

The West Branch Animal Control Commission met on November 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present were Leesa Johnson, Ashley Miller, Amy Lynch, and Alan Beyer. Neil Korsmo was absent. Also present was Chief Horihan and City Administrator Matt Muckler.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

Old Business:

The Halloween Pet Costume Contest was held at the Fire Station and only two entries were present. Advertising in the paper and with posters was good. Reasons for low attendance may have been the early time (6:00 pm).

Pet Owner's Guide. Nothing new. Another person offered to help if needed.

There was now other old business.

New Business:

Police Report: No dog bites. It was recommended that all bites be reported whether or not someone elects to pursue a claim. A shock collar transmitter was lost at the Dog Park.

Dog licensing fee review. A list of licensing fees from 14 Iowa cities was reviewed. Average licensing fees for neutered pets was about \$10 and about \$30 for non-neutered pets. West Branch fees are \$5 and \$10. Mailings for licensing renewals have been assembled and are ready to set out, so it was decided to wait until next year to make changes. Matt Muckler suggested a letter to the editor regarding the benefits of having a pet registered.

Dog Park fees were briefly reviewed. Iowa City charges \$40 per year for residents and \$45 for surrounding areas. They have a \$5 discount if neutered. Urbana, Ill. Has a \$38 fee with \$12 for additional dogs in household. The fees for West Branch will be reviewed again next year; they are \$15 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents.

Matt Muckler addressed the council. He said that the Pet Halloween Contest turnout was low for several reasons and expects the next year to be better. He said that discounted fees for registrations for seniors should be discouraged as it might be considered discriminatory. Neil Korsmo's term ends in December and the position has been offered to Red Provine. He hasn't as of yet returned the application.

Mr. Schulties fourth grade class is pursuing a project of learning how to pass a law. They met with the City Council and approached them regarding urban chickens. They may be interested in visiting with the Animal Control Commission for assistance in developing a policy to present

to the City Council. Matt handed out a four page copy of Iowa City's Urban Chicken Policy. The council invites them to attend our next meeting to work on a resolution.

There was no other new business.

Next meeting date will be January 10, 2017 unless the fourth grade class would like to meet earlier. Then the next meeting will be December 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.