

## **TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

**Mosquito Control District**

**April 24, 2008**

Minutes approved 5/29/08

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

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Chairman called the roll. Mrs. McKibben arrived shortly after the roll call at 7:03 p.m.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** to approve the September 13, 2007, October 11, 2007, October 25, 2007, November 28, 2007, and March 20, 2008 minutes. Mr. Raccio seconded. Mrs. McKibben made note to 9/13/07 minutes, page 2, to change the word lime to Lyme disease. Mr. Raccio amended the Motion to include the correction articulated by Mrs. McKibben. It was seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. Main motion to approve listed minutes above. Motion carried 3-0-0.

The November 1, 2007, minutes regarding budgets will be emailed to members and approved at the next meeting.

### **HEALTH OFFICER**

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Health Officer, came forward to talk about signs he will be putting up at locations alerting people about mosquitoes. He will be going back out to put signs up again at the ballparks, schools, etc.

Mr. Lynch: There is no need to go off on our own but to go with the State requirements. At this time, the mosquitoes are not the problem. The type of mosquitoes we are talking about we only get it in the summer, June and July.

Mr. Lynch said that he does not post on the trails but rather at the point of primary entry. Mr. Lynch: "I think people are intelligent enough. You put these yellow signs all over the

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place, they are just going to be ripped down...

Mr. Latsha said there is a company that can place the signs on a stand so they can be put permanently in the ground. Mr. Raccio said that this maybe considered at budget time next year. Talk continued as to placement and costs of printing and laminating signs.

Mr. Lynch said he will speak to HLN regarding a health announcement. Mr. Lynch: Most cases we can use the media attack or approach that the State uses. We do not need to reinvent the wheel; simplicity is the best approach to everything and common sense.

Talk ensued as to providing fliers to the schools to send home with the kids. Mr. Lynch: is there a need to publicly express it that way through the schools? I think if we stick to the public information that we have in the newspapers is quite good. People read them when I put them up...a lot of people know what is going on; the public is educated.

Mr. Raccio said last year the school initiated automated e-mail. He suggested contacting Dr. Cutler, School Superintendent, to put out an abbreviated message over the internet. There is no cost to do this.

Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to compose a memo to the Board of Selectmen to be put in their correspondence for the coming Monday night's meeting, a request to the Board of Selectmen to authorize \$50 expenditure against the printing line item Account 4411.20-550, not to exceed \$50.00 for printing. Mr. Lynch said it is mostly for the lamination. Mr. Latsha seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

### CONTRACT UPDATE

The contract with Municipal Pest Management has been forwarded to the attorneys for review. Mr. Morrison (Municipal Pest Management) is on vacation and the attorney has been trying to contact him. Hopefully, the contract will be finalized and sent to the Board of Selectmen for review on May 5, 2008.

Talk ensued. Mr. Raccio: Attorney LeFevre acknowledged should we elect not to execute any phase of the contract, there would be no payment penalty. That gives the Mosquito Control District and Selectmen the mechanics necessary to regulate the program without penalty.

Mr. Raccio said it would be desirable to have a Mosquito Control District representative at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting to speak to the contract.

### EMERGENCY PLAN

The Board discussed the formation of an emergency plan. It was suggested looking at plans from other towns. Examples will be provided for the next meeting.

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Mr. Kevin Lynch came forward. He did not know of any towns that have an emergency plan in place but you would probably find one more towards Rockingham County, Kesington and the seacoast area such as Hampton.

Mrs. McKibben wants to see templates on what constitutes an emergency.

Mr. Raccio: Before we implement the reactionary, we need to know the stimulus and what constitutes an emergency. This committee will not have a fully sanctioned plan for at least a year. This is no small undertaking.

Mr. Latsha asked what happens if there is an emergency this year.

Mr. Lynch: Having one, possibly two hits of EEE, is not going to constitute an emergency even if it is human. It is when you get into large hits. The State is clear on what an emergency is. All they are saying is that you use normal precaution. They do not have a plan per se because they are trying to leave it up to each community to make a decision on what would constitute an emergency. They will give us guidelines. Those south of us...as far as Tennessee EEE is a more common affect...the State of N.H. has not looked at it as a bona fide true emergency...until we do some testing, we have no emergency. Mr. Raccio is right, we are talking 18 months before we get into a true plan.

Talk ensued. Mr. Lynch said aerial spraying, you won't see that in N.H. because of the cost. There is no way to afford the cost of dropping the pellets or the spraying...right now is to develop an emergency plan; you are on the right track. Let's look and see what is out there; compile it, look at what will benefit us and look at protective areas. When you get into emergency, you are talking spraying. You are at a point where you are going to spray. There may be two different types of emergency, the public side, ball fields where you would do spot spraying.

Mr. Latsha said the spraying would be done by the Town. Mr. Raccio said that is voluntary spraying. Let's make sure we distinguish between a State directed pandemic and a local decision because once the State makes the declaration, they supercede the community.

Mr. Lynch: You are 100% correct. If the State looks at it as a pandemic type situation...it may be Rockingham County, parts of Hillsborough going over to the where the Souhegan is because we have not had anything beyond that. We have nothing that is beyond this area. Merrimack, Litchfield, Manchester and all of them. Manchester is looking at the spray program being out of the budget.

Mr. Raccio: They are still going with looking at the drain holes and manholes.

Mr. Lynch said that schools may take on a voluntary approach for their athletic programs, ballpark spraying because of concerns of the parents.

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Talk ensued. Mr. Raccio suggested sending out communications, such as an e-mail to Dennis Miller, School Board Chairman, that the Mosquito Control District is looking at setting up an emergency plan and this is a courtesy to put them on notice. He also suggested to inform the Budget Committee Chairman Brent Lemire as a courtesy.

On another matter, Mr. Raccio suggested sending correspondence to the Selectmen, with a copy to Howard Dilworth, authorizing the Health Officer the use of the Town vehicle to post signs.

### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Frances Drouin, Naticook Avenue, came forward to talk about a few items. Mr. Raccio went on to explain how the mechanics of the mosquito budget came to be.

Mr. Raccio said that the Mosquito Control District has no authority to spend the budget under the RSA's but rather make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. He further explained about the contract and how the Board has to be convinced it is necessary before pesticide is distributed. The Board of Selectmen is the only ones that can authorize the spending.

Mr. Drouin: My concern was when I was listening to the Health Officer, I did not get a clear reading what is going to constitute a Mosquito Control act such as larviciding or whatever. It seemed up in the air. What is it then? What is going to constitute this group going over to the Selectmen that we are recommending to move forward?

It was suggested that Mr. Drouin view the March 20, 2008, meeting video available at the Library when the Board met with Municipal Pest Management. It will answer a lot of Mr. Drouin's concerns.

The Board is trying to get the contract lined up with the scope of work and then get it approved by the Selectmen on May 5, 2008. Once the contract is in place, testing will begin and Mr. Morrison will come back to the Mosquito Control District stating what he found.

Mr. Drouin: I understand if Mr. Morrison does not find any evidence of EEE, or West Nile, you are not going to spend money.

Talk ensued. Mrs. McKibben said Mr. Morrison has done maps of Litchfield so far and is familiarizing himself with Litchfield.

Mr. Raccio: The other important point you bring out through these incremental steps, your first question, sir, what constitutes a larvicide application? When Mr. Morrison comes back from these dip test sites and he finds there roughly five or six mosquito types out of hundreds of mosquitoes that there are only a small percent that carry the virus. So,

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the first part of this structure is all about testing and understanding. If he comes back and in his dip test pulls up a couple of hundred larvae that are basically of the variety that carry the virus, that specific site, not the whole town will be a consideration for application. The Board here will be challenged with what he brings back. If there is one site and it is \$2,000 to larvicide and we get one or two test sites, do we execute the \$2,000 scope of work? That is the decision we will make and the decision whether we go positive or negative, we will report to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Drouin: You just said you did a dip test and you came up with 200 potential EEE, would you treat then?

Mr. Raccio: Personally?

Mr. Drouin: Would you recommend it to the Selectmen?

Mr. Latsha: Basically, sir, we are going to get the input from the professional to tell us. He has over 30 years experience and, obviously, his opinion is going to carry a lot of weight...

Mr. Drouin: As long as you listen to the experts. When I was listening to the conversation back there for some reason I was getting a read it wasn't going to move forward as easily as we are discussing it right now. I am still not convinced that it is. If the contractor says you should be spraying, and there is 200 of potential EEE mosquitoes, to me that does not seem like much of a decision in regards to your position and the Mosquito Control, you know okay 200 potentially lethal mosquitoes. Yea we should larvicide that. I am not getting that from you guys, I mean we are going to listen and we are going to make our decision and then we have to go to the Selectmen.

Mr. Latsha: You know what has to happen obviously he is going to come in and say these particular sites in Litchfield are high risk for EEE and he is going to tell us and we are going to say based on your experience what shall we do and he is going to give us an answer and, obviously, that is going to take a lot of weight in our decision making process. And at that point we will send, even if we disagree, we are going to send it to the Board of Selectmen whether we disagree with it or not; we are obligated to send it so they get the final say one way or the other and they have the final say.

Talk ensued. Mrs. McKibben said there is a permit process. They are awaiting the permit from the State. Mr. Drouin said he appreciates what everyone has been doing.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Latsha thanked Richard Pentheny (present) and the Cable Committee for supplying the DVD's. The DVD of the meetings is available at the Library. Mr. Latsha

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said that the Library personnel have been extremely helpful providing links to the website.

Mr. Raccio: Citizen John Brunelle has been actively engaged in revitalizing the Town website. I would like the Board to consider inviting John to one of our meetings in order to discuss the outlay of the Mosquito Control District links and how we might be able to assist John in providing information, or providing recommendations on sublevel menus that we might want to add as part of our pull down for the district.

On another matter, Mr. Latsha asked about the \$100 difference he noted in the contract price. Mr. Raccio said that Mr. Morrison acknowledged the error and the error is in the Town's favor.

At this time, Mr. Latsha read a communications from Mr. Raccio in terms of administrative expenses. RSA 430:14 IV provides that the local governing body may, it does not say shall, may act as fiscal agent for the district, board, or committee in contracting for receipt and expenditures of all funds made available to the district and shall provide all administrative services required to carry out the function of the district, board, or committee accordingly. I think it would make sense that the MCD budget also includes anticipated administrative expenses. I understand it says may, not shall, does that mean that we automatically, 100%, have to go through the Board of Selectmen as far as printing, copying excluding the contract, just for those line items only, the printing, the minutes of meetings, etc. because it does say may act, it does not say shall act as fiscal agent.

Mr. Raccio: What is missing from this communication is the questions I was asking him. This was in reply and if I recall this was asked before we had a budget. How can we get some money to help pay for the minutes and the administration of establishing this entity. This was in reply to that. Once the committees are established, it is still my understanding that the RSA's governing the establishment still put the financial execution burden to the Board of Selectmen. If the Chairman has issue with that, perhaps you might want to construct an e-mail, in writing because you are dealing with the attorney, asking the attorney about that. In reply to your second question: Can you take this budget and have the Board of Selectmen give you the authority against everything except the contract? My belief there if they are going to grant you authority, they are going to grant you authority of the budget. I would be very doubtful that they would want to take on the additional burdens of sub-managing a budget. Either they are going to engage the budget, or they are going to leave it to the department heads.

Mr. Latsha does not want to have to go to the Selectmen for every little item. Mr. Raccio: That was stated from the get go...we said that from day one; this is not new. Mr. Latsha: I didn't say it was new...I am just talking about this RSA.

Mr. Raccio: If you believe this committee wants to engage, actually I need to correct

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myself, we are not a committee, we are a district and that is where you will find that unlike committees and departments that control their own budgets, we are not, we are the Mosquito Control District and I think what you need to do is review the RSA's for districts and what we might come out of that is maybe we do want to formulate a mosquito control committee, or under the Health Department, a mosquito control department because we are not a department, we are not a committee.

The members did not have a problem with Mr. Latsha going to the attorneys for clarification of the RSA.

Mr. Raccio reiterated that the Mosquito Control District should do what it said it would do the first year to preserve the trust of the public. Talk went on as to vouchers, reimbursements, etc.

Mr. Latsha said he printed out copies for distribution because he did not to wait. Mr. Raccio asked why the rush; what drove the need and what was the critical schedule milestone that it could not wait for the Board of Selectmen's approval. Mr. Latsha said it could have waited but he wanted to get it done. Mrs. McKibben suggested that he go to the Selectmen for permission to spend line items.

Mr. Latsha said he posted notices at the Pantry Pride, the hair salon, Willy's Pizza. He talked to Open Doors Christian Church and they want to put them in the bulletin for this weekend. Mr. Raccio: The Mosquito Control District has a charter to provide education. We do not have a charter to provide mass distribution of media. We do not have the budget to do that. We have \$200 in printing and the first month if we printed everything that was requested, we would have zero for the rest of the year.

Mr. Latsha: I told you I could make 800 copies at four cents a copy and that would be enough that we need roughly. Mr. Raccio: Of this one communications...what about the rest of the season?

Mr. Latsha: Well, we have a video going out on the Cable. I wanted to purchase this...this is from the American Mosquito Control Association. It is a \$65 video. It illustrates mosquito biology, mosquito borne disease, biological, chemical, physical control techniques, mosquito prevention techniques, research, etc. on DVD and runs 27 minutes. I would like to put that on the Cable, purchase that. This is one of the things I wanted to do...and put this on the Cable as well for public information.

Mrs. McKibben asked if Mr. Latsha has viewed the video. He said he had not. Mr. Raccio said it is the first time he has seen and asked why this was not brought up and discussed with the Board.

Mr. Latsha: I am bringing this to you now for approval. I did not do anything with it.

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Back to discussions about the budget process, Mr. Latsha said he is not happy with the budget process as far as the administrative part of it. Mr. Latsha is certain that the Board of Selectmen will give the District the leeway. Mr. Raccio: I can tell you as a board member of the Mosquito Control District that I do not believe that we need to do that. I will also tell you as an individual Selectman I will not sanction that either. I believe we went through a process and we identified these very issues and we said what we were going to do and how we were going to execute and I believe we got the strength of the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to execute in this fashion. I see nothing here that is compelling that we cannot work through the process and get done...

It was suggested the Mosquito Control District be on the Selectmen's agenda on a weekly basis. Mrs. McKibben suggested going to the Selectmen and asking them if they are expecting to approve every item of the budget. Also she said she would want to review that DVD before spending \$65 because it may not be appropriate. It was said that the Health Officer may know of communities who have purchased the video.

There being no further business, Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. McKibben seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. The Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Lorraine Dogopoulos  
Recording Secretary