

Regional Animal Control District

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

Mailing Address: 1 Main St., P.O. Box 677, Sprague, CT 06330 Emergency Calls: 800.236-1987

Pound Address: 34 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, CT 06249 Routine Calls: 860.642-6379

Regional Animal Control District Board of Directors

Regular Meeting

Thursday,

January 23rd, 2014 – 10:30AM

Bozrah Town Hall

MINUTES

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Matters at 10:31 AM. Members present were Joyce Okonuk, Tom Sparkman, Bill Ballinger and Sprague Selectman Denise Dembinski. Animal Control Officer Mike Murphy was also present and Selectman Cathy Osten joined the meeting at 10:45 AM.
- 2) Recognition of Visitors None
- 3) Additions to agenda. None
- 4) **Moved by Okonuk, seconded by Sparkman to approve the minutes of December 26th, 2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous**
- 5) Correspondence. None
- 6) Discuss and act on Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Cathy Osten reported nothing unusual with finances as all accounts are well below the 50% burn rate not counting, however, newly received bills from Lebanon's Finance Office that have not yet been paid. Members discussed other bills received from Lebanon seeking reimbursement for the past fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 but the bills were not received until October after the prior fiscal year was closed. Consequently, these bills were paid against the current fiscal year which is affecting the budget. Joyce to speak with the Finance Office about these matters. NECOG bills for coverage have been charged against the license survey line item. ACO Murphy reports he has a good relationship with NECOG staff—all working well together. He also questioned whether or not a vet bill from Colchester Animal Hospital had been received as if it does arrive, it was not authorized by him. Members discussed and decided if bill comes in for Fedex charges in shipping a cat for rabies evaluation, the bill should be paid by the RAC....any other charges not authorized.
Motion by Sparkman, seconded by Ballinger to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous
- 7) Approval of payment of bills. None
- 8) Discuss and act on changes to FY 2013-14 budget. None

9) Discuss activity level for month of December.

Edward's Answering Service reports 30 non-emergency, 0 weekend, 3 daytime, and 0 night calls. It is assumed that the 30 non-emergency calls were hang-ups and then the callers either contacted the pound directly or simply hung up. ACO Murphy reports activity with Edwards is very good.

10) ACO Report.

Murphy further reported that ACO activity has been slow and steady, most likely due to the cold weather. Towns are generally without complaints. Murphy said that the department is working much better. Osten asked where the animals are going when taken in. Murphy reported that the Newington Humane Society takes some of our incoming dogs and proceeds to vet, house and adopt out for us without charge. Their dogs turn over quickly as they have a larger adoption base/area. Members discussed the cost disadvantages of issuing local tickets via the Ordinances all towns passed. Sparkman said it is much better to let the ticket be a state ticket and let the collecting of the fees and payments be through the state and/or court should the ticket remain unpaid. It is too expensive for the RAC to do legal follow-up on unpaid tickets. All members agreed.

11) Approval of cell phone increases.

Joyce reported that the cell phone cost has increased to \$41.14 due to a plan change in the Town of Lebanon which contracts for the ACO phone. Matters had suggested at last month's meeting that perhaps the RAC look at purchasing a phone on an individual plan which may be less costly. Members discussed and decided to stay with the current plan.

12) Public Comment. None

13) Moved by Osten, seconded by Ballinger to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 AM. Vote: Yes, unanimous

Joyce R. Okonuk
Secretary