

**PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**McHenry County Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road, Conference Room A**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke; Mary McCann; Jim Heisler; Sandra Salgado; Mary Donner and Anna May Miller. Dan Ryan arrived at 8:22a.m. Also present: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty, Health Department; Kari Zaleski and Jerry Rivard, Animal Control; and Don Larson, Mental Health Board.

	Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Mary L. Donner		James Heisler
Mary T. McCann		Anna May Miller
Daniel Ryan		Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler, to approve the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of October 24, 2008, as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Dan Ryan arrived at 8:22a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Mental Health Board – Appointment Interviews:* Committee members interviewed Connee Meschini, Daneen Gorski-Adams, Terrance L. Ellis, Kari L. Stinespring, Brett Wisnauski and Catherine Pickar for the open positions on the Mental Health Board. It was noted that there are three open positions, with all of the incumbents reapplying. The appointments will be for four years. There is one open position that was created from the resignation of a board member. This position will expire in January of 2010. Committee members took a break from their interviews to hear a presentation provided by Animal Control.

Committee members were provided with a presentation regarding Animal Control. Animal Control is a division of the Public Health Department. There are 21 staff members located at the facility. The facility has seen an increase in revenue which is based upon increased registrations. 23 animals have tested positive for rabies in the County out of 474 animals tested. The majority of the animals have bats. The department is seeing a downward trend for bite incidents. They believe this is because of the increased awareness and aggressive enforcement. Mr. Rivard noted that the laws are changing regarding dogs, but, they just can't take animals away from people, they have to work within the law. The Courts are the only ones that can declare a dog vicious. Dangerous dogs can be declared by the department. Three dangerous dog violations and the dog can then be charge as vicious and will have to go through the courts. There is one pending case for a vicious dog. There are three or four dogs currently within three strikes and they are working with the State's Attorney's office on these cases. There is an appeal process through the Board of Health for those wishing to appeal. There have been 237 cats and 215 dogs adopted from Animal Control to date. There are some agreements in place with other agencies to take animals that are left at the facility for a long length of time. The Animal Control Advisory Committee has been reactivated. They will be working on an ordinance that would limit the amount of animals allowed per household. The volunteer program has been reestablished and is running well. Other programs are being established, including the teen core program, off site adoption programs, community involvement programs, humane education and they are still trying to obtain their 501c3. There have been 260 hours donated per month with 18 volunteers. Some of these volunteers clean kennel cages, work on socialization of the animals, walk and work in the office. Committee members were informed that there is a dog trainer in the area that has been helping to train volunteers to train these dogs. She has been a huge asset to the facility. Committee members noted that these volunteers need to be recognized for their service to the facility. Committee members were informed that the trainer offers 50% off of training for those adopting animals at the facility. The facility continues to work with service groups in the area, including Helping Paws, Animal Outreach, Save a Pet and Assissi. Focus has been on creating professionalism of staff with additional training and customer service training. The facility has had 3500 visitors to date which shows that the facility is in a good location. Committee members reviewed the ongoing and future objectives of the department. Committee members were informed that the presentation is available on line for review.

Committee members requested that the presentation on Domestic Violence, as presented to the Board of Health, be provided for committee members in the near future.

Committee members continued with their interviews of applicants for the Mental Health Board. Committee members were informed that one applicant was running late and requested committee patience. After discussion, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend the reappointments of Connee Meschini, Terrance L. Ellis and Kari L. Stinespring to the Mental Health Board for a four year appointment. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote. Committee members interviewed Ms. Catherine Pickar for consideration for the appointment to the Mental Health Board. After additional discussion, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan to recommend the appointment of Brett Wisnauski to fill the vacated position on the Mental Health Board with a term to expire in January 2010, pending publication of the resignation of the current board member. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote. Ms. Miller left committee at 9:58a.m.

*2009 Meeting Dates:* Committee members agreed that the meeting dates for 2009 should remain the same as the current schedule of the second and fourth Friday of each month at 8:15a.m. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann to recommend the Public Health & Human Services Committee meetings for 2009 scheduled the second and fourth Friday of each month starting at 8:15a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OLD BUSINESS:None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

*Workforce Network/WIB:* The next scheduled meeting for WIB is next Wednesday morning.

*Board of Health:* Committee members were informed that the Animal Control Division is forming a collective bargaining unit. The petition will be reviewed in the near future and this could affect the whole division. We will try to exclude supervisors, health educators and clerical staff. This would affect 12 employees out of 21 located at the facility. The main issue seems to be salary as animal control officers in other communities are making more money. McHenry County is seeing an increase in whooping cough (pertussis). They believe there may be a failure of the vaccine immunity, 10 years after receiving the vaccine. This can be fatal in infants. A booster shot is available for those older children and adults. Concern was noted because they have seen an increase in pertussis in the past 4 – 5 years.

*Mental Health Board:* Monday is the next regular scheduled meeting. The meeting will be long since they will be discussing the funding allocations for the coming year. Since many are seeing slow payments from the State the Mental Health Board is trying to change to a pay for service system. Alternatives are being looked at for some of the agencies finding themselves in a funding crisis.

*Housing:* None.

*Disorderly Conduct/Noise Ordinance:* Committee members noted they have received a complaint from an individual having problems with loud music from a neighbor. Committee members noted they should file a disorderly conduct complaint against the neighbor. Committee members noted that when they call the police, dispatch tells them there is nothing they can do about a noise complaint since the county does not have a noise ordinance. Committee members noted that it may be necessary for the dispatchers to receive additional training on this issue as well.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members were informed that the grant commission is winding down the current year. They expect all funds to be spent down. The next years allocations are on the next county board agenda for approval. The contracts are being reviewed by the States Attorney. The new contracts begin on December 1, 2008.

Mr. Labaj reported that he continues to get complaints for Gypsy Moths. The contractor will be reviewing infested areas to map out the areas to determine next year’s spraying blocks. The County concentrates on the unincorporated areas of the County, though the Villages and Municipalities can “piggy-back” onto the County’s contract in order to obtain spraying in their areas of the County as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:**

Recommend the appointment of Connee Meschini, Terrance L. Ellis and Kari L. Stinespring to the Mental Health Board for a term of 4 years

Recommend the appointment of Brett Wisnauski to fill a remaining term on the Mental Health Board with a term to expire in January 2010

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