



## **MIDDLE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

### **Reading of Open Public Meetings Act Statement**

I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

### **Flag Salute**

**ATTENDANCE:** Madelyn McCarroll, Officer Creamer, Karen Buckingham, Rick Eufrazio, Tarin Mason, Lissy Holroyd, Chuck Marriner, Dawn Stimmel, Crystal Blackburn

**ABSENT:** Dr. Hirsch, Jen Modica, ACO Candell

### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: January 19, 2016**

**On Motion By: Karen Buckingham 2<sup>nd</sup> By: Mary Creamer  
Approved by all.**

- Dawn Stimmel gave report on January 30, 2016 Free Rabies Clinic statistics as well as funds in Animal Advisory Donation Account:
- Madelyn spoke about the Dog Canvassing and the fact that the State no longer required municipalities to do it, according to information she received from ACO Bill Candell. She feels that given the fact that we have rabies in the area, this is something that we should absolutely continue on with. The problem we are having is getting people to help Bill with the canvass. This is something we need to look into as it is almost next to impossible for Bill to do it alone.

She is also concerned about the safety of people approaching someone's home by going up to their door about an animal in distress.

She also spoke about the number of animal related calls received last year, which came to 1183, some of which were 3 pages long, which is not unusual. These are calls where the ACO may have been called back multiple times regarding 1 animal. There were also reports of 7 to 10 dogs running loose that had been hit and killed by cars.

There are usually a lot of wildlife calls around the end of February, beginning of March. We need to link "How to live with Wildlife" onto our website and educate the public. There was an actual call from a resident stating that there was a duck walking down her street....calls from people stating they have seen a raccoon in their yard, or other wild animals, etc.

- Rick Eufrazio spoke about the Township Committee meeting in February where residents from several municipalities came out about a lot of conversations that were going back and forth on social media. Middle was accused of not be passionate and caring when it came to the treatment of animals left outside. They said there were multiple calls made on a couple of animals that were chained outside and nothing was done either by our police department or animal control. Dispatch had no records on a lot of what they were saying happened and Rick felt the whole situation was suspect. The Chief advised those making the accusations that all calls that come into the police department are recorded and they are welcome to OPRA the records if they would like to hear any particular call.

Rick also said that the Township now has a sign that sits on Rt 9 near the Rio Station about taking in your pets and people during the cold weather. It is done in conjunction with the police department. Rick said he would like to see who manages the signs on the GSP and see if we could possibly have something put on them during extreme weather. Officer Creamer explained that those signs were strictly enforced and that she did not feel that they would agree to do any postings about animals and extreme weather. She explained that she had a missing person some time back that was close to a "Silver Alert" but just under the age limit and they refused to post it.

- Madelyn stated that we need to change our extreme weather ordinance for animals, especially those that are penned up. There are people who do keep their dogs out and take good care of them. We need to make it known that if a dog is in fact kept outside, that they will be monitored, especially during drastic weather conditions such as extreme heat or extreme cold and if we monitor, do we have sufficient resources to do so. We also need to state the purpose in our codes, which should be the caption of each article. Would like for our code issues that reflect what we know about animals now and to write in a manner anyone can understand. It was brought up that maybe we should wait to see what the State does with their animal ordinances, as they can supersede ours...we can make our ordinance more stringent than the state, but not less stringent.

Madelyn said that Dennis Township is considering starting an Animal Advisory Board and that we had had a resident from Dennis send in an application to be on our board. She forwarded that application on to Dennis

Township. She thinks it would be a nice idea to invite someone from Dennis to sit in on one of our meetings

We also need to start working diligently on our Cruelty Team. Chuck Marriner questioned if the SPCA could just come into a community and not have to report to the police department first. Officer Creamer advised him that yes they can; they do not have to notify the police department, but sometimes do out of courtesy.

**COMMENTS:** Ginny Fineberg, 2016 Top Dog owner of Brealey is working on developing a Logo for the Animal Advisory Board. Brealey has been sick, but should be attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in March to receive his 2016 Top Dog of the Year award.

The Committee will also need volunteers to table events. Taren will help get the tabling event organized for the Harvest Fest in October. Lizzy is working on a Grant for equipment; we are going to apply for the Pet Smart Grant again as well as the Subaru Grant.

**ADJOURN: 6:20 PM**