

BLSG Board Special Meeting Minutes 6/7/18

Present: Steve Belcher, Mike Blaisdell, Brad Lawe, Ben Lawton, Will Mathis, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Smith, Kerry White.

Guests: Tyler Bates, John Capen, Seth Ross.

Ben Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM.

Special Meeting was called because the District is out of larvicide funds for FY 2017-2018.

Wayne Rausenberger, Treasurer presented a financial statement with documented contacts with State of Vermont employees.

1. On June 4, 2018 Wayne received a phone call from Patti Casey and Cary Giguere, referencing our 2018-2019 Grant. The information given was inconsistent with previous information given to Wayne. Our Grant was amended in July of 2017 to \$208,000. Previously any change in the Grant required an amendment, the process for amendments appear to have changed without notification to us.
2. On May 17, 2018 we had \$19,372.34 remaining in the \$208,000 Grant, open invoices include:
 - a. Invoice #24 in the amount of \$10,916.79
 - b. Invoice #25 in the amount of \$42,000.00
 - c. Invoice #26 in the amount of \$8,749.04
 - d. Invoice #27 in the amount of \$6,152.92

This is a total of \$67,818.75 owed to the District by the State for larvicide activities.

3. Wayne was assured that invoices #24 & #26 totaling \$19,665.83 will be paid to the District by the end of the week. As of the meeting on Thursday, 6/7/18 the District has not received payment.
4. The current Grant will end June 30, 2018 the District did not agree for it to be extended until June 30, 2019. This means that Invoices #25 for \$42,000 and #27 for \$6,152.92 totaling \$48,152.98 will not be paid until after July 1, 2018. The State is telling us that the \$48,152.98 will be deducted from the 2018-2019 Grant of \$70,000 leaving us with \$21,847.08 until June 30, 2019. We could use these funds for larvicide product and labor until we have zero dollars. This means NO larvicide program in 2019 until the possible 2019-2020 Grant that would begin on July 1, 2019.
5. Because of funding problems the larvicide program was inadequate for this season, the District will need to do more adulticiding. Hopefully we have enough money to get through Fall of this calendar year. This will cause more tension for the District with individuals who do not agree with the adulticide program.
6. There is currently \$17,000 in checking. The following bills are due
 - a. Truck insurance
 - b. IRS

- c. Bill for larvicide that was already purchased.
- d. Workmans comp.

After the bills are paid there will be about \$4,000 in checking.

- 7. There is \$33,000 remaining in our credit line.
- 8. Pittsford will pay \$17,000 on July 1 2018. Brandon will pay their share in August, Leicester will pay their share in August, Salisbury pays in November and Goshen pays in August.
- 9. Discussion about other funds that the district could apply for.
- 10. Is there money available through the wetland restorations? Everyone involved has agreed that the newly developed wetlands are breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- 11. Is there Federal money available to us?
- 12. Discussion about scaling back on surveillance and ID'ing. The costs for surveillance and ID'ing is about \$40,000 a year.
- 13. Should there be a larviciding line item for towns to pay?
- 14. Are there any emergency funds that would be available to the District? We may have received emergency funds in the past.
- 15. Discussion about the use of malathion. It is a cheaper product and we use less of it at a time. However, it is a more controversial product.
- 16. The public needs to be aware of our current financial situation.
- 17. Discussion about payroll.

Motion made to allow Wayne Rausenberger, Treasure to utilize our line of credit for the next couple of weeks until a decision is made about finances. (Moved by Ben L. 2nd by Brad Lawes)

Jeff Whiting commented by email for the meeting. "I think that we need to wait until meeting with Cary Giguere and Patti Casey before taking drastic budget actions. We should look at what we can delay or defer until we get further clarity. They seem to be indicating that there will not be more money for next year. We should push to get funding for different district larviciding based on treatable areas. The Legislature is done with 2018-2019 budget. We should be convincing AG it is time for a budget increase for the following year and working with our representatives. Mosquito sampling work should be based on a good statistical sampling plan. We should not be counting large numbers of mosquitos out of traps. We should estimate the number of mosquitos in a cup of mosquitos by counting a few cups and assign and estimate number per volume. Mosquito species ID should be based on how many we need to do to have an idea if species mix is changing during the season. Information is only useful if it is done right when samples are collected. Late information will not change our treatment program. Water has receded and sampling should be cut back to keeping a base line unless we get a major storm and substantial flooding".

Discussion of authorization for the District's five- year permit and ANR/VLS response to it.

The board entered executive session to discuss payroll. The outcome of the session was that there will be no action at this time, the board will revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for: June 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Stephen Douglas House.

Ben Lawton called the meeting adjourned at 8:47PM.

Minutes prepared by: Kerry White