

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, James Farrelly and Mark Troy

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

II. Approval of November 16th Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mark Troy to approve the minutes of November 16th as presented. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

1. 2022 RFP Bid Review

Bids for Mosquito Control for 2022 were received from:

- Dragon Mosquito Control, Stratham - \$81,720
- Northeast Vegetation & Mosquito Control, Epping - \$82,000
- Swamp, Inc., Newington – \$75,000

At 5:12 p.m., Chair Sanborn opened discussion on the proposals received.

Commissioner Farrelly stated that people tend to go to competitively priced and how the bids stack up. He thinks it's interesting that Dragon is \$81,720 and Northeast Vegetation and Mosquito Control is \$82,000., so basically the same price. Swamp came in at \$75,000. He commented that he doesn't have any experience with any other vendor, other than Dragon. He asked Chair Sanborn his thoughts on the bids.

Chair Sanborn noted that Swamp listed in their proposal that the following items were free; monthly activity reports, emergency adulticiding, pre-treatment larval surveys, post-treatment larval surveys, greenhead trap repairs, greenhead placement and trap retrieval. He commented that very seldom in life is anything "free". Swamp may have a different way of accounting for those particular tasks, but it just raises a question in his mind.

Commissioner Troy pointed out that the most detailed proposal was Dragon. What he noticed in the pricing with Swamp is that larviciding seems to be loading all of their pricing. It concerns him that anything “free” that is needed, might get pushed back at some point because of the way they priced their bid. The way that Dragon and Northeast priced theirs are more in line. There are some significant swings in some of the pricing; for instance, pre-treatment larval survey at \$16,500 versus \$9,600. However, they’re more in line comparatively speaking than Swamp, Inc. He doesn’t have confidence that the pricing from Swamp, Inc. makes sense.

Chair Sanborn agreed. In looking at the larviciding specifically, Dragon is at \$48,000 and Northeast is at \$40,000. In his opinion, larviciding is one of the most important tasks because that’s where the mosquitos are exterminated before they hatch.

Commissioner Troy agreed this was the most important component of the budget.

Referring to the Swamp proposal, Chair Sanborn noted that they put in “determine where marsh management projects would be beneficial in Rye”. Swamp is saying that Rye would not need to do as much larviciding if they could come in and do more marsh management. That is a topic that was highly controversial with the former Select Board. The Commission was basically told, in writing, to not bring up marsh management because that’s handled by another organization within the town. He noted that if they were to hire Swamp under those terms and conditions, the Commission, or the other organization, would have to be a lot more engaged. They may not want to. That’s where it funnels up to the Select Board. He pointed out that the Commission is only making a recommendation to the Select Board in regards to the company for mosquito control. The Select Board will see the proposals and will see that there’s a \$6,000 differential.

Chair Sanborn continued that his vote would be to continue services with Dragon. They’ve done a good job and their proposal is lower than Northeast Vegetation.

Commissioner Farrelly noted that he saw a number of references in the bid to “residents”. It’s sort of outside the scope of what’s being done. He thought that was interesting about their proposal. He doesn’t see anything on the Northeast Vegetation quote that is a little more expensive than Dragon to make that change. He just wanted to have a conversation about Swamp because there is a cost differential. However, in the absence of something that says it should really be changed, he would go with Dragon, as they do a great job.

Commissioner Troy pointed out that for the difference in cost, it would be completely changing the strategy with a whole new company without any indication on how the new approach would work.

Chair Sanborn noted that he had suggested to Swamp a couple of years ago that they come to a commission meeting and give a presentation.

Commissioner Troy stated that being educated is important. If this is preventative and better for the environment overall, it's worth looking at, but it's not a decision they can make for a \$5,000 plus difference at this time.

Chair Sanborn commented that if Swamp was to come in, he would like a representative from the Select Board at the meeting to hear the presentation.

The Commission agreed a presentation would be a great idea.

Motion by James Farrelly to recommend Dragon Mosquito Control for the 2022 season. Seconded by Mark Troy. All in favor.

No further business before the Commission.

V. Next Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

Adjournment

Motion by Tim Sanborn to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. Seconded by Mark Troy. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger