

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Meeting Rm. 1, Brookens Administrative Center

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

6:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson, Hogue, James, Putman, Sapp, Schroeder, Tapley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carter, Greenwalt

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator), Joel Fletcher (State's Attorney), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control), Barb Wysocki (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Putman to approve the agenda; seconded by Sapp. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one for public participation.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Approval of Agreement with Humane Society

MOTION by Putman to approve the Agreement for Animal Impound Services with the Humane Society; seconded by Hogue. Fletcher explained the revised changes to the agreement regarding animals that are spayed or neutered and Animal Control's hours of operation. The transfer of ownership clause was also refined to make clear that the ownership clause applies only to stray animals. A payment amount was settled. The Humane Society will receive ten dollars a day for each animal they keep if the County is unable to retrieve the animal within an hour after its processing by the Humane Society. This amount is based on historical costs. Sapp asked if there was a list of services the Humane Society might perform for which the County could be billed. Fletcher explained the services on which payment might be due include if the County spays, neuters, or inoculates an animal on behalf of the Humane Society or if the Humane Society boards an animal for the County. In such a case, the Humane Society would be billed for the actual cost by the County. Discussion was held over the contract, with Joos explaining details. Putman asked for those who had attended the negotiations with the Humane Society representatives to tell how the meeting went and how the County's relationship with the Society stands. Anderson observed the negotiations and felt it went fairly well. Anderson noted the Humane Society's board was unfamiliar with the method in which items are brought to a County Board committee. Fletcher stated the Humane Society wanted a clause added to the contract that would bar the County from charging anyone else lower spaying/neutering fees than the Humane Society is charged. Fletcher refused this "most favored customer" clause. Discussion was held concerning the negative conditions in which the Humane Society has kept animals. The committee debated the reasons for the separation from the Humane Society and the creation of a new Animal Control Facility in the Champaign County Animal Control.

Putman requested an amendment to the agreement. She wanted to title it "An Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services" instead of "An Agreement for Animal Impound Services". Hogue said this amendment was fine with her. James recommended a review of the Animal Control Department and the Humane Society in so many years to see if the Humane Society conditions have improved. If the conditions have improved, James suggested considering dissolving the department at that time. Anderson noted any dissolution would require the involvement of the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, because the Humane Society Board voted not to provide impoundment services to the cities or for the County any longer. Busey stated, at this time, the County Board has not budgeted additional funds towards assuming the increased animal control responsibilities. A good financial analysis of the department in a year could demonstrate that the County can provide the animal control services at a more fiscally responsible rate than the Humane Society did.

Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

DETERMINATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair designated no items for the Consent Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.