

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TULARE  
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT, HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE DISTRICT,  
MEFFORD FIELD, TULARE, CALIFORNIA ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023,  
AT THE HOUR OF 1:00 P.M. OF SAID DAY**

Present at the meeting called at 1:00 p.m. at the place above designated were: Charlie Pitigliano, presiding, Craig Smith, Robert Uchita, Tony Nunes, and Chuck Mayer. Stan Creelman was absent. Also present at the Board Meeting were Michelle Dempsey, General Manager, Jacob Davis, Operations Director, Sheri Davis, Administrative Assistant, and Chad M. Lew, counsel for the District.

**Agenda Item No. 1:** Citizen Comments.

Charlie Pitigliano opened the floor to citizen comments, but there were no comments from the public.

**Agenda Item No. 2:** Review Minutes of August 8, 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2023, were presented to the board in writing and reviewed. Upon a motion made by Charles Mayer, seconded by, Robert Uchita, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the board meeting held on August 8, 2023, were approved as presented.

**Agenda Item No. 3:** Payment of Check Number 7276 - 7309, Payment of Direct Deposit Numbers DD 1594 - DD 1607; Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTPS) from US Bank to the IRS for Social Security, Medicare and Federal Tax Payments, US Bank Charges and Credits, and Claim Number 21953, Transfers of Funds form Tulare County Fund #778 to the District's US Bank Account #\*\*\*\*\*4633.

The board members reviewed the District's US Bank checking account, check numbers 7276 - 7309, payment of direct deposit numbers DD 1594 - DD 1607, the electronic fund transfers (EFTPS) for payment of Social Security, Medicare and Federal Tax Payments to the IRS, the electronic debit payments from the District's US Bank account, and claim number 21953 in the sum of \$159,480.81, which were transfers from the District's Tulare County Fund #778 to the District's US Bank account number ending in 4633. Upon a motion duly made by Charles Mayer, seconded by Craig Smith, and unanimously carried, the US Bank checking account, check numbers 7276 - 7309, payment of direct deposit numbers DD 1594 - DD 1607, the electronic fund transfers (EFTPS) for payment of Social Security, Medicare and Federal Tax Payments to the IRS, the electronic debit payments from the District's US Bank checking account, and the transfer from the District's Tulare County Fund #778 to the District's Union Bank account number ending in 4663, by claim number 21953 in the sum of \$159,480.81, were approved.

**Agenda Item No. 4:** Asphalt Sealing and Repair Update.

Michelle reported to the board that the City of Tulare as the lessor of the real property has advised that it will at its sole cost and expense coordinate the asphalt sealing and repair. The asphalt sealing and repair is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

**Agenda Item No. 5:** State Funded Aerial Applications Update.

Michelle provided the board with an update of the State funded aerial applications by VDCI in the

Allensworth, Alpaugh and Tulare Lake area within the District. She advised the board that the District in consultation with the State and VDCI made changes to the areas sprayed in and around Allensworth, Alpaugh and Tulare Lake area based upon the changing conditions. Michelle also reported to the board that the aerial applications have been very effective and of great assistance to the District.

**Agenda Item No. 6:** Discussion on FEMA/CalOES Public Assistance Program Update.

Sheri advised the board that the District's request for public assistance has been approved by FEMA. The District continues to work with its FEMA caseworker and anticipates submitting its first claim on or about October 2023, at the end of the current mosquito season.

**Agenda Item No. 7:** District Activity To Date.

Jacob presented and reviewed with the board the District's activity to date. He reviewed the District's WALs program, which he advised would likely conclude next week; activities in the flood area; surveillance activity of the District, the service requests year over year analysis; and reviewed the California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin #21 with the board.

**Agenda Item No. 8:** Discussion, Consideration and Action to Approve Updated Contact Letter.

Michelle and Jacob advised that the District has had an ongoing issue with a farmer in the District that is continuing to have issues with standing water that is a breeding source of mosquitos and a nuisance. They report that they have on several occasions to discuss the issue with the farmer, but have had very little cooperation from him. They desire to obtain board approval to send a revised contact letter advising the farmer and landowner of District ability to abate the nuisance and the potential costs associated therewith. After extensive discussion, the board directed the District's management to attempt to have a personal meeting with the farmer to determine if they could reach an agreement how to address the situation for the next season. The board further directed that the general manager revise the contact letter and send it to district counsel for review before placing the matter back on the agenda for consideration.

**Agenda Item No. 9:** Discussion, Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of a Trailer for the Drone Program.

Jacob advised the board that the District's drone program is now operational and has flown numerous applications throughout the District. He advised that presently the drone and all required equipment is transported in the back of a truck, which he advised is difficult, not secure and not efficient. He advised that it would be preferable for the District to purchase an enclosed trailer for the drone program, which could transport and house the drone, chemicals, equipment, and other items necessary for the program. He provided the board with numerous quotes and bids for enclosed trailers. After considerable discussion, the board provided Jacob with additional feedback and trailer features they desired and requested that he obtain updated quotes and bids according thereto to consider at the next board meeting.

Convene to Closed Session at 2:31 p.m.

**Agenda Item No. 10:** Government Code Section 54956.95 - Liability Claim: Claimant Cari McCormick.

Agency Claimed Against: Tulare Mosquito Abatement District

Reconvene to Open Session at 2:37 p.m.

The board reported out that the District, by unanimous vote of the board, rejected the claim submitted and made by Cari McCormick and received by the District on August 3, 2023, and authorized and instructed the general manager to draft and issue a Notice of Rejection of Claim to Cari McCormick.

**Agenda Item No. 11:** Manager's Report.

- a. US Bank - Visa Card - Qrt 2 Rebate Check - Michelle advised the board that the District received a rebate in the sum of \$649.13 for the second quarter from US Bank related to the District's Visa credit card account.
- b. Fall Regional Continue Education Program - Jacob will be presenting - Michelle advised that the fall regional continuing education program will occur on October 26, 2023 at the International Agri-Center and Jacob Davis will be a presenter on a panel.
- c. Staffing Update - Michelle reported that the seasonal employees will likely work through the end of September. She also advised the board that Sheri Davis has advised that she will be retiring at the end of this year, and the District has hired and is training her replacement.

**Agenda Item No. 12:** Meeting Adjourned.

There being no further business before the board, upon a motion duly made by Charles Mayer, seconded by Craig Smith, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

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SECRETARY