

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Don Larson; Lyn Orphal; Anna May Miller and Sandra Salgado. Blake Hobson and Richard Klasen were absent. Also present: Pat McNulty, Health Department; Jerry Rivard, Animal Control; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Dr. Siermanski, Board of Health; Jamie Rein, State's Attorney; Sandy Lewis, Mental Health.

Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Don Larson	Richard Klasen
Anna May Miller	Lyn Orphal
Sandra Salgado	Blake Hobson

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of September 8, 2006. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Orphal to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Article XVII (Animal Control Ordinance): Committee members entered into discussion with Jamie Rein, State's Attorney's office, Dr. Mehanovic, Mr. Rivard and Mr. McNulty regarding the Animal Control Ordinance to address concerns brought up on the County Board floor regarding changes in the ordinance. Mr. McNulty provided a copy of the ordinance with the changes crossed out. He also provided a copy of a report regarding Rabies surveillance in the United States from 2004. He stated that this report is completed every year and the 2004 report is the most recent available report. He noted that cat rabies exceeds dog rabies in the US. He noted that a small percentage of animals are causing the problems. Committee members questioned the reason why the county could not require any dog that has been declared vicious why they cannot be euthanized. Ms. Rein noted that a judge would have to make a determination to put a dog down, we can recommend the judge do so, but the final determination must come from a judge. She noted that this information was taken from the State Statute and she felt this should remain as is in the Ordinance. She noted that State Law would have to change for this to fit the reality. She noted that it is up to a judge, based upon the situation, to make the determination. She noted that part of the problem exists because clear cut information regarding an incident is not brought forward. She noted by leaving this in the judge's hands, he determines the outcome on a case by case basis and it does not then become a county burden. Committee members then raised questions surrounding the mandating of cat rabies. Mr. McNulty noted that Animal Control sees a lot more cats in the facility than dogs. It was noted that if a Vet should determine that a cat should not be vaccinated because of health reasons, the cat would be exempt from this requirement. Committee members questioned the need for micro chipping of all animals. Committee members noted that the biggest issue here is that most individuals feel it is excessive to require indoor cats to be micro chipped. They also stated the problem with having additional government requirements. Committee members questioned whether it would be better to offer an incentive for discounted fees for all animals that have been micro chipped. They also noted that it would be hard to mandate this requirement. Mr. McNulty noted that there is a low redemption rate for cats and the biggest problem at the facility is cats. He noted that the facility is drowning in cats and we need to know who these animals belong to. Committee members requested that the mandatory micro chipping of animals be removed from the ordinance. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to offer an alternate reduced fee schedule for those animals who have been micro chipped. The motion carried with the majority members voting aye (Larson, Miller, Salgado, Peschke) and one nay (Orphal). Chairman Peschke noted that this issue can again be revisited in the future. It was noted that rabies shots should be mandatory for both cats and dogs. Committee members then questioned the requirement to have signs posted for dogs that have been determined to be vicious or dangerous. Committee members noted concern regarding this requirement. They noted that this sign may give an owner an excuse not to follow the requirements of a vicious dog designation. They noted that the vicious dogs are already to follow strict requirements. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend the sign designation requirement be removed from the ordinance. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. Committee members questioned why a person would be given a \$50 ticket for a first time offense. They noted they should be given a warning. Ms. Rein noted this was put into the ordinance because the majority of "dogs at large" complaints come from neighbors signing a complaint against a neighbor. The minimum fine would be \$50. She noted a ticket can only be given when a dog a large is seen by an officer.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the pay-out of a 2006 stipend for three positions on the McHenry County Mental Health Board Fy06 roster: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the pay-out of a 2006 stipend for three positions on the McHenry County Mental Health Board. Ms. Lewis noted this is a stipend for three management level staff members who have put in additional efforts for the Family Care Project. She noted they have been

Approved 10.13.06

able to recapture additional funds in order to offer this stipend. Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Resolution to encourage McHenry County women to follow recommended breast cancer screening guidelines: Committee members reviewed a Resolution to encourage McHenry County women to follow recommended breast cancer screening guidelines. Mr. McNulty noted with collaboration with Centegra Health System and the Safeway Corporation (Dominicks) the Health Department is partnering to increase local understanding of and compliance with recommended breast cancer screening. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the above Resolution as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

WIB: None

HRC: None.

Housing Authority: None.

Board of Health: None.

Animal Control: Committee members were informed that there is a site visit scheduled for the designers/builders interested in bidding on the work for the Animal Control facility.

Mental Health Board: None.

Noise Ordinance: It was noted that additional work needs to be done in this area. Committee members suggested a joint meeting with Law & Justice as enforcement of noise issues has to come from the Sheriff's Department.

Open Burning Forum: Mr. Labaj stated that there has been an Open Burning Forum meeting scheduled for next Friday at 9:30a.m.

Senior Services Grant Commission: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Recommend approval of Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the payout of a 2006 stipend for three positions on the McHenry County Mental Health Board FY06 roster

Recommend approval of Resolution to encourage McHenry County women to follow recommended breast cancer screening

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