

Animal Control Committee
Blue Room – Logan County Safety Complex
March 13, 2013

Present: Andy Anderson; Dave Hepler; Bill Martin; Chuck Ruben; Jan Schumacher

Absent: Kevin Bateman

Guests: Pamela Meagher; Julie Parker; Lonna Fry; Shirley Watkins; Wanda Stevens; Maurice Tierney; David Schriber; Chris Wilson; Lesley Wilson; Lisa Conley; Gerald Hodgdon; John Conley; April Doolin; Micah Barcalow; Chip Deiss; Lindsey Kavelman; Trent Kavelman

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Hepler, seconded by Mr. Ruben to approve the minutes from February 13, 2013 as printed. Motion passed.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Administrator/Warden's report: Mrs. Parker reported a mobile radio has been purchased and will be arriving this week. Mr. Fulscher recommended the purchase of two, but only one has been purchased at this time. At times, employees are using their cell phones to communicate while on calls to communicate privately. Once a second radio is received, this issue may be eliminated. She then discussed personal safety devices, which would include tranquilizers and tasers. She believes they are not necessary at this point since it would be difficult to handle an animal and use such a device while alone on a call. Mr. Ruben suggested Mrs. Schumacher check with the insurance carrier to see if they have an opinion on this issue. She also reported a donation of \$500 was received from the late Joseph Toft. He was a frequent visitor and supporter of the Animal Control facility. Nothing further to report.

Budget: No concerns.

Communications: Mrs. Schumacher reported she will be meeting with Mrs. Parker to discuss safety policies as they relate to Animal Control. Since the County has been developing safety guidelines for other locations, it is important to address this for the Animal Control facility as well.

Public Comment: Lisa Conley from Logan County Animal Rescue addressed the committee regarding concerns their group has with operations at Logan County Animal Control. She reported on the activities they have provided for animals within Logan County. Their concerns included: veterinary and laboratory costs, perceived neglect or abuse, euthanasia, intimidation of their members, advertising, building maintenance and hours of operation. Ms. Conley was asked to provide a written copy of their requests to the Board office for consideration. The group also provided suggestions on ways to move to a no-kill environment. Mr. Ruben asked them to verify whether DNR approves of the release of feral cats. Mrs. Parker confirmed that feral cats are currently euthanized. She received a recommendation that the County not be involved in the establishment of a feral cat colony; however, a citizen could choose to do so. Ms. Watkins indicated many communities have established a trap, neuter, return program for feral cats. Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Watkins to provide a list of other counties that have adopted these practices. Ms. Stevens reported the trap, neuter, return program can only legally return the cats to the original owners. It would be illegal to just release them into the wild. Mrs. Parker expressed concern about a potential distemper outbreak. Mr. Ruben shared his concern that a feral cat colony could infect livestock with pseudorabies and cause severe financial loss to a farmer. Logan County Animal Rescue

recommended shortening Thursday hours and extending Saturday hours to be more accessible to the public. They also recommended adoption incentives (such as older pets for older persons) to encourage adoptions. Mrs. Schumacher expressed concerns shared by a previous administrator that encouraging individuals to adopt by lowering the fees might not be the best solution. In those instances, you may be adopting to a family that might not be able to afford the animal's future care. Mrs. Parker remarked that she could increase adoption numbers easily by not sending them to a rescue. Currently, the most desirable dogs are being sent to rescues within a few days and they are then unavailable for local adoptions. She feels it is in the County's best interest to send these dogs to rescues instead of housing and caring for them and not be concerned about the adoption rate. Mr. Ruben felt those animals sent to rescues should be included in the adoption rate to be a fair reflection. Mrs. Watkins remarked that rescues are used a last resort to make sure the animals are saved. She asked all avenues be researched to include low cost spay and neuter programs. Mrs. Schumacher recommended the issues be addressed individually and felt the issue of hours of operation could be addressed at the April meeting. She also felt it was unfair to insinuate that the Animal Control staff was unprofessional. She asked that future discussions center on facility policies, as that is the function of this committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schumacher, seconded by Mr. Ruben, to pay the bills as presented for payment. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Hepler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.