

Regional Animal Control District

Serving the Towns of
Lebanon, Franklin, Bozrah, Lisbon & Sprague

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Regional Animal Control District Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
Thursday,
August 23rd, 2012 – 10:30AM
Lebanon Town Hall Conference Room

MINUTES

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Matters at 10:32 AM. Directors present included Cathy Osten, Sprague; Bill Ballinger, Bozrah; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Joyce Okonuk, Lebanon.
- 2) Visitors included Selectman Denise Dembrowski, Sprague and Uncas Health Director Patrick McCormack.
- 3) Moved by Sparkman/Ballinger to add to the agenda new item 13a “*Discuss and act upon Animal Services Assistance Agreement between the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG and the Regional Animal Control District*”. Vote: Yes, unanimous
- 4) The minutes of March 22nd, 2012 were not available.
Moved by Okonuk/Sparkman to approve the minutes of June 28, 2012. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 5) Correspondence.
 - a) Letter from State Dept of Agriculture advising PA 12-108 which requires all animal control officers receive mandatory training. ACOs hired after July 1, 2012 will have up to one year to receive a minimum of 80 hours of field-related training. Existing ACOs must complete a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education related to their job each calendar year. Training will be available throughout the year in various locations. Rich will contact District ACOs to advise of this requirement.
 - b) Rich sent letter to ACO Murphy re recommendation that ACOs no longer track all phone calls and similar time-consuming routine clerical activities.
- 6) No Report
- 7) No action needed.
- 8) No action needed.
- 9) No action needed. Cathy advised that she just received a bill charged in April on the Town of Lebanon charge card which needs to be posted to the last fiscal year. Joyce to check with Erin to see what caused the delay.

- 10) Activity level for Edward's Answering Service calls was reported as follows:
June: 38 non-emergency, 2 weekend, 1 night, 1 day
July: 29 non-emergency, 1 weekend, 2 night, 4 day
- 11) No report - ACO not present.
- 12) Uncas Health District Director Patrick McCormack was in attendance to discuss concerns he has about the District response to abused or neglected cats. In a couple of recent incidents in Bozrah, Patrick had contacted Edward's in an attempt to reach the ACO re cats that had been cruelly treated and had been told by the dispatcher at Edwards that the ACO doesn't do cats. Members agreed that District policies are very clear inasmuch as routine strays or abandoned cats are not investigated by our ACO but any animal, including a cat, that has been abused or neglected does require a response. Rich will set up meeting with Patrick, himself and the two ACOs for an evening time convenient for all to discuss the proper cat protocol. Feral cats are not part of this response requirement although in the past ACOs have provided have-a-heart traps to assist property owners and cat rescue groups in collecting nuisance feral cats. Bill said that in Bozrah the cat issues have included hoarding and odors from hoarder houses which is a health issue. Patrick said the Uncas Health District will assist in these areas including those members towns that are not part of the Uncas District.
- 13) Moved by Ballinger/Okonuk to amend the text of the Edward's Answering Service protocol by stating that, "all animal cruelty, neglect or abandonment" should prompt a contact to the Animal Control Officer and that the same response now given to the state or local police should be extended to include calls from the DEEP, Public Health Departments, and Fire Departments. Vote: Yes, unanimous
- 13a) Rich and Cathy met with John Filchek, Executive Director of NECCOG re providing back-up on-call coverage during the planned or unexpected absence of our animal control officers. Rich and others had reviewed the draft agreement. Some minor edits were made in the document which were detailed by Rich. Moved Ballinger/Sparkman to approve the draft version of the Animal Services Assistance Agreement between the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and the Regional Animal Control District. Vote: Yes, unanimous
- 14) No public comment
- 15) Moved Sparkman/Osten to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 AM. Vote: Yes, unanimous

Joyce R. Okonuk
Secretary