

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: January 13, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. County Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Newberg – Chairman, Christy Pruser, Megan Myers, and Claro Carter. Brian Riddle arrived at 7:01 a.m. Also, Dee Dee Rentmeister, County Administrator. Pruser left at 7:39 a.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Bob Kreitler was present to give the committee background information regard search and rescue team. The team was reactivated in 2015 and formed a 501(C)(3) at that time to be able to take donations. They are wanting to trade in the car that the county has let them use along with a trailer purchased with donation money, but it is titled and insured by the county. At this time their designation as a 501(C)(3) has been revoked due to failure to file annual paperwork. They were not aware that they needed to file paperwork with the IRS but are working to get that corrected.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

- Motion by Pruser, 2nd by Carter to approve the claims. Voice vote, motion carried.
- Motion by Carter, 2nd by Myers to approve last month's minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.
- Micah Gallardo, Melissa Fratzen and Dan Markwell were present. Committee discussed the status of the Search & Rescue team's designation as a non-profit. Currently the designation has been revoked. Mr. Markwell informed the committee that when the county sells property it must go thru the property committee per Code and that the county must get fair market value. He stated that he would have to research if the county could transfer property to a non-profit organization. The county would need to determine the value of the car and trailer. Search & Rescue needs to get their non-profit status corrected. Asked Search & Rescue to give to EMA proof that the non-profit purchased the trailer. The trailer and car in question is titled and licensed to the County. Normally all outside agencies/entities must have their own insurance. Search & Rescue is just like Second Chance as non-profits with their own insurance. Micah informed the committee that Annex O of the EOP designates that EMA can bring in any search and rescue teams. He also feels that there are some things in the by laws for Search & Rescue that need to be corrected. Mr. Kreitler stated that he believed there are actually three groups involved with Search & Rescue – 1. 501(c)(3) which was formed to manage donations; 2. Search & Rescue team formed under EMA to comply with Annex O and 3. EMA Office. He stated that it is his understanding that the team was owned by EMA and that EMA picked up the insurance for volunteers. He also said that the 501 (c)(3) was never intended to take over the Search & Rescue team. It was the consensus of the committee that this item needed to start clean and figure out what steps need to be taken for a search & rescue team, certifications, training requirement etc., future status of the nonprofit designation and the bylaws indicating that Search & Rescue is a corporation in the State of Illinois. The EMA department will work with Search & Rescue to sort this out and report back to the committee.
- Discussion on the key fob system for the animal shelter. It has not been installed at this time. Myers indicated that she has a list of people associated with Second Chance for Donny Benson, Administrator, to look out for key fobs. Need to determine who will be issued key fobs, acknowledgement of the key fob policy. Newberg stated that Donny needs to have input on who gets issued a key fob and that Second Chance should continue to notify Donny when they would be accessing the shelter after hours. (Pruser left at 7:39 a.m.) Also discussed that anyone with a key fob should sign in.
- Myers gave the committee information concerning free services that the U of I extension offers provided by Dr. Amy Fischer. Services would include reviewing and recommending shelter practices/procedures. Donny will contact Dr. Fisher and set up an appointment.

- Newberg informed the committee that Dr. Mennenga has indicated that she no longer be the County veterinarian. Has reached out to Covenant to see if they may be interested but has not heard anything back at this time. Myers indicated that Timbercrest would offer a 20% reduction in cost of services, and they could come to the shelter. They currently do not have any contracts with other shelters. Will move forward and see what can be worked out with Timbercrest. Donny will provide a list of services that would be needed from a veterinarian.
- Carter indicated that the Illinois Department of Corrections is no longer taking prisoners due to COVID. How does this affect the County? If someone is scheduled to go to prison at this time the County will have to continue to house.
- General discussion about the COVID breakout in the jail. All sheriff staff and prisoners are being tested twice a week. Prisoners with COVID are being quarantined.
- Motion by Carter, 2nd by Riddle to adjourn at 8:02 a.m. Voice vote, motion carried.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Approve the claims

Approve last months' minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL BOARD:

None

**AGENDA FOR THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time of Meeting: January 13, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. County Building

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Persons Wishing to Address the Committee (If requesting action, also list below in section three)
 - a. Bob Kreidler
3. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. Approve claims
 - b. Approve last months' minutes
 - c. Search and Rescue – non profit status (DeWitt County Emergency Management Assoc)
 - d. Search and Rescue request to sell trailer and car
 - e. Access to animal shelter with fob system
 - f. Utilize U of I to assist with developing/updating animal shelter protocols
 - g. County veterinarian/contract
 - h.
4. Items for Discussion Only (No Action Requested)
 - a.
 - b.
5. Closed Session
 - a.
6. Motion to adjourn

Posted: January 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

By: Dee Dee Rentmeister

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Amy Fischer

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Research Areas

[Reproductive Biology](#)

Mission Statement

Dr. Fischer teaches courses pertaining to companion animal science, policy, and animal shelter management. Her teaching program includes coordination of experiential learning opportunities with a variety of animal service agencies. Her extension program focuses on animal shelter practices, pet retention, and humane population management of cats and dogs, including nonsurgical contraceptive methods.

Honors

University of Illinois Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (2013)

ACES Teaching Associate Teaching Award (2012)

NACTA Teacher Fellow Award (2012)

For more information

[Companion Animal Biology and Humane Education](#)

[Non-surgical contraception](#)

Dr. Amy Fischer

Dr. Amy Fischer is a Teaching Associate and Extension Specialist with the University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences, where she coordinates the Companion Animal Biology and Humane Education program. This program emphasizes the science of companion animals as well as their roles in society, and encourages students to apply knowledge through a variety of internships, service-based learning projects, and other opportunities based on community partnerships.

As companion animal Extension Faculty Specialist, Fischer has gradually become a trusted resource to provide science-based knowledge to professionals in the animal shelter field. She has helped multiple agencies over the years; examples include the Humane Society of Danville, Central Illinois Small Animal Rescue, and Hoopeston Animal Control. The most recent and extensive relationship has been with Vermilion County Animal Shelter (VCAS); when VCAS came under new leadership in May 2020, Fischer was consulted for guidance on a major operations overhaul. Her subsequent staff training has led to improvements in animal health and outcome; topics include sanitation basics, the importance of vaccinating on intake, the benefits of double-compartmented housing units, and establishment of a relocation network for cats.

Contact Information

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