JOHNSON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

August 4, 2022

Members present: Scott Rogers, Chairman; Dick Gould; Nathan Williams

Others present: Rod Litzel; Supervisor; Allen Buff; Assistant Supervisor

Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chairman Rogers.

Minutes for the July 7th meeting were approved with a motion by Nathan and a second by Dick. Motion carried.

* Financial Statement for the general account were reviewed, sales tax has created an issue with how it is reported in QuickBooks making a $17.63 difference in financial statement, there is still a $9.08 discrepancy. Motion by Dick and a second by Nathan to approve the General Fund statement and recognize the $9.08 discrepancy. Motion carried.
* Financial Statement for the Leafy Spurge account was reported balanced. Motion by Nathan and Second by Dick. Motion Carried

Payment Vouchers

* Payment vouchers for both funds were reviewed, Motion by Dick and Second by Nathan to pay all listed vouchers.
* Motion By Nathan Second By Dick, to preapprove upcoming bills through the month of August for the following: Payroll and assessments, Montana Dakota Utilities, Rocky Mountain Power, City of Buffalo, WEX Bank, Spectrum, Ultimate Outdoors, Rocky Mountain Equipment, Atlas Services and the Credit Card . Motion Carried

Accounts Receivable

* Billed and received over $23,000 in the General and almost $1,200 in the Spurge
* Receivable $5,243.75 in LS; $27,582.90 in General
* Working on getting additional billings done including BLM, Forest Service and State lands

Activity Report

* Rod reported that he has got out of the office more to do some spraying
* Aerial- all helicopter spraying had completed, took longer than usual with more spurge work especially
* Allen Reported that the Backpack crew is still doing really well.

Supervisor position

* There have been no other candidates apply and one had withdrew from consideration. Rod had set up the second “in person” interview with Trevor for 5:30 PM August 11th. Dick moved and Tyler seconded for the Board to convene in Executive session on said date and time to conduct the interview. Motion carried.
* It was agreed by consensus, pending the interview, to repost the Job on list serve and possibly Indeed.

Budget Mill

* The FY 22/23 Budget had been submitted and approved by the Commissioners and Dept of Audit.
* Mill levy actually came in at just over $361,000, up from $265,000 budgeted for. This may allow Board to increase Reserves or just allow for a cushion on programs.

Virtual Tour

* The Board asked if Rod would present a history of “the state of the weeds in Johnson County” during his tenure with the District with his upcoming retirement. Invite the commissioners as well.

New Business

Bill Anderson

* Spray drift to his place by Reno Air has possibly killed some trees and shrubs around his house. The liability is on the contractor and is on board with taking care it. The landowner has agreed to wait until next year to see the extent of the damage, if any as some of it may recover. The District needs to be involved in this process, Rod has photos and a letter to Bill to document, he will take Allen down to meet Bill so that he can follow-up next spring.

Airport

* Frontier Helicopters was billed a fuel surcharge for basically parking at the Airport, for fuel they did not purchase there, after they had left the airport at the end of working for the District, this surcharge had not been communicated to Frontier at the start. This is not the first time the Airport has done this type of thing with a contractor for the District. Discussions on all the free labor the District had provided the airport doing sterilant work for them over the years and whether to meet Board to Board to discuss this issue.

Ventenata

* Reno Air sprayed 55 acres of ventenata along the Sheridan County, Johnson County line.
* It has been reported it is coming over the hills at Piney Creek, discussions took place on access to the 40 acre plots of landowners for cleanup. Motion By Dick and Second By Nathan, to develop a program to work on Ventenata on the county line at Piney Creek. Motion Carried.

Area 2 meeting

* Area 2 meeting will be held on August 24th in Gillette if any of the Board is interested. A topic of conversation will be “How to fix flow of Money within the W&P Council”.

September Board meeting

* Nathan moved and Dick seconded to change next months meeting from the scheduled time on September 1st to September 8th. This will allow the bookkeeper more time to gets the financials ready for the Board and time for Rod’s Virtual Tour presentation. Motion carried.

Contract Proposal Admin

* Rod lead discussion on how the Board would like to move forward after his last work day 8/31/22 since it is unlikely a new Supervisor will be in place soon after that. Options discussed were staying on payroll with full benefits, since he will be a receiving monthly payout for accrued leave (without full benefits), but with limited duties or on a contract basis through Weed Slayer Spraying, LLC for Advisory and Administrative Services.
* Rod would prefer to step back from Supervising day to day activities.
* Rod will develop a Contract proposal for the Board to consider at the next meeting

Other

* Allen proposed using his vehicle on lease to the District of $700/month for up to 10,000 miles, with same conditions as previous leases.
* Motion by Nathan and Second by Dick to make Allen’s truck lease for at proposed rate and make it retroactive for July since he used his vehicle much of the month. Motion carried.
* Allen reported a weed science course was being offered this fall, which he needed in order to obtain his Certified Supervisor status. It would require roughly 3 hours every Friday through the semester. Allen asked if that time was on his own or for the District and if they would be willing to pay for the Course. Motion by Dick and second by Nathan to pay for Allen’s Weed Science Class and it would be on the District’s time. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted Allen Buff, Assistant Supervisor