

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) held its regular scheduled meeting July 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman George "Pat" Mann, Commissioners Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Brian F. Farrar, Bruce C. Scott, Richard Paul, and Director T. Wayne Gale.

VISITORS: Kim Hawk, Richard Levy, George Wichterman, Don Claytor, Sr., Don Doggett

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Kim Hawk – Mr. Hawk, pointed out that Bill Gates is fighting mosquitoes worldwide. He also reported on the National Debt and suggested that terminating the \$300,000 teacher's contract for mosquito education could go toward decreasing the national debt. He vehemently disagrees with Commissioner Hart's statement last month concerning the value of the LCMCD education program and stated that it is inappropriate for the district to be hiring teachers. Mr. Hawk believes that the education portion of our requirements should be handled by the School District not Mosquito Control. He stated that there is nothing on the Mosquito Control web site to teach how to control mosquitoes in residents own backyards. Finally he stated that the reason he is here every month is to support Richard Paul and provide another voice for Richard's cause. Their party goal is to have more of a voice on the LCMCD/LCHCD Board by campaigning for and winning the upcoming elections to insure a reduction of the budget.

Richard Levy – Dr. Levy is a retiree from LCMCD and spoke out in support of the retiree benefits policy that is currently in effect. He feels that the current policy should continue in effect.

Don Claytor, Sr. – Mr. Claytor is an LCMCD retiree and began working here in 1969. Insurance is important to all employees and the benefit was that if an individual stayed 30 years or reached age 62 they would receive this benefit upon retirement. He would like to see the current benefit package continue for all employees.

George Wichterman – Mr. Wichterman is a retiree of LCMCD after 38 years of service. He stated that one of the basic tenants of the Mosquito Board was to support employees and retirees. He would like to see the commitment made many years ago upheld to maintain this most important benefit to all current employees, current retirees and future retirees.

Don Doggett – Mr. Doggett is a LCHCD retiree with 36 years of service. He would like to see the benefit promises made to employees maintained by the District. This benefits plan over the years has helped the Districts to recruit quality employees. He would like to see these policies maintained for retirees, current employees and also future employees.

Chairman Mann advised the members of the public as a point of information how the Sunshine Laws affect the proceedings during any meeting of the Board.

Commissioner Ellis stated that the benefits policy issue before the Board today is a housekeeping issue to update the current policy. He feels that the promise contained in the policy was given in good faith and should continue.

MINUTES - Chairman Mann asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on June 4, 2015. Commissioner Farrar requested that the minutes be amended as follows: In Paragraph 3 on Page 1 add the word "cost" prior to the word "prohibitive". Commissioner Farrar then made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion which carried with no dissenting votes.

MINUTES (Continued) - Chairman Mann requested approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting held June 30, 2015. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, introduced Spencer Adams the new Epidemiologist with the Health Department. Mr. Adams will be filling in for Jennifer as needed and may be at Board meetings in the future in that capacity. The county is extremely quiet regarding diseases. So far viruses are at half of what they were last year. Last month there was one imported case of Dengue from Cuba in Lee County.

OPEB TRUST - Director Gale gave a recap about the need to fund Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) for future liability of the cost of the retiree health benefit. The Board previously unanimously approved a budget amendment to put into a trust , \$750,000 for LCMCD OPEB this fiscal year. The Retiree Benefits Policy is basically a housekeeping issue and explains who receives the benefits. Currently employees hired after July 1, 2011 are eligible to participate but they are not eligible for premium assistance. Retirees and employees hired before July 1, 2011 are eligible to participate in health care and receive the same benefit that current employees receive. Director Gale requested a vote to obtain approval of the policy. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the policy as written. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion. There was one (1) No vote against approval of the policy and four (4) Yes votes in favor of approving the policy. The policy was approved.

MILLAGE RATE - Director Gale advised the Board that we don't receive our tax numbers from the county until late in June, and we have budget information we must distribute by July 15th. What has to be done today is establishing maximum millage rates for the upcoming budget year. Those rates can change, they can go down from what is established today but cannot go up. What this amounts to is setting the upper level for tax monies collected next fiscal year. Director Gale recommended setting the Mosquito Control District maximum millage rate at the current rate of \$.2397. The District never knows what event might happen such as hurricanes or mosquito events between now and September when the final budgets are due. That being said the roll back rate for the Mosquito Control District is \$.2277. Director Gale would like to leave Mosquito were it is at this time. Since the District is no longer self-insured the need to have large reserves is lessened. There needs to be a budget workshop in August showing projections out into the future for the next five years based on different scenarios. Also it must be decided what the plans are for using some of the reserve funds to make up some of the money where we are in a deficit position in Mosquito control. The recommendation next year is to maintain the funding for OPEB, improve the runways, and there is \$1 million in contingency because of the rules the Department of Agriculture has that money in reserves cannot be spent. The District must have that money in contingency to keep it spendable in case of emergency. These are just draft talking points. There needs to be a vote taken today to establish the maximum millage rates. Commissioner Farrar made the motion to keep the Mosquito Control rate the same at \$.2397. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board voted four (4) yes, and one (1) no.

There have been dates set for public hearings to be advertised for September 10th at 5:01 p.m. for Mosquito Control. The date for the final public hearing is September 17th with Mosquito Control being at 5:01 p.m. Motion was made by Commissioner Ellis to approve both these dates and times. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

MILLAGE RATE (Continued) - Discussion was held to decide on the date for the Budget Workshop. The Board decided that this could be done prior to the August Board meeting. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to approve the Budget Workshop in August. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved with no dissenting votes.

PROJECT UPDATES - Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, reported that the painting of the runway has been completed.

Director Gale presented that during the audit process their results provided us the opportunity to identify "junk" items and value them for placement on the surplus property list. The Board has a list of three large bins of surplus items to approve for disposal at this time. Motion was made by Commissioner Farrar to approve the surplus inventory list and sale of these obsolete items. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Director Gale pointed out that we have started aerial adulticiding on a regular basis. There were two planes out last night and will be two out tonight. There are a lot of mosquitoes out there and we are trying to knock them down as early as possible. We are at about the 40 day period for the expiration of the extended release larviciding material. Some areas are dry and some still very wet, we are following up on this to see if we need to reapply. If we do need to reapply it will be a very expensive endeavor due to the cost of these pesticides.

There will be representatives from Google called the "DEET Team" here next week. They are currently learning about how organized mosquito control is conducted.

FISCAL REVIEW - Treasurer, Mike Ellis reported on the budget for the previous month. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the budget through May, 2015. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS - None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mann at 10:49 AM.