

JUNE 9, 2022 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Harris at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, June 9, 2022.

PRESENT: President Harris, Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Schmidl, Kirchner, Link, Ghag and Guzman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier and General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of May 12, 2022
- B. Bills for May 2022
- C. Merit Increase for Joe Songer, Field Foreman: Songer is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 7 to step 8 of Field Foreman in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Darrell Jew, Fisheries Specialist: Jew is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 6 to step 7 of Fisheries Specialist in the salary range schedule.

A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Guzman approving the consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

925 MARKET STREET PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT: BOARD APPROVAL TO LEASE THE 925 MARKET STREET PROPERTY TO SHARPE SOFTWARE, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022: Mr. William Ontiveros addressed the Board by telephone. He stated that his business model has changed over several years, before and during Covid, such that, in-person use of the building at 925 Market has been largely eliminated. Essentially, all of the on-site client training that used to take place at the building, now happens online. So, currently he has much more space than he needs. He did express, however, that he values having the business office located here in Yuba City at 925 Market Street. Mr. Ontiveros proposed the idea of finding a subtenant that would share the space, and in turn, reduce his expense at the 925 Market Street location. Upon installing a subtenant, he would be open to negotiating a rate increase. He suggested that a professional business, handling primarily office work would be the type of party he would be seeking to share space with.

Abshier noted that Sharpe has been leasing the building since May of 1999. They have been a stable renter and have been good to work with. The lease agreement with Sharpe does provide for subleasing, with written approval of the District. Having more visible use of the building may help reduce vagrancy issues we have been having.

Harris suggested an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed for review of potential subtenants, as presented by Mr. Ontiveros. Sanbrook opined that any subtenant would have to obtain the same liability insurance coverages that Sharpe does. Board consensus was that it would consider up to, as many as, 3 subtenants.

A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Guzman approving a six month extension of the lease, at the current rate of \$1,696 per month, with the addition of a morality clause for subtenant use of the facility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Employees, Shane Loyd and Erik Blosser, addressed the full Board with employee wage requests. The employees presented a three-year Cola proposal, based annually on the April CPI-W for western states, with a floor of two percent and a cap of five percent. The current CPI-W for the Western States for April is 8.9%. Based on the terms of the three year agreement, the cap would limit the Cola to 5% this year. Board consensus was to stay with a year to year review of factors including, CPI, other local agencies and other Mosquito Control Districts to determine Cola awards.

CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE SECTION 54957.6: A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by

Link to go into closed session. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag to come out of closed session. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. There was no reportable action.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE SALARY/BENEFIT REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023: A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook approving a 5% cost of living increase for fiscal year 2022-2023, for all permanent employees. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023: Board members were provided a preliminary budget for review. Abshier reported the Salaries and Benefits budget will increase 8.9%, or \$187,146 above FY 2021-2022. The increased amount is due to adding two, full time Mosquito Control Technician I positions, beginning October 1, 2022. One of these positions will fill the vacancy left when we filled the Vector Ecologist position. The 2022-2023 budget includes a 5% cost of living increase for the permanent positions. Included in the budget is a \$0.50 per hour increase for all temporary positions beginning July 1, 2022. To be prepared for potential increased health insurance costs on January 1, 2022, a 10% increase has been included.

The Services and Supplies portion of the budget will see an increase of 9.8%, or \$164,025 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. Some adult mosquito control pesticide manufacturers continue to see raw materials shortages. Finished product remains in short supply, and doesn't last long on the market. This budget has been constructed to allow for nearly all of our pesticide needs for the 2023 season. In addition, increasing pesticide costs, professional services, insurance costs, higher fuel costs, travel to in person meetings and conferences, addressing invasive *Aedes*, and controlling mosquitoes produced in fall flood ups can also be attributed to the increase.

The Fixed Assets portion of the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 reflects a 37.6% decrease or \$99,000 under the approved budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. The budget will cover costs to purchase the Cab & Chassis truck that was approved last year but not yet delivered, a new mosquito fogger, the remaining cost of the asphalt project, and netting to cover the bird exclusion fencing at the fish farm.

The total budgeted expenditures for fiscal year 2022-2023 indicate an increase of 6.2% or \$252,221 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. The total revenues for fiscal year 2022-2023 should be sufficient to cover the \$4,301,811 budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.

A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Link approving the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 06-09-22; RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT DETERMINING AND LEVYING AN ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 AGAINST ALL TAXABLE PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE MERIDIAN AREA OF THE DISTRICT TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF VECTOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL ON THOSE LANDS: This year, the per parcel assessment calculation is \$26.52. The 2022-2023 assessment is a decrease from \$41.74 for fiscal year 2021-2022. The maximum amount that can be levied per parcel is forty-five dollars. Abshier noted the previous calculation used a complicated formula which included materials and equipment expenses that are not used in the Meridian area. The current calculation uses actual hours worked, virus surveillance testing, Entomology labor, pesticides and any other materials. The assessment is levied on 889 parcels, using data compiled from the previous year. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving Resolution 06-09-22. The motion was approved with Harris, Link, Kirchner, Sanbrook, Guzman, and Ghag voting in favor and Schmidl voting against.

APPROVAL TO REQUEST FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THE PRUDENT BALANCE IN THE VCJPA MEMBER CONTINGENCY FUND: THE FUNDS WOULD BE DEPOSITED INTO ACCOUNT 47500, OTHER REVENUE: Abshier noted that funding above the prudent balance earns little interest and could be used to backfill the Defined Benefit account. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Guzman to approve requesting \$72,114 from the VCJPA Member Contingency Fund, to be deposited into Other Revenue, account 47500. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE BIRD EXCLUSION NETTING/FENCING FOR THE FISH FARM: THE EXPENSE WOULD COME OUT OF 54502 FIXED ASSETS; STRUCTURES AND GROUNDS: Two bids were received for fencing. Benson Fencing came in at \$18,310.88 and Fence Specialties at \$17,750. The Benson Fencing bid includes delivery to our Fish Facility. The amount already budgeted for this year is \$24,000. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving the Benson Fence bid of \$18,310.88. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

CONSIDERATION OF BALLOT MEASURE FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE FINANCING AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT ON 925 MARKET STREET AND 905 MARKET STREET: Abshier stated that he received two ballots, one for each of our Market Street properties, regarding the Feather River West Levee Financing Authority Operations and Maintenance Assessment. Neither Levee District 1 nor Levee District 9 has the revenue to continue to provide services and will be in the red within a few years. The annual assessment would amount to \$885.68 for 905 Market Street and \$1,428.69 for 925 Market Street with an annual inflation adjustment capped at 4%. If the ballot measure fails, all maintenance would go to the State and likely be more expensive. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving a vote in favor of the assessment. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

RENEWAL OF NON-OWNED AIRCRAFT LIABILITY INSURANCE: Abshier stated that this liability policy would be in addition to coverage that we contractually require our contractor to maintain. The contractor's insurance would be the primary insurance and ours would be secondary insurance. Abshier noted the policy limits are \$2,000,000 chemical and non-chemical, \$4,000,000 aggregate, available at a cost of \$8,272, an increase of 7.5% over fiscal year 2021-2022. Abshier noted the coverage is well worth the cost, as our contractors performed 84 flight missions last year. The green pool surveillance flight mission would also be covered by this policy. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving the renewal of the \$8,272 non-owned aircraft liability insurance with AvQuest. The motion was approved with Harris, Ghag, Sanbrook, Link, Kirchner, and Guzman voting in favor of and Schmidl voting against.

MANAGER COMMENTS: Abshier reported that West Nile virus activity has had a slower start this year. Sixteen mosquito pools have tested positive state wide, year to date. Five dead birds have tested positive, one in Yolo County. Los Angeles has reported three positive birds with Contra Costa reporting one bird testing positive. All chickens have tested negative, statewide. No human cases have been reported. Our New Jersey Light Trap counts for *tarsalis* are moving upwards with their peak typically the week of July 4th. *Pipiens* numbers are close to the ten year average. *Anopheles* numbers continue to be low.

Abshier also noted:

- The aerial green swimming pool surveillance flight was performed on May 26th.
- Spraying by ground of the agricultural areas will begin next week. Town fogging is slated to begin June 30th. Aerial larviciding will begin the 4th week of June.
- Catch basin treatments are almost complete in urban areas. In three months, basins will be checked again and treated as necessary.
- Staff is receiving training for respirators, labels, heat illness and safe driving.
- Fogging began early in the Edgewater area due to large numbers of *Culex* mosquitoes. Edgewater and agricultural areas to the south have been the target.
- Two seasonal employees successfully tested with the CDPH, one passed categories A&B and one passed B&C. One permanent employee passed category A and three passed category C. One permanent employee was unsuccessful testing for category D.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. President Harris adjourned the meeting.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary