

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

August 28, 2008

The Mosquito Control District Committee held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Members: John Latsha, Chairman
Alfred C. Raccio
Joan McKibben

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Latsha called the roll: All members were present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ELECTIONS

Mr. Raccio said the documents for his reappointment have not been forwarded to the Town Clerk's Office. The Selectmen had voted for Mr. Raccio's reappointment but he has not been sworn in and so he will refrain from voting. Mr. Raccio said he feels that additionally, according to the RSA, the position that he holds is still a legitimate position until he is reappointed or replaced. He believes that his original oath in office still holds in play. Mrs. McKibben suggested holding off on the elections until he is sworn in.

Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to table until September 25, 2008. Mrs. McKibben seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

2009 BUDGET

The Board reviewed the updated budget reports from January 2008 to August 2008. Mr. Latsha asked if any more expenses would occur as far as supplies, copy charges, etc. until the end of the year. It was said that there would be more expenses.

Mr. Raccio said that he has checked on the camera purchase (body) and explained the reason for the more expensive camera is to be able to get snap shots deep into the water. This would be difficult with a throw away camera. Mrs. McKibben asked what the Committee is trying to accomplish taking pictures, and pictures of what and where will the pictures be taken. Mr. Raccio: The original discussion was over the habitat and the

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concern of pre-impost treatment. Then Michael (Morrison) informed us how a particular breed of larvae that we are interested in attached themselves to cattails and breathe through the cattail...I can see quickly where we may want to capture that breeding habitat and without properly polarized lenses to actually be able to see through and into the cattail stock where they are breeding, we can't do that right now.

Mrs. McKibben: But we are not trying to take pictures of mosquitoes because we are not experts to know what kind of mosquito we are looking at.

Mr. Raccio: No, but for our records and our archives. If for example Mr. Morrison tells us there is this mass of breeding and we treat it, then all of a sudden I do not know what is the worst thing that can happen, the habitat goes flat, well, why did you treat it? Well, we were told. What do you mean you were told? How do you know they were there? We were told, oh, no, because we have documented evidence. It is not that we are the experts but we are charged with the responsibility to record our data. That data includes habitats and breeding grounds especially if it is conservation land or public land that we are responsible to answer to and without the tools to do that, we can't.

Mr. Raccio said that a good camera body is \$600 with a lens. He suggested keeping the line item at \$425 for a special polarized macro lens to be bought next year. There is money left in the computer budget to apply to the camera housing and still manage the budget to the bottom line.

4411.20-328 Public notices 2009 - \$180

Line item is over-expended by \$7. It was agreed \$180.

4411.20-344 Secretarial Services 2009 - \$700

Expended \$270 - Mr. Raccio said we have had a very abbreviated season. He recommended leaving it at \$700.

4411.20-371 Larval Habitat Documents \$1,750

This is part of Mr. Morrison's contract and it has not been expended yet. The 2009 Contract from Municipal Services has not been received. It is not certain if it needs to go out to bid again. This was discussed. Mr. Raccio will check if it needs to go out to bid. Mr. Latsha will contact Mr. Morrison for his contract numbers for next season.

4411.20 Internet Computer 2009 - \$1,500

Mr. Raccio said this amount should come down by \$2,000. It was agreed the new amount

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is \$1,500. Talk went on about the Town's website. Mr. John Brunelle is framing the architecture and may need to have it managed by a professional IT service. Mrs. McKibben wants to see the minutes posted on the website.

4411.20-550 Printing 2009 - \$200

There is still \$200 remaining. Mr. Latsha said he got all the copies printed for free. Mr. Raccio said the committee couldn't depend on it next year.

4411.20-560 Dues and Subscriptions 2009 - \$75

There are a couple of subscriptions the Committee wants to subscribe to and also need to check on seminars.

4411.20-620 Office Supplies 2009 - \$100

Mr. Raccio will be picking up some supplies. Mrs. McKibben suggested \$100 for 2009.

4411.20-624 Film and Photo Supplies 2009 -\$425

It was agreed to keep it at \$425 to be used for camera purchase.

4411.20-625 Postage and Envelopes 2009 - \$50

Talk went on as to the use of the postage meter in the Town Clerk's Office. It was agreed the line item to stay at \$50.

4411.20-631 Equipment Repair 0

The Board discussed purchasing light traps. It was said that the additional light traps purchased by the Town could be picked up by Municipal Pest Management Services when they retrieve their light traps and bring them to the lab in Concord. The testing is free but there would be a payment to Municipal Pest Services for the extra traps they would pick up. The light traps are \$150 each.

4411.20-680 Copier Charges 2008 - \$250 2009 - \$150

It was said that no money has been transferred from the MCD account to the general fund. Mr. Raccio suggested sending Howard Dilworth a directive to move \$150 to offset the charges. Mr. Latsha said that they did make 100 copies or more at the Town office. It was agreed \$150 for 2009.

4411.20-693 Minor Tools and Supplies 2008 - \$200; 2009 - \$100

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Mrs. McKibben will purchase two pairs of boots: one for her and one male pair. Budget for 2009 is \$100.

4411.20-810 Mileage and Tolls 2009 - \$25

There is \$21.46 left. It was agreed to leave it at \$25.00.

Mrs. McKibben **MOTIONED** to send Michael Morrison a \$30.00 check for reimbursement for Monday night's meeting. (Mr. Morrison came from Maine to meet with the Board but he had been taken off the agenda and he was not notified.)

Mr. Raccio **AMENDED THE MOTION** that the reimbursement to Mr. Morrison will be equaled to the allocated mileage distributed for the Town of Litchfield for Mr. Morrison's round trip from his home base to the Town of Litchfield Town Hall and back again. If the Town authorized 49.5 cents find out from Mr. Morrison the mileage and reimburse him according to the Town procedure. Mrs. McKibben seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. Main motion: Vote to reimburse Mr. Morrison the rate times his mileage per the Litchfield rate, his mileage from home base to Town Hall for the evening of August 25, 2008. Motion carried 3-0-0. Mr. Latsha will call Mr. Morrison.

The Committee recessed for five minutes. The Committee then reconvened.

Mr. Raccio entered the figures onto the spreadsheet. The 2008 budget was \$29,965 and the 2009 is \$27,755.

Mr. Latsha suggested adding a new line item for video taping by the Cable Committee. Mr. Raccio: I do not recommend that. The public access has a budget of its own and as such is responsible for providing access services for the community. I believe it is within their Charter to present their budget in its totality and as a newly formed commission the Mosquito Control District has rights and privileges. I would not find it to be prudent to us. They are responsible to manage their budget to their bottom line and if the Board of Selectmen approves over-expenditure of their bottom line for current service and or expanded services that is a Board of Selectmen decision. It is not up to the individual committees in my humble opinion as a Mosquito Control District member for us to supplement other department budgets.

The Committee recessed for five minutes and then reconvened.

Back to the budget review. Mr. Raccio went on to do a base budget comparison to determine the differentials less the contract.

Mr. Raccio: Without the content of the contract, this year the voters authorized \$5,715 for

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the conduct of the committee. If our proposed budget is motioned and moved this evening, the new budget is \$3,505 which is a reduction of \$2,200. This budget represents less than the requested 1% cap.

Before voting on the budget, Mr. Raccio said there is a technical issue (bid process) that needs to be resolved. Once this is resolved, the Committee could meet for a special meeting to vote to approve the budget to move forward to the Selectmen on a timely fashion. All members agreed.

The Committee recessed for five minutes and then reconvened.

All in all, the Committee needs a copy of the new budget schedule and the numbers from Mr. Morrison regarding the contract. Also, need to determine if the contract needs to go out to bid.

Bat boxes - Mrs. McKibben informed the Committee she had spoken with a teacher about having the students build bat houses as a sophomore or senior project. Mr. Raccio suggested that she offer the school that the MCD will pay for the shop materials at the school's rate.

Light traps - Mr. Latsha asked if there is money left this year to purchase one light trap under minor tools and equipment line item. Mr. Raccio said the Committee needs to buy the boots, etc. and if there is money left, then the light trap can be purchased.

Proclamation - Mr. Latsha asked if there is anything that the Selectmen can do to show appreciation to those businesses that have provided information to their customer regarding mosquitoes. It was suggested a certificate or proclamation be given out. Mr. Raccio said to submit the request to the Selectmen for their endorsement.

Minutes - The following minutes need to be approved: 11-1-07, 6-26-08, 5-29-08, and 7-17-08.

The Committee recessed for five minutes and then reconvened.

2009 Budget Process - On October 17, 2008, the 2009 MCD budget is due; the Committee to go before the Selectmen on October 27, 2008 and then to the Budget Committee on November 6, 2008.

Other business - Mrs. McKibben mentioned an article in HLN on August 1, 2008, by Lynne Ober and noted some inaccuracies. The article stated that the BTI is genetically engineered and it is not. Mr. Raccio said that statement came from him in last year's discussions in talking with the various vendors. His recollection was that it was stated

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that BTI is engineered specifically for the mosquitoes targeted and that no other larvae would be affected by its injection.

Mr. Raccio: The data of the article is from me; it is not HLN.

Mrs. McKibben said that Mr. Morrison had said it is a bacterium, it may be created specifically for the use. The other issue she had with the article it was quoted "Pesticide does not wipe out all mosquitoes. It is aimed at a few species that are known that carry the diseases." Mrs. McKibben: It does wipe all larvae mosquitoes. It does not pick and choose. Mr. Raccio: Again that came from me and that is what I heard stated by the various vendors last year; that was not a HLN quote.

At this time, Selectman Chairman Frank Byron entered the meeting. He said that the contract would not have to go out to bid because it is a service not a capital expenditure.

It was also noted that Mr. Morrison is scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen on September 15, 2008.

There being no further business, Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Raccio seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary
(transcribed from tape)