, with or without the Board of Selectmen's approval.

The MCD may need to meet with department heads and Mr. Raccio asked to channel the request to meet with departments through him. Talk went on as to meeting with department heads. Mr. Raccio will be forwarding to the members some of the things he wants changed or updated in the document and suggested the members do the same.

MINUTES

Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to approve the September 24, 2009, minutes as written. Mr. Latsha seconded. Motion carried 2-0-1.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The contract with Municipal Pest Management was approved and the Budget Committee also reviewed it and approved it without any amendments thus the contract value stands for 2010. The correct amount was entered into the default budget.

The 2010 MCD budget was cut for secretarial thus cutting back on the number of meetings for the year. The MCD will be meeting on March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, September 16th and November 18th, 2010. Mr. Raccio stressed that the public should not

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feel that they are going to receive any less services than can be provided. There has been no reduction in the commercial services and the Pest Management Services is in full force with the same number of traps, etc. Mr. Raccio expressed his disappointment in the budget cuts made by the Board of Selectmen and their unawareness of what the MCD actually does.

There being no further business, Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Poulos seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary