

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SOUTHLAKE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES
April 13, 2020**

1. **ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Barbara Struthers. Trustees Tony Bilotti, Susan Levy and Dan Rubin were present. District Attorney Robert J. Masini and, George Balis of Clarke were also in attendance. Trustee Roger Simonson was absent. Those in attendance all participated via teleconference as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of public present.

3. **MINUTES**

The Trustees then reviewed the minutes of the March 9, 2020 regular meeting. Motion by Trustee Levy and seconded by Trustee Rubin to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 regular meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The trustees reviewed the treasurer's report from March, 2020. Trustee Levy pointed out that the current total balance of the District funds is \$803,915.46. The current amount in checking is \$164,962.42. Trustee Rubin moved that the treasurer's report for March 2020 be accepted as presented. Trustee Bilotti seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. **BILLS**

The Trustees considered the following bills:

1. Grach, Masini, Hazan & Gurysh, LLP - \$1,886.00 – Legal Services.
2. Liberty Business Systems - \$150.00 – Website Maintenance
3. Smith Accounting Services - \$100.00 – Accounting Services.
4. Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management \$66,000.00 – first contract installment.

Trustee Levy inquired as to whether any of the trustees had requests for reimbursement for any expenses incurred in connection with the cancelled AMCA annual meeting. The matter was discussed briefly and it was decided to wait until the May meeting to address this matter, if necessary.

Trustee Levy then moved that the bills be paid as presented. Seconded by Trustee Bilotti. Roll Call. Ayes: Rubin, Bilotti, Levy and Struthers. Nays: None. Absent: Simonson. Motion passed.

6. Reports

A. Clarke Report –In an answer to a question from Trustee Levy, Mr. Balis said that there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted by mosquitoes. The virus cannot amplify within the mosquito so no bug to human transmission is possible. Trustee Bilotti pointed out that this was similar to why the HIV virus did not pass via mosquito. No amplification and the mosquito does not take in enough blood to allow the virus to spread.

Mr. Balis said Clarke has already received some calls about standing water. By the of the May meeting the first helicopter larviciding will have been completed. The traps will be up and running by May 18. Mosquito control is an essential service so it is ongoing at this time. Clarke is contacting the District municipalities about coordinating certain efforts with them on breeding sites.

Trustees Rubin and Struthers reported that they had not sent out the letters concerning pending Senate Bill 3412 to local officials. All agreed the pandemic has likely placed that Bill and many other items on the back burner for the General Assembly.

President Struthers reported that the Riverwoods Plant Sale has been cancelled but the Deerfield Famer’s Market is still planning to run June through August. If it does, the trustees will be out at their booth in late June pending developments. Trustee Bilotti said that, at present, Highwood is still planning on having its market in June through August.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action with regard to the purchase of public educational materials and distribution of same for the 2020 season. President Struthers reported that she spoke to Allen Wayne about a video that might be made available by the District to school children in the District. She said after further investigation with residents, she was told that as a result of the remote home schooling taking place because of the pandemic so much video material was being sent to children that the mosquito video would likely be lost in the volume of material and never seen.

Trustee Levy raised the point that although the trustees had budgeted \$45,000.00 for educational materials they might want to limit spending at this time this year. She pointed out that the budget item grew to \$45,000.00 from a shift of appropriations from two rarely used line

items. She suggested only spending money on educational materials every other year. She is concerned about having sufficient funds for mosquito control because of the tax cap affecting how much money is in the District's reserves. The trustees discussed the matter. They agreed that with the current lockdown of schools, businesses and other public places this year is one where fewer expenditures for educational materials is appropriate. They agreed that nothing would be sent to schools. President Struthers will order more tri-folds for delivery to the District's municipalities with water bills or other means.

Trustee Levy moved that the District spend up to \$4,000.00 for tri-folds from the Allen Wayne Company. Seconded by Trustee Bilotti. Roll call. Ayes: Levy, Bilotti, Rubin and Struthers. Nays: None. Absent: Simonson. Motion passed.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion and adoption of Tentative Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the 2020 tax year. Attorney Masini presented a draft of the Tentative Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the 2020 fiscal year. He explained that this sets forth the trustees' intentions for current appropriations. The total appropriation is \$693,000.00 as it has been for several years. This document is the blueprint for the public hearing on the actual ordinance and its adoption. This year the public hearing will take place before the June 8 meeting. Trustee Rubin moved that the Tentative Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance with total appropriation of \$693,000 be adopted as presented. Seconded by Trustee Levy. All in favor. Motion passed.

Trustee Levy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Trustee Bilotti. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Masini, District Attorney for
Roger Simonson, Secretary of Southlake
Mosquito Abatement District