The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am. by Chair Amy Cesich

Committee members present: Amy Cesich, Lynn Cullick, Elizabeth Flowers, Matt Prochaska and John Purcell
Others present: Anna Payton, Laura Pawson, Dr. Gary Schlapp, and Jeff Wilkins

Committee approved the agenda for the meeting.

Anna presented the census log to the committee for January and thus far for February. Animal Control had an intake of 22 dogs in January with a current count of 21, including 4 dogs being held as evidence for an investigation. Animal Control had an intake of 9 cats in January with a current count of 23 cats which includes 1 cat in foster care.

Laura presented the County bite report to the committee for January. There were a total of 13 bites reported with 11 dog bites and 2 cat bites. Eight of the thirteen bites was a case where the owner or family member was bitten. There were 3 cats euthanized in the month of January due to behavior.

Anna presented the operations report to the committee. She provided an update on the case involving an owner with 4 dogs being kept outside in poor condition; thin, inadequate shelter, lack of food and water, and unclean living conditions. Animal Control was able to obtain a warrant to remove the dogs and Anna and Laura did so on February 5 with the assistance of the Sheriff Department and Dr. Schlapp. The dogs were heavily matted with dirt and feces stuck in the fur so they were shaved and each had 5-7 lbs of fur removed. The dogs were very thin at the time of impound and have already gained 3-5 pounds in the first week of being at Animal Control. Also a necropsy was conducted on the deceased dog that was previously removed from the property and cause of death was determined to be starvation. The State’s Attorney’s office is preparing the charges against the owner.

Laura provided an update on the other ongoing investigation which involves an owner of four horses that are not being fed, being provided with water, or clean living conditions. Laura was able to determine that the suspect did not actually own all of the horses (only 2 of the 4) and she was able to locate the owners of two of the horses. The owners did come and removed their animals. Laura worked with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to obtain a warrant to remove the remaining two horses and did so on February 15. The horses are being boarded at a private organization while the State’s Attorney’s office is preparing the charges against the owner.

Anna stated that the low income spay/neuter program has received a great response in the community and that already 2 residents have been approved and issued vouchers. She also mentioned that she was
having a volunteer orientation that evening. She then informed the committee that Animal Control had 161 visitors in the month of January that came into view the adoptable animals.

Anna discussed various fundraising and donations that were currently going on for Animal Control. Anna received a letter from the Deloris Sharp Estate indicating that Animal Control would be receiving $25,000 that is to be used for animal services only not for capital purposes. Volunteer Dana Butikofer did a donation drive on the Facebook page for a young Pit Bull mix named Haske that came in as a stray with multiple fractures to his leg and hips and was in need an expensive surgery, a FHO. She was able to raise over $1,000 in 2 weeks time which allowed him to get the treatment he needed. Haske had his first surgery and will be having his second surgery in a few weeks. Lastly, the Buffalo Wild Wings in Oswego approached Animal Control about doing a fundraiser at their restaurant and Anna will be meeting with them to discuss this further.

Anna stated that due to Tony, one of the kennel staff members, reaching out the events planner, Animal Control would be participating in Bark in the Park events at the Kane County Cougars stadium in Geneva on June 12, July 17, and August 21 at 6:30 pm.

Anna then presented her request for the committee to approve vaccinating the cats up for adoption at Animal Control. She explained that it is important from a public safety standpoint to vaccinate the cats since the overall majority of cats come in as strays and that they interact frequently with the public and volunteers once they go up for adoption. She stated that the vaccine would only cost $8 per animal and that the adoption fees would not have to be raised if this was approved. The committee asked Anna to write an internal policy for the rabies vaccinations of the adoption cats and Anna said that the request would not be a problem. John made a motion to approve vaccinating the cats up for adoption against rabies. Elizabeth made the second. All members of the committee voted in favor and motion passed.

Jeff presented the accounting report. He went through the numbers and stated that Animal Control’s revenue was up this month. The committee approved the payment of the bills. Jeff and the committee discussed in length, based on the auditor’s findings, to have some outside assistance come in and give some insight and recommendations for improving the accounting processes at Animal Control. The committee agreed. Jeff said he would set it up to have the person come and do the assessment in March.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Payton