

Minutes of Board Meeting
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
August 11, 2020

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on August 11th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Those present were Chairperson Joiner, Treasurer Abbott, Secretary Randy Evans, Executive Director Rogers, Operations Director Hansen, and Administrative Manager Stevens. Also present were Public Education Specialist Jillian Meek, Pilot Wayne Daniels, Research and Surveillance Director Janusauskaite, Shop Supervisor CJ McCutcheon, Field Operations Supervisor Dan Rebston, and candidate Shanon Holm.

All present stood and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept and approve the purchase orders as presented. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Executive Director Rogers shared a presentation with the Commissioners providing justification for the multiple new positions she has requested. The presentation started with the larviciding staff. She reviewed the growth of Pasco County over the past several years and explained that the District had not kept up with the growth in relation to field staff. At the end of this portion of the presentation, the Board unanimously gave their support to hire 2 additional field larvicide technicians.

Executive Director Rogers then moved to the discussion of the shop staff. She reviewed all of the equipment that the shop is responsible for in designing, building, and maintaining. She then provided a comparative cost of outsourcing some of the tasks, showing a great savings in both time and money by keeping things in house. Commissioners Joiner and Evans expressed their support for adding 1 position to the shop. Commissioner Abbott disagreed.

Research and Surveillance Director Janusauskaite covered the portion pertaining to the additional Entomologist position requested. She reviewed the current status of trapping, testing, and monitoring mosquito populations and disease presence. She then expressed the need to increase the number of trap types as well as the trap sites. She added that the research for specific species was not able to be done under the current Entomological staff. Commissioners Evans and Abbott both expressed their support for the additional Entomologist position. Commissioner Joiner stated that he did not feel that this was needed at this time.

Public Education Specialist Meek addressed the Board pertaining to the additional position for the Public Education department. She reviewed where the program started, where it is today, and the hopes she had for reaching a broader audience. Commissioner Evans asked if the District could look into doing a public commercial. Commissioner Abbott offered to address some HOA and/or Civic Associations. He also suggested that we reach out to the municipalities. Commissioner Abbott then stated that he was not willing to support the hiring of a full-time individual, but that he was comfortable providing some further financial support to the department to be used as needed to reach more residents. He stated that he felt adding \$18,000 would suffice. Commissioners Evans and Joiner both agreed to approve a part-time position on a seasonal basis. Commissioner Abbott made a motion to add \$20,000 to the Public Education department to be used as the District felt best. Commissioner Evans seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Joiner brought up for discussion the Operations Director position. He expressed his discontent with the decision of Executive Director Rogers to hire Lee Hansen for the position. He stated that he felt the increased salary was too much and stated that Mr. Hansen did not meet the qualifications for the position. Executive Director Rogers stated that Mr. Hansen, did, in fact, meet all of the required qualifications listed for the position with the addition of managerial and leadership qualities. Commissioner Joiner disagreed and asked to see his application. Commissioner Joiner also stated that he was upset that Mr. Hansen was starting at a higher rate than former Operations Director Lloyd was hired at 8 years ago. Executive Director Rogers outlined Mr. Hansen's experience that factored into the decision to hire him and stated that the increase in salary was commensurate with the added responsibilities of the position. She then added that the increase in pay fell at the base of the salary range for the position that the Commissioners approved in past years. Commissioner Joiner expressed that he did not agree with the sentiment that the decision was left up to the Director to make the decision.

Commissioner Joiner asked to be shown where it shows that Mr. Hansen was qualified. Executive Director Rogers reminded Commissioner Joiner that the discussion took place at an earlier meeting and the other 2 Commissioners voted to approve for Executive Director to make the decision on who to hire and to which position. Administrative Manager Stevens provided Commissioner Joiner with a copy of Mr. Hansen's application and resume for confirmation that he did, in fact, meet the requisite experience and qualifications for the position.

Executive Director Rogers presented the Board with a draft Anti-Nepotism policy. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Director Rogers presented the Board with the final draft of the Public Comment policy. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Executive Director Rogers updated the Board on the helicopter purchase. She stated that the papers had been signed and the contract was underway. She added that ships should be at the finishing center by September. Executive Director Rogers updated the Commissioners on the status of the new hangar. She stated that we were still reaching out to companies to provide us a quote for services. She added that, since the timeline is short, they were looking into other options for storing the helicopters upon completion as a backup. Commissioner Joiner asked if the current ships have been listed for sale yet. She stated that we hoped to have them listed soon and that the goal was to have them sold by the time the new ships arrive.

Executive Director Rogers reviewed the second draft of the 2020-2021 budget. There was some minor discussion on possibly changing the millage rate but it was ultimately decided to leave it at the rolled-back rate. Commissioner Joiner discussed the amount budgeted for raises. He stated that he felt that we should pull back a little to match what Pasco County is doing and proposed that we set the rate for 3% instead of 4% as originally presented. Commissioner Abbott stated that he did not agree that we should follow Pasco County. Commissioner Abbott made a motion to approve the raise amount at 3.75%. There was no second on the motion, motion died. Commissioner Evans made a motion to set the raise amount to be up to 3%. Commissioner Abbott voted nay. Commissioner Joiner seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Joiner stated that he felt that we needed to scale down the chemical inventory we keep on hand as well as scale back on the chemical budget. There was some further discussion regarding the millage rate. Commissioner Abbott made a motion to set the millage rate to 0.2627. There was not a second on the motion, motion died.

Other Business:

Commissioner Joiner stated that he would like the District to look into the agreement with Big Sur and possibly obtain competing quotes for services. Executive Director Rogers stated that she agreed but added that this was a project that the District should dedicate resources to in the off season.

Director Rogers reviewed the State's arbovirus activity.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Date: 10 SEPT 2020

Attested:

