



MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Eugene A. Garcia III	Chairman
Dr. Peter J. Gerone	Secretary - Treasurer
Anthony Alfred	Commissioner
Dr. Andrew J. Englande Jr.	Commissioner
David C. Stuart	Commissioner

DIRECTOR
Victoria G. Taylor

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MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting May 17, 2017

OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 12:44pm by Chairman Eugene Garcia, May 17, 2017, in the District office at 62512 Airport Road, Building 23, Slidell, Louisiana.

Present were Mr. Anthony Alfred, Dr. A.J. Englande, Jr., Dr. Eugene Garcia, Dr. Peter Gerone, and Mr. David Stuart, Commissioners; Dr. Ron Francis and Dr. Bob Lowrie, Advisors; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; and Mrs. Viki Taylor, Director. Dr. Dawn Wesson, Advisor and Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Assistant Director, were absent. Guests included Mr. Tom Van Geffen and Mr. Beau Van Geffen, Raymond James; Mr. Ben Smith, Supervisor of Aerial Operations; and Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Supervisor of Field Inspectors.

MINUTES

The minutes from the April 19 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Alfred. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented and discussed.

- a. First NBC Update - Director Taylor provided documentation from Whitney Bank regarding the acquisition of First NBC Bank. The money market account was transferred to Whitney and remains federally backed by security pledged collateral to protect public funds. Whitney Bank will continue to pay the same rate of interest as First NBC.

- b. Tom Van Geffen - Mr. Van Geffen advised the Board to request documented details from Whitney Bank to ensure funds are 100% collateralized. He further recommended maintaining the money market account, which continues to yield 1.25%.
- c. District Audits - The Director reported that the Legislative Auditor completed the enhanced audit and found no discrepancies in the financials. She will advise the Board when they schedule the audit exit conference.

Auditor Keith Rovira completed the District audit. He will present the audit exit review at the June 21 meeting.

AIRCRAFT UPDATE

Supervisor of Aerial Operations Ben Smith reported that the Twin Otter high-power engine runs were completed. Installation of the Wingman™ flight guidance system is underway. The first test flight and nondestructive tank testing are scheduled for early June.

Director Taylor asked the Board to consider an Accidental Death, Dismemberment and Paralysis Policy for Chief Pilot Ben Smith and part-time pilot Charlie Porter. Discussion followed. The Board agreed that such a policy would be prudent, due to the high risks associated with aerial spraying. At the Board's request, the Director will further explore policy options.

SCOURGE® UPDATE

Legal Counsel Abdalla spoke with insurance agent Vernon Gagliano to discuss sufficient insurance coverage for the Scourge® and the storage location. Jason Trumbetta of ADAPCO was also contacted to ensure proper liability coverage by both parties. Mr. Gagliano is fully exploring insurance coverage quotes.

SET MILLAGE RATE FOR ADOPTION AT JUNE 21 MEETING

Director Taylor reviewed past millage and parish assessed values, historical operating expenses, and ten-year revenue and expense projections. The Board agreed that maintaining the current rate of 4.05 mils would be fiscally responsible.

Chairman Garcia stated that the Board will formally adopt the 2017 millage rate at the June 21, 2017 meeting.

IT UPDATE

Supervisor of Field Inspectors Calvin Smotherman reported that the Push-to-Talk (PTT) system recently replaced two-way radio communication. Installation of the new tracking system for the adulticiding vehicles is underway. Field inspectors recently began using tablets to enter field data. Mr. Smotherman provided a visual presentation of the new field software program.

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Mr. Smotherman stated that quink populations have increased, largely due to warmer evening temperatures. Heavy rainfall has caused a decrease in domestic floodwater breeding. West Nile virus season is approaching; however, no mosquito pools have returned positive this season.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Commissioner Alfred moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15pm. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter J. Gerone (VT)

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary/Treasurer