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**TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 11, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office, 15483 Club Deluxe Road, Hammond, LA.

Jimmy Wolfe, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was as follows:

**Deek DeBlieux – present
Debbie Edwards – absent
Erin Horzelski – present**

**Ricky Mannino – present
Jimmy Wolfe - present**

Also Present: Frank DiVittorio, Dennis Walette, Colby Colona, and Cheri Vining.

Election of Officers

Mr. Wolfe opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. DeBlieux nominated Mr. Wolfe for Chairman of the Board. Ms. Horzelski seconded the motion. Ms. Horzelski made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. DeBlieux seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

Mr. DeBlieux nominated Ms. Edwards for Vice Chairman of the Board. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Mr. DeBlieux made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

Mr. DeBlieux nominated Mr. Mannino for Secretary of the Board. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Mr. DeBlieux made a motion that the nominations be closed. Ms. Horzelski seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

Mr. Mannino made a motion to accept the June 9th meeting minutes. Mr. DeBlieux seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

Mr. DeBlieux made a motion to accept the June 16th meeting minutes. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

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Director's Report

Mr. Walette provided his report.

COVID-19 update – Following the mask mandate from the Governor, masks are mandatory inside the building unless you are alone in your private office. Inspectors continue to go directly into service from their homes rather than coming into the office first.

We still have two commissioner vacancies. The Tangipahoa Parish Council has not yet appointed new commissioners.

We have detected WNV (West Nile Virus) and EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) in mosquitoes in and around the Hammond. In response to this detection, two aerial spray missions were completed over those areas last week with good effect. There were no positive mosquito pools reported last week.

Our computer specialist will be retiring at the end of February 2022. Plans are to begin advertising and interviewing the latter part of this year. The new employee would start in early January 2022 to train with the computer specialist for a smooth transition.

Both of our new inspectors have received all certifications and completed their probationary period. Mr. Walette made a request to the Board to allow these employees to take the work vehicle home, as other eligible employees have, which also allows them to go directly into service from home, as the other inspectors are currently doing. The commissioners agreed to allow this.

Chamber After Hours is still scheduled for September 16, 2021. All plans have been made, but due to the current COVID situation, this may change. We will contact the Chamber office to confirm the plans or postpone if necessary.

The Hammond Northshore Regional Airshow is scheduled for October 16th – 17th. We plan to have a display area with our aircraft, vehicles, and literature for the public. These plans may change depending on the COVID situation at that time.

Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Colona provided her report.

There has been a huge amount of mosquito activity. A slight decrease from June, but still high trap counts. Over 1,000 mosquito pool samples have been sent to LSU for testing and 150 mosquito pool samples tested here in our lab through July. There were six WNV positives (all southern house mosquitoes) and two EEE positives (southern house mosquitoes) all in the month of July. After aerial spray missions were conducted over the affected areas last week, the traps have been much lower.

The library presentation was cancelled.

Ms. Colona conducted our quarterly safety meeting on defensive driving.

Discuss Hangar Project

Mr. Wolfe presented items for discussion and information he has collected. Mr. Walette will contact an engineer to get updated price costs for our next meeting.

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Ms. Horzelski made a motion to amend the agenda to go to item 12 – approve surplus inventory and item 13 - authorize director to auction surplus inventory then return to item 10 – review financial statement to continue. Mr. DeBlieux seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Ms. Edwards absent.

Approve Surplus Inventory

Mr. Walette reviewed the list of inventories to declare as surplus.

Mr. DeBlieux made a motion to declare the items presented as surplus. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Ms. Edwards absent.

Authorize Director to Auction Surplus Inventory

Mr. DeBlieux made a motion to authorize the Director to auction the surplus inventory. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Ms. Edwards absent.

Review Financial Statement

Mr. Walette reviewed the financial report through July 31, 2021.

Mr. DeBlieux made a motion to accept the financial report into record as presented. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

Presentation and Discussion of 2022 Draft Budget

Mr. Walette presented the draft budget for review and discussion. Commissioners will continue to review and contact Mr. Walette with any questions. At the October meeting, the proposed budget for 2022 will be presented for the Board’s approval.

Mr. Mannino made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Horzelski seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Ms. Edwards absent.

ATTEST:

/s/Jimmy Wolfe, Chairman

/s/Ricky Mannino, Secretary

/s/Cheri Vining, Recording Secretary

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