

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
May 16, 2013
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Tim Dudley
Jerry Potts
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Meachum
Patty Cox
Merv Jacobs

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jay Dunn, Board Chairman
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Deb Garrett, Env Mgmt
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z
Kathy Powless, Veterans Assistance

MEMBERS ABSENT

Phil Hogan

Jeannie Durham, Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Dudley at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting 4/18/13, was made by Jerry Potts seconded by Patty Cox and motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Kevin Meachum, and motion carried 6-0.

ZONING

None

SUBDIVISIONS

None

REPORTS

Veterans Assistance

Kathy Powless reported that she had 2 invites to extend. One is occurring on Memorial Day, May 27 at the Fairview Park pavilion at 10 a.m. The Sheriff will be the guest speaker. The other invitation is for the travelling Vietnam Wall which will be at the Library through Sunday.

Planning & Zoning

Jennifer Hoffman reported that last year there were 15 new residences and already, this year, there are 9 plus 3 more that I know will be coming in. New house construction is up in Macon County for this year. Also, with the tax bills going out, nuisance complaints related to weeds and other issues are up. So, our department is getting pretty busy.

Health Department

No report

Animal Control

Kris Horton reported on April statistics. Questions from Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Meachum in regard to the report, the number of intakes, the number of euthanized and the number of cats versus dogs at the shelter prompted Kris to explain that it is just that time of the year.

Summertime good weather has brought in more dogs than cats. Euthanasia last month was 40 and this month, it doubled to 80. The shelter is teetering on full, but it is the same every year at this time. There are some empty spaces. We have had to ask people who wanted to owner surrender to wait a couple of days or a week until things opened up a little. Intakes vary from month to month and year to year. It is up this month, but could go back down next month. With the Caterpillar layoffs, we are going to have a bad year. When people cannot feed their families, they cannot feed their pets either. Our numbers of intakes and euthanasia are bound to go higher this year, but we can only hold so many animals. But, the number does vary and it could go down next month. Last year, we had a lot more litters of kittens and puppies and this year are just now starting to see that. For April, we had 67 cats and 25 kittens versus 124 dogs and 4 puppies.

Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Additional Appropriations for Animal Control FY2013 Budget

Kris explained that on June 5, 2011, we were detailed out to pick up 37 dogs that were living in horrible conditions. Most of them were being kept in a basement that had 1 to 1 ½ inches of standing water on the floor. They could not get out of it and had to sleep, eat, urinate, and defecate in standing water. They had been that way for quite some time. They were matted, covered in urine and feces, had ear mites, skin infections, eye infections and were in very bad shape. We went to court and filed a MR case, which is a Motion for Security, which means that the defendant in the criminal case has to pay for the care of the animals in 30 day increments. We went to court twice on that. The second time, they admitted they owed the money. If, at the point that they are ordered to pay the money, they do not pay it within 5 days, the animals are automatically forfeited to Animal Control. That is what happened in this case. The total in the MR case was \$16,403.03. That money was paid last month. The criminal case came to an end. The money for the MR case was paid to Animal Control. We are asking we be allowed to put that money back into our budget for use in the care of other animals that come in in bad shape such as animals that might have heartworm that we might not be able to treat in normal circumstances. We had a pair of Boxers come in earlier this year that were so emaciated, that we did not think they would live. But, we took them in to Northgate and were on IV fluids for days. They made it and got adopted. It was a great outcome. The money would be used on good animals that we can find homes for that normally, we may not be able to get proper medical care for and would have to be euthanized. It would also be used for supplies, off site vets and things we cannot necessarily do at our shelter. We would like to put this money into our budget and use it to pay it forward on animals that we may not be able to normally help.

Mike Baggett pointed out that the resolution is missing the emergency language clause that would be required since this is a midyear appropriations resolution. His suggestion was to add it before it goes to the Finance Committee. This is something that can be done without amending. It just needs to be there before it goes to Finance and to the Full Board.

Motion to add the emergency statement to the resolution and then move forward to the Finance Committee was made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Kevin Greenfield, motion carried 6-0.

Environmental Management

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Municipal Waste Management Plan Update, 2012

Deb Garrett introduced Ron Swagger, with Patrick Engineering, who was responsible for writing the update to the Municipal Waste Plan that was originally adopted in 1991. Ron explained that they looked at the previous plans and assessed the status of the goals and to prepare a new 20 year Solid Waste Management Plan for the County. They looked at data from the landfills that service the area, data from recycling service providers, population and employment trends, the volumes of waste disposal that would be required over the next 20 years and analyzed the data into the report. They also worked with the Environmental Management Department to put together recommendations for the next 20 year plan and discussed the sort of goals that would be set for that timeframe.

Kevin Meachum asked if the report had been reviewed by legal counsel. Deb said that no, it had not been presented to them. Tim stated that it was a management plan and not a legal document, but Ron clarified that there are references to the County Solid Waste Management Plan. There are state rules and regulations regarding siting and some other issues included. It is a legal document in some situations. Tim asked if it should be reviewed by our legal counsel. Ron stated that he thought that yes, it probably should be. Kevin Meachum stated that he would not have a problem approving forwarding it on to the Board, but would like to have our legal counsel review it first. Tim asked Deb to go ahead and review the highlights.

Deb stated that the original plan was adopted in 1991 and according to the Illinois Solid Waste Planning & Recycling Act, which sets forth the responsibility to counties to be able to manage the waste with the priority of reducing, reusing and recycling. It allows counties to be able to set up a plan to handle that and to have a host fee in place. Under accomplishments is a list of what was accomplished since the last plan. The refuse ordinance was updated, there was a host agreement, and the landfill capacity was extended to 28 more years due to expansion there. The recommendations explain that all the counties have moved away from recycling rate reporting which was one of the big functions we did. Now they are going to pounds per capita per day. We are going to transition into doing that. Items to continue set forth for us to continue to update the refuse ordinance and in the next few years, we will have to update our host agreement just to keep up with the times.

Tim asked if there is a time that this has to be in place or if this were to be presented again next month, it would be ok. Deb said that would be fine. A lot of the counties have let this fall aside and are not keeping up to date with this. Ron agreed that only 20% to 25% of the counties are up to date.

Motion was made to table pending legal review by Jerry Potts, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Budget Provision in the FY2013 Environmental Management Budget for Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Grant

Deb Garrett explained this resolution is just to put line items to the revenue and expense.

Motion was made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Jerry Potts, to approve sending the resolution with recommendation to approve to the Finance Committee and motion carried 6-0.

Regional Office of Education

No report

Citizen's Remarks

Shirley Stanley, Animal Shelter Foundation, commented on activities from the last month. They are trying to partner with some of the different community organizations. There was a very successful event called Paws for the Cause which was done at the Arts Council. The street was blocked off. There was a steamroller press done with Millikin University and the Blue Connection and the Carriage House Press. There was not a lot of money raised, but a lot of good awareness. J. C. Fultz is now on the Board. He is a wonderful addition and he brings with that a lot of quick facilitation through the TV station. We had a live remote there and he had an interview for the 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. news. There were some prints made by Millikin students. They were photographs of shelter animals and wood carvings were made from them. Then prints were made from them and they were sold. 3 x 3 large wood prints were steamrolled out in the street.

The following Saturday there was an event on the quad at Millikin. It was a partnership with one of the service organizations at Millikin, APO which is dedicated to service and with the Girl Scouts. They had activities for the kids. They did their own food drive with a goal to collect food for people, but they also had a stack for animal food. There was a lot of that. It was taken to Catholic Charities for their food bank.

This past Saturday, there was an event partnering with the Park District at the Shop Floral Display Center. It was a plant sale. We brought adoptable dogs to that and it was a positive event. The Park District is an ever increasingly strong partnership. We are talking about doing another event with them in July at the Shop Gardens. For that, we are hoping to use the DPD, the Sheriff's Department and the Conservation District dogs. With access to the water, we'd like to do a water demonstration with the retriever dogs.

Ms. Stanley stated that after years of confusion between the Animal Foundation, Homeward Bound, Love at First Sight and other organizations, they are seeing less of that confusion. They are seeing more clarity with the public as to the shelter and who they are.

The Shelter is in the 2nd month of a partnership with WSOY which includes a weekly show at 6:40 a.m. They say that is a very positive time and it is a live interview for a couple of minutes with Brian Byers. It is called Byers and Company Pet Project. On Thursdays, Mr. Romano goes to the shelter with an IPAD and takes some footage which is put up on their live streaming and on their website. They also do a 2 minute program on Friday morning. We also do the Friday

Friends on the 5 p.m. news which is extremely successful. The adoption rate of the dogs, especially, is great from that show.

It comes out to an event almost every month. We spread it out between board members so nobody is buckled under from it.

Mr. Greenfield asked about the cat colony. Shirley explained that the final working plans are at BLDD. It is moving forward on that. Mr. Greenfield commented that it seems slow. Shirley assured that it will happen and they are confident. It is not that complicated a structure. 3,400 people came to the grand opening when the shelter was opened. That was shocking. There is such a public interest in the quality of life for the animals. We want to be able to give people an opportunity to contribute to that so at some point, the Foundation will have a contribution opportunity so people that want to be a part of this new building will be able to do so. Mr. Greenfield asked if they had the money to complete it. Shirley said it was a matter of moving money sideways. As contributions have come in earmarked for the colony – no we don't. We're not even halfway, but we can move money sideways. It would be preferable, of course, to have that fund full, but it will happen. We could do it tomorrow, but it will happen no matter what.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING

June 20, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Potts made a motion, seconded by Merv Jacobs, the motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham
Macon County Board Office