

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
MARCH 31, 1997

THE COMMISSIONERS MET IN THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 301 S. BRANSON ST., MARION, INDIANA 46953 ON MARCH 31, 1997 AT 8:30 AM.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE COMMISSIONERS RICHARD PUCKETT, WALTER WOOD AND DAVID GLICKFIELD, COUNTY AUDITOR JUDY CARMICHAEL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT JOHN WEBSTER, AREA PLAN DIRECTOR CLAY GILLEY, COUNTY COUNCILMEN JOE ISAACS AND PAUL BAKER, JIM STEWART OF MARION CITY COUNCIL. RANDY McPIKE OF WBAT AND HENRY HOENIG OF THE CHRONICLE TRIBUNE.

DICK PUCKETT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:30 AM.

WALTER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, AND TO APPROVE THE CURRENT CLAIMS AND THE CURRENT PAYROLL. DAVID GLICKFIELD SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION CARRIED THREE AYES.

JOHN WEBSTER, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT, REPORTED ON SEMINARS ATTENDED WHILE IN ROAD SCHOOL AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY, MARCH 25-27. THEY INCLUDED; LIME STABILIZATION, RECYCLING GLASS FOR USE IN ASPHALT, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT AND HOW TO RECLAIM GRAVEL SHOULDERS. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FEDERAL AID UNTIL SEPTEMBER OF 1997, AND THAT 1,800,000,000 HAD BEEN PROMISED OVER THE STATE FOR FEDERAL AID PROJECTS, AND THAT ONLY 800,000 IS NOW AVAILABLE. HE ANNOUNCED THERE WAS A MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST AT THE STATE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THIS CONCERN. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE WOOD BRIDGE IN BROOKHAVEN ADDITION WOULD BE CLOSED THIS WEEK FOR REPAIR AND WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 30 TO 45 DAYS.

WALTER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION FOR APRIL 7TH THUR APRIL 11, 1997 AS VOLUNTEER FIREMEN WEEK. DAVID GLICKFIELD SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION CARRIED THREE AYES. THE PROCLAMATION WAS SIGNED BY ALL THREE COMMISSIONERS AND THE AUDITOR. MR. WOOD AND MR. GLICKFIELD WILL ATTEND A MUTUAL AIDE MEETING AT GAS CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 10TH TO PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO EACH DEPARTMENT.

CLAY GILLEY DISCUSSED PROBABLE LEGISLATION FORBIDDING UNINCORPORATED COUNTIES TO HAVE BUILDING INSPECTORS. HE AGREED TO KEEP THE COMMISSIONERS ALERTED TO HOW THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS HANDLED.

WALTER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT A LETTER TO THE EAST CENTRAL SOLID WASTES DISTRICT TO REQUEST MONIES TO PURCHASE A MACHINE TO SHRED TIRES TO AID COUNTIES IN THE DISPOSAL OF OLD TIRES THROWN IN DITCHES, ETC. DAVID GLICKFIELD SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE MOTION CARRIED THREE AYES.

JIMMY STEWART, REPRESENTING THE MARION CITY COUNCIL AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY, ASKED ABOUT INFORMATION HE HAD REQUESTED IN 1996 FROM THE CCA, A PRIVATE DETENTION PROGRAM. HE SUGGESTED ANOTHER QUOTE AND INFORMATION BE REQUESTED FROM A PRIVATE COMPANY AS WELL AS THE COUNTY HAVING THEIR OWN DETENTION CENTER.

PAUL BAKER, COUNTY COUNCILMAN, STATED HE HAD REQUESTED SOME INFORMATION FROM CINDY VIRONET DURING 1996, AND HAD BEEN TOLD THE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE, AND WAS LATER TOLD THAT THE COULD NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED THE KEY NUMBER NEEDED FROM A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WAS HOW MANY DETENTION BEDS WOULD HAVE TO BE GUARANTEED BY THE COUNTY PER DAY AND ALSO THAT WE NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT TYPE OF CHILD COULD BE TURNED AWAY.

PAUL BAKER STATED HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY CLINTON COUNTY THAT THEY WOULD GUARANTEE 4 BEDS IN OUR FACILITY AND DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED BLACKFORD COUNTY HAD STATED A NEED FOR 1 OR 2 AT THE MOST. IT WAS DISCUSSED THAT MOST SURROUNDING COUNTIES HAVE NOW EITHER BUILT OR ARE BUILDING THEIR OWN OR HAVE CONTRACTED WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY.

AT APPROXIMATELY 8:55 SEVEN LADIES REPRESENTING THE HUMANE SOCIETY COME INTO THE MEETING. THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS; LINDA MCCARTHY-1810 N. DUMONT DR., KATHY GARTLAND-804 OXFORD DR., JACKI BONFITTO-2600 TULIP DR., JULIE REC-1815 RIGA AVE., ANGELA DOSS-3414 S BOOTS ST., JUDY COX 1405 HAWKSVIEW DR., AND SUE

THEY STATED THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY DAVID GLICKFIELD TO BE AT THE MEETING AT 9:00 AM TO DISCUSS THE COUNTY DOG WARDEN. A FEW MINUTES LATER THEY WERE JOINED BY TARA DAVIDSON-1715 BOCOCK RD, MARY ANCIL – 1870 E OLD KOKOMO ROAD, AND RONALD BROWN-5705 DELMAR RD.

A MEETING WITH JOE ISAACS, GRANT COUNTY DOG WARDEN WAS SCHEDULED FOR 9:30. OTHER COUNTY COUNCILMAN HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND THAT MEETING. THE REGULAR MEETING WAS RECESSED FOR 15 MINUTES TO ALLOW THE OTHER COUNCILMEN TO BE PRESENT. AT 9:20 DAVE GREEN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND COUNCILMAN QUENTIN PETTIFORD ARRIVED AND THE MEETING WAS IN SESSION AGAIN. IT WAS DECIDED TO MOVE TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR ADEQUATE SEATING.

DAVID GLICKFIELD WAS SPOKESPERSON FOR THE COMMISSIONERS. HE STATED THAT SINCE THE SURPRISE VISIT TO THE DOG WARDEN'S FACILITY BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY AND THE NEWS MEDIA ON FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1997, THE COMMISSIONERS HAD DECIDED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE DOG WARDEN AND DISCUSS HIS CONTRACT. MR. GLICKFIELD HAD ALSO INVITED THE HUMANE SOCIETY TO COME IN TO DISCUSS THEIR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE DOG WARDEN.

MR. GLICKFIELD STATED THAT HE WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MR. ISAACS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE DOG WARDEN WAS A POSITION PAYING \$20,000 A YEAR, AND THAT HE WAS ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. HE RECEIVES NO VACATION OR HOLIDAY PAY, NO INSURANCE OR RETIREMENT, AND THE ONLY BENEFITS IS THAT HIS UNIFORMS ARE PROVIDED. HE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO PAY FOR ANY SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE DOG SHELTER, INCLUDING FOOD, CAGES ETC. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THERE ARE 870 MILES OF ROADS IN GRANT COUNTY AND THAT MR. ISAACS WAS FAMILIAR WITH EACH AREA.

MR. GLICKFIELD STRESSED TO THE GROUP THAT MR. ISAACS HAS THE SKILLS TO DEAL WITH THIS POSITION. HE EMPHASIZED HOW UPSET PEOPLE BECOME WHEN THEY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THEIR DOGS, FROM EXPERIENCE HE HAS GAINED REPRESENTING THEM IN CITY COURT. HE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT JUDGE KOCHER'S HOME WAS SHOT AT SEVERAL TIMES BY AN IRATE PERSON OVER A DOG SITUATION.

MARY ANCIL, A NEIGHBOR OF MR. ISAACS, ACCUSED HIM OF BURNING DOGS ON THE PROPERTY, AND ASKED WHEN HE WAS GOING TO STOP DOING SO. SHE STATED THAT HE DIGS HOLES, BURIES DOGS AND WASTE FROM THE DOGS, AND BURNS THEM, CAUSING A HORRIBLE ODOR. SHE ALSO ACCUSED JOE OF HAILING UNCOVERED DEAD ANIMALS, INCLUDING A HORSE. SHE REQUESTED THAT HE AT LEAST SHOW MORE RESPECT FOR CHILDREN WHO MIGHT SEE THIS HAPPEN.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED THE COMMISSIONERS HAD DISCUSSED BUYING A COVER.

MARY ANCIL ASKED WHAT THE LAW WAS ON DESTROYING DEAD ANIMALS.

MR. ISAACS RESPONDED THE LAW WAS THAT THEY MUST BE BURIED 4 FEET DEEP AND COVERED WITH LIMESTONE. HE STATED THAT HE HADN'T BURIED ANY FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND THAT HE NOW FREEZES THEM. THE FREEZER CONTENTS ARE PICKED UP FOUR TIME A YEAR BY A FIRM FROM PLYMOUTH.

MRS. ANCIL CONTINUED TO ACCUSE MR. ISAACS OF BURNING THE DOGS STATING SHE HAD SEEN HIM BACK HIS TRUCK UP TO HOLES ON THE PROPERTY TO DISPOSE OF THEM. SHE SAID SHE HAD CALLED FORMER COMMISSIONER MILDRED LAWSON, AND AT ONE TIME MILDRED HAD COME OUT TO INVESTIGATE AT MIDNIGHT.

JUDY COX STATED THAT THE CURRENT HUMANE SOCIETY DOES NOT HAVE ROOM TO SERVICE ALL OF GRANT COUNTY, BUT THEY ARE LOOKING AT GETTING A NEW FACILITY.

TARA DAVIDSON STATED THAT THE HUMANE SOCIETY HAD SEVERAL SIGNED AND NOTARIZED DOCUMENTS STATING THAT THE DOG WARDEN WAS SELLING DOGS FOR A PROFIT.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATES THE COMMISSIONERS NEED TO SEE THOSE DOCUMENTS.

JUDY COX ASKED WHY THE PUBLIC WAS NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN THE FACILITY.

MR. ISAACS STATED THAT THE STAIRS TO THE BASEMENT WERE NOT IN GOOD CONDITION AND FOR LIABILITY REASONS HE PREFERRED TAT PEOPLE NOT GO IN.

RON BROWN, WHO OWNS ADJOINING PROPERTY, STATED HE SAW MR. ISAAC DUMP A DEER AND A BLACK DOG IN A HOLE. HE STATED HE WAS CONSIDERING BUILDING A HOME ON THE PROPERTY, AND IS NOW AFRAID TO BUILD.

LINDA Mc CARTHY ASKED WHAT THE COUNTY OBLIGATIONS WERE. SHE INQUIRED ABOUT IF THE COMMISSIONERS EVER INVESTIGATED THE PROPERTY. SHE STATED SHE HAD NOT LIVED IN THIS AREA VERY LONG AND HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING GOOD ABOUT THE DOG WARDEN. SHE ASKED WHAT THE \$20,000 WAS USED FOR. SHE ASKED IF WHETHER CITY OR COUNTY, SOMETHING COULDN'T BE DONE, NOW, IF ONLY TEMPORARY.

TARA DAVIDSON AGAIN ACCUSED MR. ISAACS OF SUPPLEMENTING INCOME WITH SELLING DOGS TO OTHER THAN THE OWNERS, INDICATING THAT IF HE GOT PURE BRED DOGS, HE COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY ON THEM.

MR. ISAACS STATED HE DID NOT SELL DOGS TO LABS, AS TARA HAD ACCUSED HIM AT THE FRIDAY INSPECTION, AND THAT HE ALSO DOES NOT CHARGE FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE A FAMILY PET. HE EMPHASIZED THE SIGN ON HIS BARN SYS "FREE DOGS TO QUALIFIED HOMES." HE ALSO SAID TARA HAD REPORTED ON FRIDAY THAT HE WAS UNDER THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USDA, THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. HE HAD CHECKED WITH BOTH THE SHERIFF AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND HAD BEEN TOLD THERE WERE NO INVESTIGATIONS GOING ON.

JUDY COX SUGGESTED THAT THE FACILITY BE CHECKED MONTHLY. SHE ASKED IF MR. ISAACS DISINFECTS THE FACILITY.

JOE RESPONDED THAT HE USED A GALLON OF BLEACH IN 5 GALLONS OF WATER TO CLEAN CAGES, AND CONCRETE. WHERE CAGES ARE ABOVE THE DIRT GROUND HE USED LIME TO NEUTRALIZE.

JUDY COX ASKED HOW LONG HE KEEPS A DOG AFTER IT IS PICKED UP.

JOE RESPONDED NO LESS THAT 5 DAYS.

DICK PUCKETT PRESENTED LETTERS FROM THE TOWNS THAT THE COUNTY DOG WARDEN SERVICES, ALL REQUESTING THAT JOE ISAACS RETAIN THE POSITION.

SUE HUPP STATED SHE WAS A MEMBER OF A KENNEL CLUB, AND THAT THEY BACKED THE HUMANE SOCIETY 100%. SHE SAID SHE'D ABOUT QUIT HER JOB AT RCA FOR THE DOG WARDEN POSITION.

JOE AGAIN STATED THAT HE PAID TO EMPTY THE FREEZERS, PAYS TO HAVE A CELLULAR PHONE SO THAT HE CAN BE REACHED AT ALL TIMES, AND THAT THE PROPERTY IS HIS.

JIMMY STEWART ASKED WHAT THE COUNTY ORDINANCE SAYS ABOUT CATS.

JOE STATED HE WS CONTRACTED FOR DOGS ONLY, BUT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAS PICKED UP CATS, DEER AND OTHER ANIMALS.

JULIE REC, A BOARD MEMBER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY, MENTIONED THAT LAST YEAR WHEN THERE HAD BEEN TROUBLE WITH SOME OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, JOE HAD HELPED THEM OUT.

PAUL BAKER STATED THAT WHEN HE WS COMMISSIONER THERE WERE SO MANY COMPLAINTS ON THE HUMANE SOCIETY THAT THE COUNTY DECIDED TO HAVE THEIR OWN DOG WARDEN, AND THAT HE AS A COUNCILMAN, WOULD NEVER AGREE TO FUNDING MONEY OT THE HUMANE SOCIETY. HE STATED THAT THERE WS A TRIAL HERE AFTER THE HUMANE SOCIETY HAD CONFISCATED 17 HORSES. HE REPORTED THE OWNER WAS JAILED AND CHARGED \$9,000 FOR THE HORSES CARE DURING THAT PERIOD. HE REPORTED THAT HE'D RECEIVED 3 LETTERS, TWO FROM DIRECTORS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY ACCUSING HIM OF LYING ON THE STAND.

TARA DAVIDSON STATED MR. BAKER DID TESTIFY, AND WASN'T TRUTHFUL ON THE STAND.

QUENTIN PETTIFORD AGREED THAT HE WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH FUNDING THE HUMANE SOCIETY. HE STATED ATONE TIME THEY WERE FUNDED \$35,000 TO \$40,000 FROM THE COUNTY BUDGET AND HE WOULD NOT APPROVE THAT AGAIN.

DAVE GREEN ALSO STATED HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF TURNING THE POSITION OVER TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY STATING THE COUNTY COULD NOT AFFORD TO DO SO.

RON BROWN STATED THAT 1 ½ YEARS AGO HE CALLED MR. BAKER REQUESTING HIM TO COME OUT TO LOOK OVER THE SITUATION BUT PAUL SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME. HE STATED HE JUST WANTS THE GROUND WATER CLEANED UP SO THAT HE CAN BUILD THERE. HE SAID WHEN HIS PROPERTY WASN'T MOWED, HE WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT IT, AND DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MR. ISAACS CAN GET AWAY WITH THE BRUSH HE HAS TO ASSIST WITH HIS BURNING.

SUE HUPP STATED THAT BESIDES HER ANGER AT THE DOG WARDEN SHE SEES A CONFLICT OF INTERST FOR THE DOG WARDEN TO SIT ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL. SHE ALSO REITERATED THAT SHE CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF THOSE DOGS BEING STUCK IN A BARN.

JUDY COX AGAIN SAID, "THEY JUST NEED TO BE CLEAN AND FREE OF DISEASE, AND HAVE WATER AND FOOD"

MR. MOWERY STATED THAT THE HUMANE SOCIETY WAS LIED ON IN A COURT TRIAL. HE SAID WE HAVE THE BEST TEAM OF COMMISSIONERS EVER, THAT ARE WILLING TO COMMUNICATE AND WILLING TO LISTEN. HE WANTS THEM TO SIT DOWN WITH HIMSELF, AND MAYOR LINN AND DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM. HE STATED HE HAS A LOT OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS THOSE WHO PRETEND TO BE FOR THE TAXPAYERS AND DO NOTHING BUT BLOCK IDEAS.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH JOE PICKING UP THE ANIMALS AND TAKING TO HUMANE SOCIETY. BUT AT THIS POINT IT IS AN ECONOMICAL STOP GAP. THE COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT THE FISCAL BRANCH, BUT CAN DRAW UP A PROPOSAL.

WALT WOOD STATED THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD BE WATCHING FROM THIS DAY FORWARD.

RON BROWN ASKED IF THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE THE GROUND WATER TESTED.

CLAY GILLEY STATED THERE WERE NO PROVISIONS FOR THAT, AND THAT IT WOULD BE LAND OWNER AGAINST LAND OWNER.

MARY ANCIL STATED SHE WS GOING TO WATCH CLOSER TO SEE IF DOGS ARE BURNED OR BURIED.

SUE HUPP STATED THAT MR. GLICKFIELD HAD SAID THERE WAS NO WRITTEN CONTRACT, SO THE CONTRACT TALK WS A MISCONCEPTION.

DAVID GLICKFIELD SAID IT WAS AN ORAL CONTRACT, AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.

MAYOR MOWERY STATED HE WAS NOT OFFENDED BY THE MEDIA, BUT IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO CALL IN CHANNEL SIX. HE SAID WE SHOULDN'T TRY TO EMBARRASS ONE ANOTHER, BUT SEE WHAT MORE WE CAN DO TO WORK TOGETHER.

WALTER WOOD SAID "WE WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND MAKE THIS BETTER. WE ARE NOT HERE BECAUSE OF POWER AND GLORY"

SUE HUPP SAID THERE NEEDS TO BE A DECISION MADE SO THAT THESE ANIMALS ARE TAKEN CARE OF. SHE SAID THERE IS NEVER A BAD DOG, ONLY BAD OWNERS.

JUDY COX ASKED WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED WITH THIS MEETING.

DAVID GLICKFIELD SAID THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD TALK WITH JOE, AND THE MAYOR MOWERY AND MAYOR LINN. FUNDING WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

MAYOR MOWERY STATED WE NEED CODE ENFORCEMENT, DIALOGUE WITH COMMISSIONERS ON SOLUTIONS, TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR A NEW FACILITY, AND TO SHARE IDEAS AND COSTS.