

Minutes of Board Meeting
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
November 9, 2020

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on November 9th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Those present were Chairperson Joiner, Treasurer Abbott, Secretary Randy Evans, Executive Director Rogers, Operations Director Hansen, Research and Surveillance Director Agne Janusauskaite, and Administrative Manager Stevens. Also present were Public Education Specialist Jillian Meek, Administrative Assistant Dawn Hudson, ULV Foreman Kirk Shepard, and Valent Bioscience Sales Rep Candace Royal.

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.

Public Comment:

Kirk Shepard addressed Commissioner Joiner about his comment that his area had not been sprayed in the past 6 months. He stated that since Commissioner Joiner did not believe what he was told when Administrative Manager Stevens showed him all of the entries for his area, that he then had to waste his time uploading and printing all of the STAB trails for each of the missions. He then asked Commissioner Joiner why he waited 6 months to ask about it.

New Business:

Executive Director Rogers discussed with the Commissioners about the upcoming holidays. She stated that the County has opted to add Thursday, December 24th and Thursday, December 31st to their holiday calendar for 2020 and she would like their consideration for the District to do the same. Commissioners Evans and Joiner both stated that they support that suggestion. Commissioner Evans added that in the event that any employee would need to work on either of those days, that they would be able to use that holiday at another time. Commissioner Abbott made a motion to adopt the changes to the District's holiday calendar as presented, with the understanding that if any employee needed to work on such day, they would be granted an additional holiday to be taken at a later time. Commissioner Evans seconded. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Hudson talked to the Board about the annual holiday dinner. She stated that in the past, it had been suggested to hold the event off-site, and with the current COVID situation, she believed that this was a good year to explore it. She explained that it was discussed through the Employee Morale committee and she set to explore the different options around. She stated that she had contacted several venues and obtained many quotes for the event. She explained that the best price, and the most cooperative place was Spartan Manor in New Port Richey. She added that comparatively, the cost to hold the event at the Spartan Manor was very close to the cost of holding the event at the District facilities and that by having it off-site, all of the employees would get to relax and enjoy the time. She stated that we were targeting Friday, December 18th from 11am – 3pm. Commissioner Evans made a motion to move forward with the annual holiday dinner at the Spartan Manor, not to exceed \$1,500. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Joiner stated that he would like to readdress the request for a full-time Public Education Specialist. He stated that while he disagreed with the need when it was presented, he has since changed his opinion after speaking with the public during his campaign. He stated that he felt that we still have a strong need to get out to the adult audiences. Commissioner Abbott stated that the Board allocated \$20,000 to be used as the District saw best, including the option of hiring part-time. Commissioner Evans stated that he was in favor of the position when it was first presented but surrendered to the other Commissioners and agreed to the allotted funds. He stated that he feels it would be best to table the discussion until after the new year and focus on different forms of media advertisements such as bulk mailers or a commercial spot through Spectrum. Commissioner Joiner stated that he felt it would be beneficial to move forward now to allow time for training. It was ultimately decided to table the discussion until after the new year.

Commissioner Joiner stated that after talking with some people, he would like to consider moving the District to a 5 member Board, with the residential requirement to live in the District of which they would represent. Administrative Manager Stevens asked about the issue of multiple Commissioners currently living in the same district boundaries. Commissioner Joiner stated that Commissioner Evans would remain as he was in his district alone, but that he and Commissioner Abbott both live in the same district. He added that since he was the senior commissioner, most recently elected, that he would remain and that Commissioner Abbott would have to either move or step down. Administrative Manager Stevens stated that she did not want to see Commissioner Abbott removed and that since our Commissioners are only responsible for budgetary decisions and policy changes, that the need to live within certain district boundaries seemed pointless.

Old Business:

Operations Director Hansen updated the Board about the status of the Hangar project. He stated that the permits have been submitted and we were hoping to have approval very soon. Commissioner Joiner stated that he was speaking with the Contactor and that there may be a requirement for a fire suppression system. Executive Director Rogers stated that it would be addressed if/when it came up.

Executive Director Rogers updated the Board about the status of the new helicopters. She stated that they were nearing STC certification and that all other things were on track. She added that one of the District Pilots and the A/P Mechanic would be traveling to check on the ships in early December, which will be the first of several budgeted trips.

Research and Surveillance Director Janusauskaite reviewed the current Arbovirus activity in the state.

Executive Director Rogers stated that there were no safety issues to address this month.

Other Business:

Administrative Manager Stevens addressed the Board about a meeting that Commissioner Joiner had with the staff on Thursday morning. She stated that he contacted Operations Director Hansen and asked to come talk to the employees about “rumors that he had heard during the campaign and to let them know that he was here for them as well as the tax payers”. She stated that during his meeting, he stated that he wanted to have a suggestion box put in where the chairman of the commissioners was the only one to hold the key. It was added that he made a statement that this would give the employees the opportunity to bring things directly to him and not Executive Director Rogers. Admin Manager Stevens stated that she expressed her concerns directly after the meeting, with Commissioner Joiner, explaining that this would be a direct violation of the employment contract that Executive Director Rogers had that he had signed as well as violation of our Grievance Policy. Additionally, it encourages acts of insubordination by the employees. She stated that she felt that this was a blatant attempt to undermine the authority of Executive Director Rogers. Commissioner Joiner stated that he spoke to an attorney about it and that they said he could do it. Executive Director Rogers stated that by instructing the staff to bypass her and go directly to him, that it was a violation of her contract and it was an attempt to undermine her authority. Research and Surveillance Director Janusauskaite stated that the impression that she got from his meeting was to bring things to him and bypass E.D. Rogers. Operations Director Hansen stated that he was angry that Commissioner Joiner lied to him about his intentions and that he agreed that the message received was one to bypass E.D. Rogers and go directly to Commissioner Joiner. Executive Director Rogers stated that while she wasn’t supposed to be in the office at this time, she felt the need to come in to defend her position because she felt this was a direct threat to her position. Commissioner Abbott stated that while he was certain that Commissioner Joiner had only good intentions in mind, he believed that having the only key to the suggestion box was not appropriate for a commissioner. Commissioner Joiner stated that he did not undermine the authority of E.D. Rogers and that he had every right to say and do what he did. He then stated that we needed to stop harassing him and that “we have not heard the last of him”. He then stated that he “will go to the county and tell them to take it over”.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. Commissioner Abbott seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Date: 14 December 2020 Attested: 