

TERM OF COMMISSION: December Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Room 220

PRESENT WERE: District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor

The budget hearing was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Budget Hearing: Department 1430 (Community Services – Humane Society)

Dr. Steven Finch, Executive Director of the Central Missouri Humane Society, was present on behalf of this budget hearing.

There were no significant changes to this budget for 2002.

Steve Finch discussed the funding for the Humane Society from Boone County and individual donations and the services that are offered. The Humane Society offers a low cost spay/neutering program for households whose income qualifies. There are approximately 2,600 animals adopted per year at the Humane Society. He discussed the Spay Day Program and how they would like to expand this program in the future.

Another service the Humane Society offers is an impounding program for small community animal control agencies. The Humane Society has a contract with the City of Columbia/County of Boone Animal Control through the Health Department. Mr. Finch reviewed the policy on returning an animal to an owner who can prove that it is their animal. If there is no proof of ownership, they will go through the adoption process.

Mr. Finch stated the main goal of the Humane Society is to ensure that the animals receive humane care whether they can be placed in new homes or not.

Commissioner Miller asked if the Central Missouri Humane Society contracted with other counties like the contract with Boone County. Mr. Finch stated the Humane Society does not but there is a memorandum of understanding that is sent to any small community that wants to bring in animals. The Central Missouri Humane Society serves people in approximately 20 Missouri counties.

Commissioner Miller asked how many other Humane Societies are there in the surrounding area. Mr. Finch stated if one uses the open access criteria, like the Central Missouri Humane Society is, then there is only one within a one-hour radius.

Commissioner Miller asked what is the approximate number of animals that are adopted

per year. Mr. Finch stated there is around 2,100 animals adopted, or 35% of the total intake. The remainder of the animals are euthanized.

Commissioner Elkin asked if the number of animals being brought to the shelter have been rising over the years or if the spay/neutering program is working to reducing the numbers. Mr. Finch stated the numbers are constant. He discussed the formulas used to determine the rate, based on the number of animals that will be served by a shelter as a percentage of the human population.

There was discussion about the percentage of the types of animals are taken in by the Humane Society, how the other rescue shelters work with the Humane Society, and how the Humane Society deals with farm animals.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

The budget hearing adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner