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TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1 MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office, 15483 Club Deluxe Road, Hammond, LA.

Debbie Edwards, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was as follows:

Charlie Ciolino – present
Debbie Edwards – present
Greg Fletcher – present
James Harper - present

Erin Horzelski – present
Craig Inman - absent
Jimmy Wolfe - present

Also Present: Douglas Curet, Dennis Walette, Colby Colona, and Cheri Vining.

Approval of July 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ciolino made a motion to accept the July 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Inman absent.

Approval of August 17, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the August 17th special meeting minutes. Mr. Ciolino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Inman absent.

Director's Report

Mr. Walette provided his report.

On August 17th, the Assistant Director, IT Specialist and Mr. Walette met with the Tangipahoa Parish Government Planning Director for a Geospatial Strategy meeting to discuss organizing a joint effort to get an enterprise license for the parish.

The American Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting will be held March 4th – 8th, 2024.

Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Colona provided her report.

Due to drought conditions, we have still been experiencing lower mosquito counts than usual.

Notably, we have had a 95% decrease in nuisance mosquitoes compared with this time last year and nearly a 25% decrease in southern house mosquito traps.

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We have submitted over 1600 mosquito pool samples so far this year for testing resulting in 17 positive mosquito pool samples. In comparison, this time last year we had submitted 1500 mosquito samples resulting in 332 positive mosquito pool samples for WNV and 1 for EEE. Our quarterly safety meeting was held in August.

The District had a booth set up at the SLU STEM Fest on August 26th. We received much interest from the public at our booth.

Leadership Tangipahoa will be visiting our office next week.

The District will also have a booth at the Hammond Air Show October 21st – 22nd at the Hammond Airport.

Review Financial Statement

Mr. Walette reviewed the financial report through August 31, 2023.

Ms. Horzelski made a motion to accept the financial report into record as presented. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Inman absent. Motion passed.

Award Aerial Spray Contingency Contract

Ms. Colona reviewed the single bid received for the aerial spray contingency with the commissioners.

Mr. Ciolino made a motion to award the contract to Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management. Ms. Horzelski seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Inman absent. Motion passed.

Hangar Discussion

Ms. Horzelski made a motion to authorize the Director to schedule an appraisal for the building of interest. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Inman absent. Motion passed.

Award Hangar Construction Contract

No action was taken.

Authorize Negotiations For Hangar Purchase

No action was taken.

Adopt Revised Personnel Manual

Mr. Walette presented a job description for Director to be added to the personnel manual, an update of the cover page with the current board and the new revision date.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt the revised personnel manual as presented. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Inman absent. Motion passed.

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Adopt Amended Budget

Mr. Walette reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2023 budget.

Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Inman absent. Motion passed.

Presentation and Discussion of 2024 Draft Budget

Ms. Colona presented the draft budget for review and discussion. Commissioners will continue to review and contact Mr. Walette with any questions. At the November meeting, the proposed budget for 2024 will be presented for the Board's approval.

Mr. Harper made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Inman absent.

ATTEST:

/s/Debbie Edwards, Chairwoman

/s/Erin Horzelski, Secretary

/s/Cheri Vining, Recording Secretary

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