



**ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD  
1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER MEETING 2013  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 / 6:00pm**

**The 2012 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.**

**ROLLCALL**

**Attending:**

Assistant Chief Williams	Chairman
Alijah Hunter	Animal Control
Steven Wolfensohn	Michiana Humane Society
Chris Schwanke	City Council
Rex Bailey	Veterinarian (MC Animal Hospital)

**Absent:**

None

**The determination of a quorum was made.**

**Minutes of the last Animal Board meeting were reviewed and accepted after Dr. Rex Bailey asked that the Animal Control Activities be more precise and accurate as his numbers weren't adding up. He showed 75 unaccounted animals.**

**Alijah Hunter advised he would follow-up and report real numbers after researching this matter further.**

## **New Business**

None

## **Unfinished Business**

The matter of fund disbursement between the Michiana Humane Society (MHS) and the Independent Cat Society (ICS) was discussed again:

Mr. Steve Wolfensohn advised regarding the billing situation at MHS, they take almost NOTHING in for surrender fees reference to “STAYS” and that is a “Donation” decision on the part of the surrenderee. A couple weeks ago a gentlemen brought back a dog that he had adopted from the MHS 2 years prior and paid a surrender FEE, but that was not billed to the city.

Alijah Hunter wanted clarification on the “Stray” surrenders, if these were the animals that were being billed to the city, Mr. Wolfensohn advised they were. Alijah’s concern was why Michigan City Animal Control (MCAC) wasn’t being called for these stray animals. Mr. Wolfensohn pointed out the MOU between the MHS and Michigan City showing that it’s their responsibility and obligation to assist the city with these efforts and have billed the city accordingly.

Mr. Wolfensohn claims that 80% of the animals the MHS receives are strays and accurate records are kept regarding billing.

From the audience, Dr. Maureen Fehrs approached the microphone and asked why the MHS, since it’s a SHELTER, be able to bill the city and receive reimbursements when other shelters cannot.

Royce Williams advised that the MHS and the City of Michigan City entered into an MOU some time ago, whether the practices are relevant today or not, they are abiding by the MOU and Ordinance, the actions that can be taken by the ICS if to go in front of the Board of Works and appeal for a change in the MOU and the Common Council for modifications to the ordinance.

Royce Williams advised that the city attorney couldn’t make it this evening, but would schedule a “Special Meeting” for a roundtable discussion regarding these matters.

## **Review of Michigan City Animal Control Activities for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr**

- Impounds 42 (dogs)
- Transports to LaPorte 23
- Citations 9
- Euthanized 1
- Critical Incidents 0
- Pending Investigations 0
- Animal Bites 13
- Injured Animal Calls 2

Alijah Hunter advised that reclaiming an animal consists of a \$50 reclaim fee and the owner has to purchase city tags prior to the animal being released back to them. Citations such as warning tickets and/or ordinance violations may be issued as well.

### **Public Comments**

Yvonne Hoffmaster, Michigan City Controller's Office made the statement that the money's provided to the ICS and MHS are only a STIPEN and was NEVER meant to cover operating costs by any means.

### **Board Comments**

Alijah Hunter advised he would provide a schedule of holidays that MCAC is off and the contact information that they (MCAC) can be reached on holidays/weekends for the MHS.

Mr. Wolfensohn advised that the MHS posts all impounded animals that show up on the MCPD Facebook Page is posted to the MHS website.

### **Adjournment**