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Animal Control Adhoc Committee Meeting

March 3, 2021 11:30 a.m.

Howard Male Conference Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: John Kozlowski, Chair  
Kevin Osbourne  
Robert Adrian

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Steve Kieliszewski  
Undersheriff Erik Smith  
Deputy Michelle Reid, Animal Control Officer  
Tammy Sumerix-Bates, Executive Manager  
Kim Elkie, Administrative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEM: Discussion was held regarding an email received from Cindy Johnson on October 5, 2020. Commissioner Kozlowski suggested going through Mrs. Johnson's concerns, one by one, so the Committee can respond back to her accordingly.

INFORMATION ITEM: Deputy Reid explained to the Committee and those present the difference between domesticated and stray animals. She stated the only law against a running animal relates to dogs. There are no laws against free-roaming cats.

INFORMATION ITEM: Deputy Reid and Sheriff Kieliszewski discussed the history of Alpena County Animal Control and feral/free-roaming cats. Animal Control does accept cats when appropriate and attempts to find them homes.

INFORMATION ITEM: Options were discussed to better synch the expiration/administration of rabies vaccines with the issuance of a dog's license versus a fixed deadline to purchase the license annually.

INFORMATION ITEM: Deputy Reid informed the Committee she had almost 400 dogs at the vaccination/license clinic held last spring at the Merchant's Building. A three-year rabies shot cost \$10 and a one-year license cost \$10; a three-year license was available for an additional fee. Another clinic is planned for this spring but the date is still to be determined.

INFORMATION ITEM: Commissioner Adrian questioned as to when a cat situation legally becomes hoarding. Deputy Reid explained it is not defined by a specific number; hoarding is determined when there are too many animals for the owner to provide appropriate care. She explained that Michigan has detailed animal control laws.

INFORMATION ITEM: The Committee requested Deputy Reid to submit in writing her suggestions for updates to the Animal Control Ordinance. She was further asked to provide in writing, as she explained to the Committee, the differences between a control shelter and a protection shelter.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Osbourne, second by Commissioner Adrian. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

  
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Commissioner John Kozlowski, Chair

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Kim Elkie, Administrative Assistant