

**St. Clair County Animal Services
Minutes for Meeting
At the Courthouse – 6:00 P.M.
January 30, 2017**

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Robert Trentman, Asst. Chairman
Carol Clark
Michael O'Donnell
Fred Boch
Scott Tiemann
Steve Gomric

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Lisa Porter, Chief of Government Affairs
James Jacquot
Cheri Weaver
SCC Animal Welfare Advocates
Frank Heiligenstein, County Board Member
June Chartrand, County Board Member
John West, County Board Member

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Reeb.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

The roll was called and a quorum declared present.

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Mr. Boch to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016.
Second by Mr. Tiemann.

Vote: 7 yes 0 no

Motion Carried.

New Business:

James Jacquot, advised the Animal Services committee of the 2017 Veterinarian Contract for Services.

Motion by Mr. O'Donnell to approve the 2017 Veterinarian Contract for Services, second by Ms. Clark.

Vote: 7 Yes 0 No

Motion Carried.

Community Cat Ordinance: Steve Reeb asked James Jacquot to inform the committee on the Community Cat Ordinance. James Jacquot replied, basically the ordinance is asking that we create a community cat program, there are many different stages. We are asking the community (you have the general provisions of it) to approve the ordinance, but it is not going to the county board until we have a chance to talk to all of the county board members. A lot of the committee members attended the cat meeting. My understanding is, Best Friends, is going to send the video to us that we were not able to watch, so the committee can view it as a body. You need to go through this, it is very detailed, if you have any question you can always call me, and I will answer your questions the best I can. We are not going to try to reinvent a new program; we are trying to adapt the existing programs to our county. It is basically going to be handled by care givers, rather than county employees. We will be making it legal for them to do what they are doing. I don't know if we have any TNR people here tonight, but a lot have been doing it under the cloak of darkness. This would allow them to do it in the county. We are going to try to get the individual municipalities to go along with a program. It really is in the beginning stage, there are a lot of things we have to do to even get started. We are going to need people to identify where the cat problems are, so we can get numbers. My understanding is that's the first step, trying to identify the numbers in certain locations, and target specific locations, rather than turning everyone loose. We are going to try to get the municipalities to come on board with this ordinance, which would allow you to move freely through these communities, rather than having to sneak around.

Q: Unidentified: When Best Friends did the presentation, weren't they saying something along the lines of there is really no written ordinance in any corporate towns and in unincorporated you don't have to worry as much. But incorporated if they don't have cat ordinances, you can get away with moving forward in there.

A: James Jacquot: I don't know if that is exactly the truth. Releasing animals is against state law.

Unless there is an ordinance to protect people that do that and that is what we are doing in the county with this cat ordinance. Individual cities could actually site people for doing that. That is what we are trying to avoid.

●: Unidentified: If it is a law right (or ordinance) that is already on the books.

James Jacquot: By state law you can't release animals into the public. By state law, so that governs everybody. So you would need an ordinance which would circumvent that state law.

●: Unidentified: So it is actually going in the opposite direction of having an ordinance that states you can

Jim Jacquot asked Lisa Porter, Chief of Government Affairs, doesn't the, the lower the level of actually supersedes the higher level? In other words municipal law or county law supersedes state law?

Lisa Porter: The state law, will always supersede, that will preempt county ordinance. We can't do anything as a county that would conflict with state law. St. Clair County is not home ruled, so we can really only legislate by ordinance in areas where state statute allows us to do that. Now Animal Control is one area where the county, is somewhat similar. But, I think we are going to be limited by our geographical county boundaries. I think what Mark was hoping is that you get some municipalities that would be on board, with us, but that we would take the lead on that.

Steve Reeb: So we would have to pass an ordinance or something.

Lisa Porter: Each municipality would have to.

Steve Gomric: Cook County had already had this and it was up in the Supreme, and they got a good ruling on that.

Lisa Porter: Yes, it was actually the appellate court, now the interesting thing about that case is Cook County is the home rule. In the Village of Bridgeview was also a home rule, and they said that the appellate court opinion was that the Cook County ordinance is in effect trumped the village ordinances. They were conflicting, Cook County had the feral cat ordinance, and the Village of Bridgeview said you can't have feral cat colonies, when you trap, neuter and release. So there was a conflict between Cook County and the Village, that's what went up on appeal. They said Cook County who basically supersede the village ordinance. The question that I have about that case is that they are both home rule units. Were as, St. Clair County is a non- home rule, some of our municipalities, I think are home ruled. I believe Fairview Heights, might be a home rule unit, I think some of the other municipalities would probably be home ruled. So, I would not recommend we try and get into a conflict with the other municipalities. That would be my thought on it. One of the things they talked about in that case Mr. Gomric, is the fact that cat tend to wonder, they don't stay within the municipalities, they just wonder across county lines,

municipality's lines. That was a factor; they had a veterinarian that testified to that. But I think it would be preferable that we start out small just in the county, we want to try to get other municipalities on board, baby steps.

Steve Reeb: But this is a good start.

Lisa Porter: Yes it is a start, cats are challenging.

Steve Reeb: We have a resolution here that we are going to vote on, but it's just the beginning stages for this; we just want to get the ball rolling and get the video for everyone to see.

Motion by Mr. Gomric to approve the Community Cat Ordinance, second by Mr. O'Donnell.

Vote 7 Yes 0 No

Motion Carried.

Open comments:

(All of the following questions were directed to James Jacquot, Director of Animal Services, unless indicated.)

Frank Heilgenstein, I think this committee needs to look into something, chickens are allowed to go where ever they want and you cannot stop them. I think this committee needs to establish a protocol, which is available, to put in place. So if someone is going to have chickens, then these are the rules they will have to follow. You can't stop them. They are incidental just like dogs and cats.

Robert Trentman: I walked through the St. Clair County Adoption Center; nine out of ten kennels for the dogs had animals in them.

Steve Reeb, announced that in the packets and on the web site the 2016 statistics.

Robert Trentman: Where are we at with the outside dog kennels?

Jim Jacquot, I talked to Jim Brede today. Jim, and the architect and myself are supposed to get together sometime in the next week. It will probably start sometime in the spring.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell. Second by Mr. Tiemann. Motion carried.

Kennel Statistics Report
Intakes from 01/01/17 to 01/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
CONFISCATE		0	5	0	0	5
	TOTAL	0	5	0	0	5
EUTH REQ		0	3	0	0	3
	MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	1	3	0	0	4
OWNER SUR		14	14	7	7	42
	BELLEVILLE	2	0	1	0	3
	CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	0	1	0	7	8
	MASCOUTA	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	17	16	8	14	55
RETURN		0	2	0	0	2
	TOTAL	0	2	0	0	2
STRAY		16	27	3	1	47
	ALORTON	0	1	0	0	1
	BELLEVILLE	6	4	0	0	10
	CAHOKIA	0	1	0	0	1
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	DUPO	0	1	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	2	4	0	0	6
	FAIRVIEW H	1	2	0	0	3
	FREEBURG	1	0	0	0	1
	MASCOUTA	0	1	0	0	1
	MILLSTADT	0	1	0	0	1
	O FALLON	5	2	1	0	8
	SWANSEA	0	2	0	0	2
	TOTAL	31	47	4	1	83
TOTAL		49	73	12	15	149

Kennel Statistics Report

Outcomes from 01/01/17 to 01/31/17

		CAT	DOG	KITTEN	PUPPY	TOTAL
ADOPTION		6	14	7	5	32
	TOTAL	6	14	7	5	32
DIED		1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	1	0	0	0	1
EUTH		19	6	3	0	28
	BELLEVILLE	3	1	0	0	4
	EAST ST LO	1	0	0	0	1
	FAIRVIEW H	1	0	0	0	1
	MILLSTADT	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL	25	7	3	0	35
RTO		1	14	0	0	15
	BELLEVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	CASEYVILLE	0	1	0	0	1
	FAIRVIEW H	0	2	0	0	2
	MASCOUTA	0	1	0	0	1
	O FALLON	0	1	0	0	1
	SWANSEA	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	1	21	0	0	22
TRANSFER		5	13	1	5	24
	BELLEVILLE	1	0	0	0	1
	EAST ST LO	1	1	0	7	9
	MASCOUTA	1	0	0	0	1
	O FALLON	0	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL	8	15	1	12	36
TOTAL		41	57	11	17	126

Animals Left In Shelter on 01/31/17: 60