

Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Gardner, Chairperson
Martha Gleason, Vice-Chairperson
Gina LeBlanc, Secretary/Treasurer
Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner
Trish Becker, Commissioner



DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, September 12, 2024

Next Meeting(s):
Final Public Hearing, Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 10, 2024– 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The **First Public Hearing** Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Gayle Gardner, Chairperson
Mrs. Martha Gleason, Vice-Chairperson
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner
Mrs. Trish Becker, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Dr. Whitney Qualls, Assistant Director
Mrs. Amy Meyers, Attorney

Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Roll Call was done at the beginning of the Regular meeting which began at 5:00 PM and will resume after this First Public Hearing meeting.

BUSINESS:

Item 1: PUBLIC COMMENT ON TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE and BUDGET FY 24/25

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Dr. Micheal Pavlovsky was wondering if AMCD's education related activities are a duplication of efforts made by the Board of Education. Dr. Pavlovsky would like AMCD to reach out with correspondences to get further details and would like to recommend the St. Johns County commission to examine the District's education activities and whether it is a duplication of the effort made by the Board of Education.

- Mr. Slavin noted he made several open records requests for contemplation of this meeting and can not ask those questions because the records were not received in time. Mr. Slavin stated he would like to see AMCD go to the rollback rate for the millage rate because he believes the District has too much padding in the budget. Mr. Slavin also recommend AMCD adopt a budget committee.
- Mr. let the Board of Commissioners know that AMCD is doing a great job minimizing expenses and still providing exceptional service to the citizens of Saint John's County.
- Mr. Gary Howell noted he got a letter that if AMCD sets the millage rate at 0.1700, the District will receive about \$564,000 in excess revenue. Mr. Howell mentioned this is taxpayers' money and suggest the Board of Commissioners keep the millage rate low and utilize the reserve account if needed.

○ **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

Item 2: BOARD DISCUSSION ON TENTATIVE MILLAGE and BUDGET FY 24/25

- The public had no more comments regarding the budget; therefore, Commissioner Gardner directed the discussion back to the Board. The Board discussed among themselves the possibility of lowering the millage rate at the Final Public Hearing. After discussing among themselves and with related AMCD staff, the Board decided to think about it and vote on a final millage rate at the Final Public Hearing.
- Commissioner Gleason stated she released an open letter to the citizens of St. John's County because if AMCD wanted to keep the tax revenue flat this year, the millage rate would be an estimate of 0.159. She continued to explain the money isn't going into staffing, salaries are not going up and service request and increasing and staff cannot keep it with it. Commissioner Gleason stated staff has not been able to convince her that money is not being over spent and that an extra \$564,000 in tax revenue is even necessary. Commissioner Gleason mentioned if AMCD wanted to do right by St. John's County citizens, the Board would consider keeping the tax revenue flat.
- Commissioner Becker noted that AMCD has the lowest millage rate out of all mosquito control districts in Florida and AMCD has been working hard to lower the millage rate every year she has been on the Board.
- Commissioner Gardner asked Dr. Whitney Qualls what her opinion was on the matter.
- Dr. Qualls stated she believes the Board bring up good points regarding the budget and the Board should proceed as they wish and as an organization AMCD can make sure we're still effective, efficient and provide the best public health pest control for St. John's County.
- Commissioner Becker noted factors that need to be considered, AMCD needs revenue to help support the DVEC, maintenance, operational costs and possible admission cost.
- Dr. Xue mentioned it is a reasonable budget to work with and every year AMCD has reduced the millage rate due to property value increases but the District should be cautious of next year since we can not predict what will happen next year.
- Commissioner Becker stated she is not an expert or qualified to come up with a millage rate but she is concerned about increased cost of operating and chemicals.

A. A motion was made to approve the Tentative Millage rate at the roll back rate of 0.1600 for FY 24/25 as presented.

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Motion Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairperson Gardner dismissed the First Public Hearing for a five-minute recess (at 5:55 P.M.) for the AMCD accounting team to adjust the budget for the next motion.

Chairperson Gardner Reconvened the First Public Hearing at 6:12 P.M.

- Mr. Hanna clarified that the budgeted revenues for FY 24/25 is \$8,911,881 and the budgeted expenditures for FY 24/25 is \$9,202,450.
- Commissioner Gleason asked if there is justification for each departments budget request.
- Mr. Hanna explained that each department head submits necessary items for the budget and the justification for each item, which was provided in the July 2024 draft budget book.
- Mr. Slavin noted he expects for every line item requested to have detailed justification as to why it is needed.

B. A motion was made to approve the budget as presented

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Motion Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**


- **For clarification purposes Commissioner Becker noted that the adopted millage rate is 0.1600 and that is a budget of, eight million nine hundred eleven thousand eight hundred eighty-one dollars.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Gardner adjourned this meeting at 6:28 P.M. and at this time the regular meeting was reconvened.

ATTEST


Chairperson, Commissioner Gayle Gardner


Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Gina LeBlanc

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript of this meeting and could easily be misinterpreted by a reader who was not present. To obtain a full and accurate record of the meeting, an individual should view/listen to the entire proceedings via the District's DVD visual/recording system.