

Trustees of Public Funds
Friday, March 29, 2020 1:00pm
Meeting Minutes Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, Laura Miner, Seth Hopkins

Tanner called meeting to order at 1pm.

- The first agenda item was to review the 5/8/2020 funding request from the Town of Brandon for the Mosquito Control Budget submitted by Sue Gage. According to the email sent by Sue Gage on Friday, May 8, 2020, states;
*“The town has spent \$40,160 in mosquito control this fiscal year, a steep incline over the previous year’s expenditure of \$27, 643. We would like to request funds to offset some of this expense from the Trustees of Public Funds. As you know, the Trustee funds were partially designated for mosquito control. We are hoping that you might increase your typical payment of \$11,000 as the town took a much bigger hit this year. As always, we are thankful for your good work.
Sincerely,
Susan Gage, Treasurer, Town of Brandon”*

Before discussing the request for the current year, the group visited the history of the trust and how it was initially set up by Shirley Farr in the 1960’s. Since that time, the group has been contributing to the mosquito fund on a yearly basis. Recently questioned on these contributions, the Trustees of Public Funds elected to seek legal assessment from Mr. James C. Leary in July of 2019 (Minutes dated, 07/16/2019). Shirley Farr set up the fund for the purposes of draining swamps, test, pools, and open sewage disposal, which does not easily translate to current times and regulations. The recommendation from Mr. Leary from July of last year was to standardize the application process and encouraged the board to determine its own interpretation of the last will and testament of Ms. Farr as it relates to current times.

The purpose of the conversation today was to seek more information on the funding request and to learn more about the BLSG mosquito district and the measureable outcomes. Seth Hopkins joined the call as a representative from this group to provide more information on the funding and the BLSG as a whole. The group questioned the quantifiable scope of the BLSG and wondered if there were invoices or information that could be provided on the overall effectiveness of the program. Mr. Hopkins spoke about the request from the BLSG and confirmed the request is not necessarily an invoice, but a budget to actuals to proposed profit and loss statement and this request is presented on a yearly basis. When asked about measureable outcomes, Mr. Hopkins reported that measureable outcomes are difficult and complicated to capture. The most relatable measureable outcomes is the absence of public health problems and outbreaks. Effects can be difficult to measure, however deliverables are reviewed at the BLSG meetings and are included within the town report.

Following this part of the conversation, The Trustees of Public Funds voted unanimously to approve the funding cap and the town request of \$11,000.00 in funding for mosquito control. The group decided to approve this request under the caveat the Trustees of Public funds attend the next budget meeting with BLSG to gain additional information for future funding requests.

- The Trustees of Public Funds reviewed the legal assessment from James C. Leary in July of 2019 and agreed to create an internal document to standardize award criteria and decisions. The Trustees also discussed the current fund request process and determined a formal application and procedure is necessary for all future requests. The group determined information such as applicant information, requested funds, and other supporting information for the request would be useful for determining future allocations and create a standardization for future requests. Applications will be available on the town website and will be submitted to Sue Gage for posting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Miner