

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 26, 2007

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Jacque Daniels and Greg Hoover and Julie Aitken. Also present was Board Secretary Lorraine Robinson recording the meeting. Councilmember Starkey and Julie Aitken were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 27, 2007

Later in the meeting, Vice-Chair Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to approve the minutes of March 27, 2007. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey and Ms. Aitken being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Livestock at Large Issue – Sergeant Maureen Themis, Davie Police Department

Sergeant Themis advised that she had completed research on the issue and had the Records Department prepare a query on the number of livestock problems reported in the Town for the past six months and in 2006. She advised that in the past six months, there had been one report and in 2006, there had been six incidents reported. Sergeant Themis explained that if an incident was handled informally and was not reported, she would not have any information; however, she wanted the Board to have a perspective as to what the Police Department was dealing with.

Chair Hurley explained that the goal of the Board was to assist the Police Department when they received a call that an animal was loose. He commented that it did not appear that there was a good system in place and Board was hoping to devise a system that would enable the officers to identify the horse in the appropriate manner. Sergeant Themis indicated that there had been a problem a few years ago when she worked as an officer; however, depending on the location it was now easy to figure out the owner of the animals. She commented that any assistance that the Board could give would be appreciated.

Chair Hurley stated that the Board was trying to put together a list of volunteers who would assist with picking up the animal once it was rounded up by a police officer. Sergeant Themis asked if the Board presently had the name of any contacts available. Vice-Chair Daniels responded in the negative. Sergeant Themis commented that if an officer was working the midnight shift and a cow or a horse got loose, the officer should not be guessing what to do with the animal. Vice-Chair Daniels stated that Officer Laverne Jones usually received a lot of calls because she was familiar with horses. Sergeant Themis commented that Officer Jones now worked the midnight shift as a patrol officer and had distanced herself from the issue. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that she spoke with Officer Jones who thought the Police Department would be interested in getting assistance from the Board; however, the Board did not want to impose on the Police Department. Sergeant Themis reiterated that the Board's assistance would be helpful, and she was also seeking enlightenment from the Board concerning etiquette involved when dealing with horses, cows and/or ranchers.

Vice-Chair Daniels explained that some of the individuals that she had discussions with spoke of the risk involved in bringing an animal onto their property when they did not have current medical information. She indicated that if the animal's owner was not located within 12 to 24 hours, the Town should have a designated place where these animals could be taken by the individual holding them and then held until the owners were located. Vice-Chair Daniels suggested Robbins Lodge as a possible location while Chair Hurley suggested that the Town contract with someone to hold the animal until the owner was located. Chair Hurley commented that the Town or its contractor should take responsibility for the animal until the owner was located and the owner held responsible for the costs incurred to the Town. He spoke of a section of the Town Code that addressed costs for holding an animal; however, the Code was written approximately 15 years ago and should be amended.

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Sergeant Themis referred to previous minutes where individuals expressed concern that if they volunteered, they did not want to be called every time. Vice-Chair Daniels explained that was the reason for having a large list so that the individuals could be called on a rotation basis. She indicated that some of the individuals she spoke with were sometimes called before the Police Department, and in some instances the Police Department was not called. Vice-Chair Daniels spoke of the concerns expressed by many of the individuals she spoke with and added that the Board would like to research to see where the Board could offer assistance.

A brief discussion ensued regarding identification of horses by their color with Vice-Chair Daniels commenting that "horse" people would be able to identify a horse by their color but police officers might not be able to do so. Sergeant Themis questioned if the Board planned to use a computer program that could be used in police vehicles, she would discuss the issue with Officer Jones as she might be familiar with the colors. She suggested that someone create a color pictorial which could be handed out during roll call. Sergeant Themis indicated that she was in charge of training which was done on a monthly basis and training the officer to describe the animal was easy. She referred to the liability issue raised by the Board and suggested that the animal be taken directly to an area designated by the Town. Sergeant Themis asked if there was a central place where an animal could be held. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that the Board had discussed proposing to the Town that Robbins Lodge be used as a holding area. Sergeant Themis commented that the Police Department was losing some of its in-service training space and the department would be using Robbins Lodge after hours for tactical training. This involved some disruption and she was not sure of the effect this would have on the animals.

Concerning injured animals, Vice-Chair Daniels asked if the Police Department had a veterinarian that attended to such animals when they were found. Sergeant Themis explained that in the past when injured animals were found, several different veterinarians were called for assistance. Vice-Chair Daniels explained that Dr. Michael Kronk was on call for hurricane emergencies and she had received a call from Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej concerning hurricane issues. She indicated that she had been working with Dr. Kronk for 30 years and she could not recall any arrangement that Dr. Kronk had made with the Police Department to attend to injured animals. Sergeant Themis indicated that although the injured animal could not be classified as wildlife animals, in some instances the Wildcare Center had been called and they took care of the animal. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that Dr. Kronk's office would be willing to be on call for animal emergency with the Police Department; however the Police Department still needed a veterinarian for emergencies.

Mr. Hoover inquired about the list of volunteers who were willing to allow their facilities to be used as a holding area when an animal was found. In responding, Vice-Chair Daniels explained that the 12-24 hour was an issue, and the Board was going to try to come up with an area within the Town, even if this was at the arena. Chair Hurley suggested that it would be best if the Town contracted with an individual willing to pick up the animal and keep it overnight and turn it over the owner the following day. He indicated that the Town would pay the contractor and be reimbursed by the owner for transportation and boarding the animal. Chair Hurley cited a number of reasons why it would be more advantageous to have a contractor. Vice-Chair Daniels agreed. Sergeant Themis indicated that Animal Control operated in a similar manner. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that when a horse got loose, 80 percent of the people would not claim the animal because they did not want the responsibility of disposing of the animal when there was an accident and the animal died. Sergeant Themis asked who was responsible for disposal of an animal when it died on the road and whether the individual had a contract with the Town. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that Butch Lowe was responsible for animal disposal but she did not know if he was contracted with the Town. She advised that she would contact him to find out if he had a contract with the Town and how he was paid.

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Chair Hurley questioned whether the Police Department already had a system in place that the officers could use for identification. Discussion continued regarding the identification issue with Sergeant Themis explaining that she was not sure if there was one in place but she would make some inquiries and contact the Board Secretary with the information. However, if there was none in place, Sergeant Themis suggested that she could take care of the training if someone could create a system. She indicated that a bulletin could be distributed during roll call and additional training would enable the officers to describe the animals. Vice-Chair Daniels commented that information contained in a pamphlet would let them know how to deal with a loose animal and where they should go. Chair Hurley advised that the Board had no problem making recommendations for changes to the Town Code if it was needed, so that things could move along smoothly. Sergeant Themis indicated that after the changes were made, she would be willing to attend future meetings as the need arose.

Chair Hurley indicated that if the Police Department was amenable to having the list of volunteers, it would be forwarded to the department. Sergeant Themis indicated that the list would be placed in dispatch for distribution to the officers. Chair Hurley advised that the Board would review the Town Code and push for it to be updated and see that the Town hired a contractor.

Vice-Chair Daniels questioned the procedures when a dog was loose. Sergeant Themis highlighted different scenarios as it applied to different situations. She explained that there was no training in the Academy or in the State curriculum to handle animals. Sergeant Themis advised that she could make this a specialized training of the new recruits which was specifically for Davie.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Equestrian Signs and Trail Connecting Signs

The Boardmembers reviewed the proposed sign ordinance. Mr. Hoover asked if there were other counties such as with a similar ordinance. In responding, Vice-Chair Daniels responded that she was not sure and added that there were not too many other cities with large traffic areas where horses were being ridden. Mr. Hoover referred to the City of Plantation with Vice-Chair Daniels adding that in that city, the horses were not ridden across major intersections. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hoover commented that drivers needed to be trained to be respectful of large animals. Vice-Chair Daniels agreed. Mr. Hoover asked if the information in the ordinance would be placed in the drivers manual. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that signs would be posted by the Town indicating a ticketing offense. Mr. Hoover questioned if posting a sign made it viable with Vice-Chair Daniels responding that if changes were made to the Town Code, it became an offense. Chair Hurley asked who drafted the ordinance with Ms. Robinson responding that it was drafted by Urban Forester Tim Lee.

In a brief discussion on traffic issues, Renee Hoover indicated that they was nothing in the ordinance regarding loud noises near a sheep farm. Mr. Hoover explained that there was a Broward County bus driver who would honk his horn whenever he passed his farm at the same time every day. Ms. Hoover indicated that after the County was contacted, the problem was resolved; however, they have to contend with other motorists driving through the area.

Ms. Hoover asked if the ordinance was drafted for this Board with Chair Hurley responding that the ordinance was drafted without the Board's input. Chair Hurley suggested contacting Mr. Lee and offering the Board's support. Vice-Chair Daniels agreed.

4.2 Light Containment Issue

Following a brief discussion, the Board decided to forward the letter that was drafted by Ms. Aitken to the appropriate department.

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Vice-Chair Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to forward the letter that Ms. Aitken drafted and see where it goes. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey and Ms. Aitken being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

5. NEW BUSINESS

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the issue of the sheep and the honking horns by motorist. Several suggestions were made by the Board; however, Mr. Hoover did not believe those suggestions would work.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Following a brief discussion, the following items were suggested for the July meeting:

- Livestock-at-Large Issue
- Volunteer List of Individuals for Animal Holding Areas
- Animal Identification
- Review of Town Code

Vice-Chair Daniels commented that she would contact Mr. Lowe and she would speak with Dr. Kronk about becoming the emergency contact veterinarian for the Town. She suggested making a proposal to the Town to see if there was any interest in contracting with the individuals in question. Concerning volunteers, Vice-Chair Daniels mentioned a number of individuals that she would be contacting. She spoke briefly about the liability issue mentioned by some of the volunteers that she had contacted as it related to diseases among the animals and the length of time they would be held on each individual property. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that with the exception of rabies, most infections did not pass between species.

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments or suggestions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member