

**EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Tim Dudley
Kevin Greenfield
Phil Hogan
Joe McGlaughlin
Kevin Meachum
Gary Minich
Don Westerman
Mark Wicklund
David Williams

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kathie Powless, Veterans Assistance
Jeff Scheibly, Animal Control
Randy Waks, Asst. State's Attorney
Jay Dunn, Board Chair
Laurie Rasmus, Env. Mgt.
Deb Garrett, Env. Mgt.
Linda Koger, County Board Office

This meeting was called to order by Chair Dudley at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting made by Mark Wicklund, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried 9-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Gary Minich, seconded by Mark Wicklund, and motion carried 9-0.

REPORTS

Veterans Assistance

Kathie Powless distributed copies of a sheet titled VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville, IL, Angel Wings Volunteers, Angel Wings Volunteers Bring Healing Presence To Dying Veterans. At one time or another, everyone has heard a horror story about the VA Medical/Hospital Clinic, and this sheet has a feel good story. The Danville VA Hospital whenever a veteran passes away, no veterans pass away by themselves, there is someone with them, it is a group called Angel Wings, and they are volunteers. They started this in October 2010, with each bed when a veteran passes away his bed is draped in a flag for 24 hours, and she distributed a picture to committee.

Kevin Meachum asked if our U.S. congressmen and senators know that this is being done. Kathie said at her last meeting in Danville last month there was a representative there, Danville has been doing it since 2010 so that area knows, it started out in Oregon and is working its way over, but we are about the only one here in this area that does it right now.

Animal Control

Lt. Scheibly distributed copies of their statistics for January 2012; animal intakes 166, adoptions 92, return to owner 19, with other information listed.

Last Saturday they had a speed dating event, it was very successful with the help of the Shelter Foundation, and they ended up with 16 animals that were adopted on that Saturday. It was a very good program in that they were able to get 16 more animals into good homes, and if only they could do that every Saturday.

Regarding the letter that went out to board members and he read the reply to that, Mark Wicklund asked if they were taking steps to rectify what went wrong out there. Lt. Scheibly replied he doesn't feel anything went wrong, they have taken some steps to help alleviate any misrepresentations that were made, they have signs to be put out at the facility describing what their mission statement is, specifically describing that they are not a no-kill facility, but they follow the no-kill guidelines. They want to make sure everybody is on the same page, and they want them to know that when they come out to the shelter that they should use the shelter as a last resort. He knows the lady in question, she has spoken with the sheriff for a lengthy period of time, and he explained our process of that; as far as some of their other forms, they have added their mission statement onto those forms as well to help alleviate any of those things, and that is definitely not what they want to portray to everybody. Committee had no questions.

Lt. Sheibly introduced Shirley Stanley, President of the Decatur Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation.

Shirley Stanley

Mrs. Stanley reported they had election of officers in January, and she is the new President of the Decatur Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation. She is here with Michelle Huttes who is the newly elected vice president, and Beth Wallace who is the liaison between the Shelter and their board. They will be coming to EEHW meetings every month so if committee has any questions, they would love to get them and if they have any for you, they would love to present them.

Chair Dudley commented it is good to have them on board, and Shirley and her staff do a great job out there.

Environmental Management

Deb Garrett handed committee a chart on event recycling and said be aware the totals from last year's events that they recycled at, the numbers were a little bit more substantial due to Farm Progress numbers, but for the first year they handled a lot of these programs, it was really pretty successful. She wants you to be aware you are going to see their cars out on the streets at night, weekends, and all kinds of times at strange locations you might think if you see a county car at a park over in the west end but that's the events they recycle at.

She introduced Ray McGee from ATR, Advanced Technology Recycling, electronics recycler that is coming to town. She has the resolution in front of committee, and committee should ask Ray any questions you may have that the rest of the board may have before this goes to the board. Chair Dudley asked for a copy of the chart she distributed and the resolution, and committee members commented none of them had copies of the resolution or agreement either. Deb replied sorry about that.

Kevin Meachum said while the copies are being made, he had a question on recycling; he asked if all the public buildings in the city has a board about recycling soda cans and water bottles. Deb asked if he meant county buildings. Kevin replied all government agency buildings, and have we ever reached out and tried to give them incentives of buying the containers to put in these buildings to recycle and save our landfill and keep our community beautiful. Deb replied she has a report on all the clear streams that are out in the community that we have loaned to them, on permanent loan as long as they are recycling, and she asked if she should bring it to the next meeting; she can't conclusively say that every single public building in this community has one, no, but they have reached out and the ones that have been receptive to it, they have provided them to them.

Regarding another topic, Kevin Meachum said he lives on the west end, drives route 36, and it is appalling; the haulers have got to start covering up their trash since it looks like a landfill all the way from Oakland Avenue to Wyckles Road. Deb asked what hauler he is referring to. Kevin replied he doesn't know, he is not pointing fingers, but if you drive it you look at it; there is debris all along route 36, that is a gateway to our community, and what kind of image are we setting. Deb asked if it is haulers or regular litter. Kevin said he went home for lunch, there was a pile of stuff that must have blown out of something on the shoulder, and it looked like carpet coming off a roll off, like a dumpster, and the county needs to look into it please. Deb said all haulers are required to have tarps over their trucks, they are closed trucks, so the garbage haulers she doesn't think that is the issue with them; the contractors who do roll offs for like C&D Construction on buildings etc., they are supposed to have their's covered as well, she has never heard of any of them having an issue, and she is trying to determine here if he thinks it is from a roll off or someone throwing litter out the car windows. Kevin replied it is too big a pile, this has been going on a while, he would like to see something done about it since he has had several complaints from people that live out that way, and they need to be accountable for their actions. Deb replied without knowing the source, it is really hard to pinpoint, and Kevin commented it is hard to police but needs to be looked into.

Randy Waks asked to make a suggestion; in order to prosecute the offenders, we need to try and determine who it is coming from so if the people who complained to Mr. Meachum would be able to give him some information on where it is coming from, that might be helpful. Kevin replied they are only seeing it after the fact, they are seeing it along the road, and that is the problem. Randy commented it becomes a problem on prosecution too. Kevin feels we need to put a little fear in these haulers and the people doing it need to know we are watching. Randy said maybe we need to post someone out there to watch. If the sheriff's department needs to be out there, Kevin said maybe they need to build a fire out there, it is a garbage dump all the way along 36 from Wyckles to Oakland, and all he is asking is that it be looked into. Deb Garrett added yes but they don't have any jurisdiction on that you know.

David Williams said she announced some information about the gentleman's business last month, he posted at his township, has several people that expressed interest, and he asked if they have a facility here yet. Mr. McGee replied no, they are down to the final stages negotiating between two facilities, one out there by Caterpillar and one off of, sorry he is just getting used to the area.

David Williams asked Deb to provide an address by email when they come up with a facility. Deb has the letter drafted and ready to go to all the haulers, road commissioners, villages, Theresa Churchill who agreed to put it in the newspaper, and will be on our website; ATR will be putting information out, and they will be doing a one day collection on March 31. Mr. McGee said from 9:00 – 1:00 at your junior college, Richland, and they are having a meeting out there tomorrow to get the arrangements planned out, March 31 open up to community residents; they call it an ewaste drive, electronic waste drive, and it is in partnership with Veolia, and they currently have a container out there for residents to drop off serviced by ATR, and their partnership with Veolia has been three months now; he anticipates having their facility in the next month or so.

David Williams mentioned concern, previous BLH, the tvs, stereos, etc. that had electronic equipment in a wooden case, and is it the same thing where you guys will take the equipment as long as it is taken out of the wooden case. Mr. McGee replied no, they don't want residents to be taking tubes out of the casings, that makes more of a hazardous material; they will take tvs with wooden cases, old style tvs, at no charge; it is mandated in the state legislature that passed in 2010, modified in 2011, that any resident in the community or outside the community can come to their facility and drop off 10 items or less as long as they are a resident at no charge. David Williams said his road commissioner picked up a tv that the screen was broken, had problems with the current provider taking that. Mr. McGee commented that poses a different hazardous, makes it more hazardous not just as far as safety but hazardous material, but they will still be accepting those, that is one arrangement they are giving back to the county and residents, being able to pick up dumped equipment and being brought to them at no charge to the county; you are never going to get away from dumping, but that is how they are going to come in to the community, not only a facility but also offer ewaste drives around the area.

Copies of resolution and contract were distributed. Deb wants you to notice the contract and some of the issues we were just talking about; section 4.2, they have dealt with the road commissioners realizing there is going to be dumping no matter what you do, no matter how many services you provide, or how well you market the information so they have handled that. This law is for residential, and is not for business so the road commissioners were handled under that. Motion to approve resolution made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried 9-0.

Regarding the previous recipient of this e-waste, BLH, Mark Wicklund asked if they have reopened a new location on Jasper tucked back in there. Deb replied right. Mark understands Deb is going to make sure they are licensed properly. Deb replied she has no control over them, has no jurisdiction or authority to force a business to do anything, and her concern was that they are not certified but it is not up to her. Mark said his concern is if they are going to be taking stuff in and hauling it out of here, he wants to know where the control is. Mr. McGee said this is the problem with the legislation, the EPA has jurisdiction, the EPA they have been told, they have been throwing some alarms out there on other companies, and they just don't have the money or the manpower to go around to make sure all the electronic recycling companies are following by all the rules.

Legislation did do besides saying that residents can't be charged for certain items, it did say if you are an electronic recycling company, you must have these things in place, insurance, policies, EMS manual, all these things, but the EPA is not enforcing any of them yet; they see that coming down the road, and he is attending a convention next month and would be happy to fill Barb, or Deb, into it about what they are saying because these were some of the topics that is going to be brought up, and Dave Walters of the EPA will be there. Deb replied she and Laurie will be at that on the 15th. It is the first time Mr. McGee has heard the EPA even confronting it publicly about why they are not enforcing any of these because the days of anyone opening up their garage and saying they are an electronic recycling company are over, you can't do that, and there will be a lot of the small like BLH and a couple other competitors they have in Peoria and Livingston County that they shouldn't be operating. Deb said the law stipulated that the IEPA hold a forum to address the issues, specifically to her department is who can enforce rules and issue citations, who can fine them, and they are finally going to be dealing with that on March 15, so she will know more about that then and will bring that information back.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Wicklund introduced his son, Adam, who is home on leave from Afghanistan for two weeks, and he will be joining us after the meeting tonight.

NEXT MEETING

March 15, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Wicklund, seconded by David Williams, motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office