

WORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
3rd Floor Courthouse
201 N. Main Street – Sylvester, GA 31791

Scheduled Work Session
February 5, 2009
6:00 P. M.

The Worth County Board of Commissioners met in a Scheduled Work Session on Thursday, February 5, 2009 in the Commission Board Room, 3rd Floor Courthouse.

Chairman Medders called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Matt Medders. Commissioners Bettye Bozeman and Tony Hall. County Administrator Robert Zellner and County Clerk Deborah Robinson.

Not Present: Commissioners Fred Dent and Jerry Childree. County Attorney Clarence Miller.

There was one item on the agenda.

1. Discussion of Humane Society building and contract.

Present representing the Humane Society were Arlene Schippang (president) Peggy Snipes (treasurer) Charles Land (veterinarian) and Leigh Ford Board Member.

Arlene Schippang and Leigh Ford came forward to speak to the Commissioners.

Leigh Ford spoke in reference to where the Humane Society was at this time. Ms. Ford informed the Board that results from the soil sample should be ready in the next couple of days and they would be taking that to the Health Department and then a perk test will take place. Ms Ford also informed the Commissioners the Humane Society is speaking with an Architect Company out of Albany named SRJ Architects. Macky Sanders of SRJ Architects is the person we were talking with. Mr. Sanders would be taking a look at their rough draft of what they would like to build and creating a blue print from that. Ms. Ford informed the Board that Mr. Sanders had spoken with John McPhaul who is the Chairman of the Humane Societies Building Committee.

The Commissioners explained to Ms. Ford how the actual building of the Humane Society would have to be done through the bid process. Ms. Bozeman explained there was \$92,800.00 left in the SPLOST fund. If the building was going to cost more the Best Friends Humane Society would have to pay the balance. Ms. Ford stated she would have the blue

print from the architect within a couple of days and would send everyone a copy of that in a pdf file.

Ms. Schippang mentioned the couple of items in the contract Attorney Miller had suggested making changes to stating they did not have a problem with them. Ms. Schippang did state in reference to the "dispatching of animal control officer" this had been included because of the understanding from previous talks that the Animal Control Officer would be located within the Humane Society Building and calls from the public in reference to animal control issues would be coming to their phone as the County Pound would be closed down once the Humane Society opened.

Ms. Bozeman and Mr. Hall agreed this should stay in the contract as it was their hope for the Humane Society to contract with the County to handle Animal Control. Ms. Bozeman explained how the County would create a budget for the Humane Society which would include an amount for a salary for an Animal Control Officer. Ms. Bozeman explained the current budget for the County Pound was approximately \$35,000.00 a year. She explained this covered the salary of the ACO as well as the light bill, dog food and all other operational supplies and expenses. Ms. Bozeman also stated she saw no reason why the County would not furnish the truck assigned to the County Dog Pound to the Humane Society as well. Mr. Hall stated this was something that could be discussed at a later time, but the Humane Society would be responsible for insurance and maintenance.

Ms. Schippang informed the Commissioners that the Humane Society was sending two of their members to go to a Grant Writing Work Shop in the next couple of weeks so once the building was completed they would be ready to apply for several different grants that are available.

Ms. Schippang asked the Commissioners what authority the ACO would have if he/she were not a County Employee. Mr. Hall explained there would be an Intergovernmental Agreement entered into between the Humane Society and the County. The Humane Society employee in the roll of the Animal Control Officer would have the authority to enforce the County Ordinances that pertained to animals. Mr. Hall also explained the Humane Society could recommend to the Board what kind of things they would like to see in reference to Animal Control Ordinances.

There was a brief discussion in reference to cats not being included in the County's Ordinance. Ms. Ford stated the City of Sylvester does not include cats in their Ordinance. Mr. Hall suggested the Humane Society start working now on an Ordinance that would work for the Cities as well as the County.

The Commissioners explained that the site plan was needed so the County could apply for the re-zoning/conditional use through the building & zoning department.

Ms. Ford said she would have the site plan for the Commissioners in the next few days.

There was a brief discussion about utilizing the County Dog Pound after the Humane Society Building was complete for the purpose of quarantine.

The Commissioners mentioned there would be 2 or 3 days of dirt work that they felt could be done by Public Works.

A ground breaking ceremony was mentioned for the near future.

With no further business for discussion Chairman Medders adjourned the meeting at 7:21 P.M.

County Clerk

Chairman

Deborah Robinson

Matt Medders