

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, September 29, 2010 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Renee Mitchell, Dick Haines, Ed Childers.

Members Not Present: Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Ed Franceschina, Jim Carlson, Mark Muir

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve Minutes from [September 15, 2010](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review City-County animal control staffing needs for fiscal year 2012. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/27/2010)

Ed Franceschina provided the committee with a [handout](#) outlining Animal Control staffing information.

Dave Strohmaier described the need to review and anticipate the staffing resources for the City-County animal control department.

Jon Wilkins asked about a complaint regarding an Animal Control's handling of an issue regarding sheep.

Ed Franceschina responded that he did not have knowledge of the specific situation.

Dave Strohmaier indicated that he had discussed the issue with Chief Muir at the Police Department

Jon Wilkins described the situation, and apparently the complainant was not satisfied with the response from Animal Control.

Ed Franceschina indicated that he was familiar with the specific incident and described the situation and the resolution of the situation for the committee.

Jon Wilkins indicated that the complainant was not satisfied with the response from Animal Control.

Ed Franceschina stated that he would follow up on that issue.

Jim Carlson addressed the question regarding the amount of time Animal Control spends in the City versus the County. He indicated that Animal Control spends 64 percent of their time responding to calls in the City.

Dave Strohmaier asked how much would it cost to fund an additional officer and what enhanced level of service would an additional officer realize.

Ed Franceschina responded that an additional officer would cost \$41,000 including salary and fringe. Training would cost an additional \$1,500. Add a vehicle and additional equipment, and the total cost would be \$71,000.

Dave Strohmaier asked if the current vehicle situation is a limiting factor.

Ed Franceschina responded that it is, as it is not cost effective to have 2 officers in each vehicle. He stated that recurring annual expenses would be \$48,000 for an Animal Control officer, and \$12,125 for a part time shelter attendant.

Dave Strohmaier asked how an additional Animal Control officer would benefit the community.

Jim Carlson responded that there would be increased park patrols. He also discussed the impact of a rewrite of Missoula City animal codes.

Ed Childers asked what it would cost to actually have an Animal Control department that handles animal control. He asked about the hours that the Animal Control officers work.

Ed Franceschina described the shelter attendant's hours and the officer's hours.

Dave Strohmaier asked what resources would be needed to adequately enforce ordinances that are currently on the books.

Ed Franceschina indicated that they would need at least one more officer and part time shelter attendant. He described the problem of crowding at the shelter and the need to euthanize animals as a result.

John Wilkins requested that Animal Control provide a 'best case scenario' staffing document that would describe what staffing levels would be optimal for the department. He feels that current staffing levels are inadequate. He asked if there are target areas for enforcement. He asked if the County was looking at providing more staffing.

Jim Carlson responded that current staffing levels can respond to complaints, but are not adequate for enforcement patrols. Additional staffing would allow for more patrols.

Ed Franceschina stated that the last time an Animal Control officer was added was fifteen years ago, and staffing has not kept up with population growth.

Dick Haines asked about the Animal Control Officer's authority to issue citations.

Ed Franceschina responded that they do, and that a shelter attendant can issue citations for failure to license a dog.

Dick Haines stated his support for increasing Animal Control staffing.

Renee Mitchell asked how often the Police Department contends with animal control issues.

Mark Muir responded that the Police Department deals with calls when the Animal Control Department is not available, particularly on nights and weekends. The Police Department is also more involved when an individual receives a bite from an animal. He stated his support for increasing Animal Control staffing. He asked for additional information from Animal Control to determine ideal staffing levels.

Renee Mitchell described Animal Control successes. She indicated support for more enforcement of existing laws.

Jim Carlson lauded Ed Franceschina's implementation of the spay/neuter program. He discussed the wildlife and garbage issue. He stressed public education. He floated the idea of a part time staff member that could educate the public. He estimated the cost at approximately \$30,000.

Pam Walzer expressed support for allocating resources to contend with the human element of animal control issues. She stressed the issue of public education. She stated her support for increasing Animal Control staffing, and asked for a strategic plan that would outline the

needs of the Animal Control Department to be able to effectively serve the citizens. She suggested looking into grants.

Bob Jaffe requested information regarding workload. He wants to see a breakdown of the workload to better address the needs of the Animal Control Department. He thinks that utilizing Police Department resources for animal control should be avoided. He suggested an animal holding cell at the County detention facility.

Roy Houseman asked if there is a way to encourage citizens to license their pet

Jim Carlson responded that the department conducts door-to-door surveys on pet licensing.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)
2. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
3. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
4. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Chapter 6.09 entitled "Missoula Cat Ordinance" section 6.09.010 through 6.09.090 to amend definitions, to limit the number of cats over the age of four months that a person, family, or household can harbor, keep, or maintain to five and to enact other general amendments. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
5. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 6 entitled "Animals" generally amending Chapter 6.04 entitled "Animals Running at Large" and Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops," increasing the fee when an animal is impounded and establishing a fee for a boarding kennel license. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
6. Review implementation of the Missoula Outdoor Lighting Ordinance ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 08/09/10)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.