

# ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2012 8TH DAY JULY REGULAR

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30a.m. on July 18,2012 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. All Commissioners were present.

Due to public concern, the Commission inspected existing bridges on Laurel Lane and Shingle Oak Way. They also observed the two bridges on Paultown Way. One bridge is built and the other is under construction.

In the afternoon, the Commission met with Bill King - Operations Section Chief- Adair County Sheriff's Department and Matt Wilson, Adair County Prosecuting Attorney, to discuss the County's role with the Adair County Humane Society. Also present was a news reporter from KTVO Television.

Mr. Wilson began by stating that State statute requires law enforcement to address any issue suggesting a violation of animal abuse and animals loose in the County. This was not only a public safety issue but a difficult statute for the Sheriff's Department to enforce. The Sheriff's Department works with the Prosecuting Attorney's office to charge owners with animal abuse and make them financially responsible for the impending costs. The goal of the discussion today was to solve the problem of how to make it work. The Humane Society and/or the Sheriff's Department needed to be made fiscally whole for monies expended for services which in some cases, is extended over and over again .

Mr. King stated that initially a warning was given to an owner. If a concern of biting was involved, the owner was required to quarantine the animal in their home. He suggested that if an animal had to be picked up and taken to the Humane Society the cost would be charged to the County. In the past, the County had provided \$1,500 to the Human Society for services rendered

to provide proper care for stray animals of Adair County. Once the \$1,500 had been exhausted, the Sheriff's Department could expend funds from the Sheriffs Civil Fund to cover the exceeded costs.

Commissioner Adams stated that in 2011, the Human Society did not accept the \$1,500. They wanted to charge the County a set price per animal taken to the shelter in lieu of the \$1,500. When the County did not agree to this, the animal shelter refused to let the Sheriff's Department drop off animals at the facility.

Mr. King inquired as to the procedure the City of Kirksville followed for similar situations when animals were picked up within the city limits. Mr. King thought that the City of Kirksville paid the animal shelter a set price to cover all services for the year. He thought the expense was close to \$20,000 per year.

Commissioner Thompson stated that he was appalled at the lack of respect the Humane Society had for the Sheriff's Department and the County. Mr. Wilson thought it contradicted their mission statement.

Presiding Commissioner Pickens stated that Commissioner Adams had tried to approach the Humane Society on several occasions without cooperation from them.

ATTEST: Sandra Collop

County Clerk

  
Presiding Commissioner