

I. Call to Order

Mr. Rineman served as the Chair for this meeting due to the excused absence of Mr. Gould. Chairman Rineman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. There were also present, Emily Creighton, Selectwoman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Mosquito Control Discussion – Mosquito Commission, Dragon Mosquito Control and Mr. Jack A. Card, Operations Manager – Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District

Ms. Pat Moreinis Dodge, Chair of the Mosquito Commission advised the Board that the mosquito commission is of the opinion that laticiding via aerial spraying of the wetlands is an approach the Town should consider. Ms. Dodge introduced Mr. Card who provided the Board with an overview of the successes experienced by communities along the northeast corridor of Massachusetts who subscribe to aerial spraying as a means of mosquito control. Mr. Card explained that this area included communities from Salisbury to Boston.

Mr. Card advised the Board that the above described area includes upwards of 22,000 acres of wetlands, of which approximately 3,000 of these acres are treated by helicopter. Mr. Card offered that his experience finds that the use of helicopters greatly reduces the man hours necessary to treat the wetlands and, that helicopters are able to treat areas that are generally inaccessible by workers on the ground. Mr. Card also discussed the treatment process and how this treatment must coincide with the rhythm of the tides. He also addressed the notification of resident processes he follows and the permitting process the applicator must comply with.

Mr. Card advised the Board that his organization uses the aerial services of JBI, a firm based in Pembroke, NH. He continued by stating that the typical helicopter used carries a payload of approximately 60-80 gallons of pesticide, enough to treat 120 acres. Ms. Dodge and other members of the mosquito commission cited that they are hopeful to treat approximately 160-180 acres during each of the three (3) annual sprayings.

Mr. Card distributed two photographs illustrating the application process, one photo showing the helicopter sitting atop a truck replenishing its payload, the other photo showing the helicopter spraying a salt marsh from an elevation of approximately 10-20 feet. Mr. Card explained that the spraying was typically done from a very low level, insuring against product drift and allowing for greater penetration into the thick marsh

grasses. Mr. Card also discussed the use of pellets in lieu of liquid pesticide in certain instances. Mr. Card stated the numerous advantages associated with the use of a helicopter as opposed to a fixed wing aircraft.

Mr. Robert Hamilton, a member of the mosquito commission, spoke of the pesticide used in this type of control, citing that it is benign in nature. He further cited that a vegetable sprayed with said substance could be safely consumed the next day after a simple washing.

Mr. Card cited the fact that aerial spraying has proven to 80-100% effective in controlling mosquito larvae. Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton asked Ms. McLaughlin of Dragon Mosquito Control what the "kill rate" of mosquito larvae was when employing manual application techniques. Ms. McLaughlin responded that it was near 100%, provided she and her staff could access all areas, which they cannot.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it is the desire of the mosquito commission that the aerial spraying be used to supplement the ground spraying, allowing for a greater impact on the mosquito larvae.

Ms. Creighton asked Mr. Card about the financial aspects of aerial spraying. Mr. Card advised that the region he is responsible for receives a price from JBI of \$11.13 per acre which includes the helicopter, the pesticide and labor. He further suggested that the Town would likely require three applications annually. Thus, the Town, if offered the same pricing structure, would possibly treat 180 acres at \$11.13 per acre for a total of \$2,003.40 per application.

The Board asked the mosquito commission to obtain a quote for conventional "land based" application as done previously and to also obtain a price quote for a land based application supplemented by aerial spraying.

The Board thanked the mosquito commission for all the work they have done to aid in the control of mosquitoes and thanked Mr. Card for taking time from his busy schedule to meet with the Board.

B. Ambulance Billing Services

Deputy Fire Chief Corey Landry and COMSTAR President and CEO Rick Martin met with the Board to discuss the ambulance billing service and the processes being followed in the effort to collect outstanding invoices.

Mr. Martin provided the Board with an overview of the services provided by Comstar along with an outline of the current billing and collection service used by the Town of North Hampton.

Ms. Creighton asked Mr. Martin and D/C Landry about how the Town handles the collection of fees from senior citizens. Mr. Martin replied that the collection of monies owed by senior citizens is the same as for non-senior citizens.

When asked about the fees charged by a collection agency, should the services of one be desired by the Town, Mr. Martin explained that such an agency would charge 30% of the amount collected.

The Board asked Mr. Martin to present two years of data related to fees charged and collected so that they can compare the two year collection to the past year, noting that the Town collected in excess of 87% of the fees charged in 2004.

Discussion ensued related to the collection of co-pay fees and the legality of not charging residents for their co-pay portion.

Mr. Robbie Robinson, a citizen and a member of the budget committee stated that he did not believe the Town should be sending non-payer information to a collection agency. Mr. Robinson also stated that he was pleased with the rate of collection as cited by Comstar and that he did not feel it was worthwhile for the Town to pursue the 13% +/- that had not been collected in 2004.

Mr. Robinson also stated that he was of the opinion that the funds collected for ambulance service should not be deposited in the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance but instead be deposited in the Fire Department's Capital Reserve Account, earmarked for future fire department equipment purchases.

The Board thanked Mr. Martin, Deputy Chief Landry and Mr. Robinson for their input and comments and asked that this matter be placed on the 11/14/05 agenda.

C. Questions and Comments on Above Topics

None.

III. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

1. CEO – Red reports that K&N engineering is to begin this week on the design work related to the Old Town Hall load limit and ADA requirements.
2. FD – Calls for Service are at 1000 to date; compared to 904 CFS at the same time last year.
3. FD – National Incident Management System (NIMS) training is underway for FD personnel. All personnel working for Town responsible for managing, or assisting with the management of a major incident will be required to participate in this on-line (4 hr. training).
4. PWD – Catch basin have been cleaned.

5. PWD – Bulky goods collection went very well – many positive comments received.
6. PWD – Paving on Birch Rd. being completed.
7. PWD – Completed removal of top layer of soil off ball field infield at Dearborn Park – ready for application of infield mix within the next week or so.
8. PWD – Improvements to Pond Path entrance complete – work included the scraping of shoulders, loaming and reseeding.
9. PD – Halloween is scheduled for 10/30 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
10. REC – Diane has just returned from national training conference and has many, many new ideas.
11. AA – Flu shots to be administered on 11/15/05 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
12. TA – Building Dept. Administrative Secretary position has been filled – Ms. Wendy Chase began today.
13. TA – Scheduled to begin budget review with Mr. Gould on 10/27.

B. Correspondence

None.

C. Cemetery Deed

The Board signed one cemetery deed.

D. Approval of Minutes

September 26, 2005 – Non-Public Session
October 5, 2005 - Public Session
October 11, 2005 - Public Session

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2005 (Non-Public Session), October 5, 2005 (Public Session) and October 11, 2005 (Public Session) as written. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 2-0.

E. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed two weeks of payroll forms.

F. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed two manifests.

G. Other Business

None.

V. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator