

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES 4-23-97

THE COMMISSIONERS MET IN THE CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MARION MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON APRIL 23, 1997 AT 9:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE COMMISSIONERS DICK PUCKETT AND WALTER WOOD, AUDITOR JUDY CARMICHAEL, COUNCILMAN DOG WARDEN JOE ISAACS AND HENRY HOENIG OF THE CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE.

DICK PUCKETT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:15 A.M.

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN REGARDS TO THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY AND FRIENDS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

SEVERAL LETTERS WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION.

A LETTER FROM STAN ENOCHS DATED 4-8-97 STATING HE SAW JOE ISAACS

SHOOT TWO DOGS IN HANFIELD ON MR. STEWART'S PROPERTY.

MR. ISAACS' REBUTTAL WAS DURING HIS YEARS AS DOG WARDEN HE HAS WORKED WITH MR. STEWART ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH APPROXIMATELY 40 WILD DOGS. HE HAS SET TRAPS ON HIS PROPERTY AT MR. STEWARTS REQUEST. JOE STATED THAT HE WAS NOT THE PERSON SEEN SHOOTING DOGS IN HANFIELD.

A LETTER SIGNED BY JANICE CHITWOOD ACCUSING MR. ISAACS OF SELLING DOGS TO LABS.

MR. ISAACS STATED MRS. JANICE CHITWOOD HAD BEEN TO HIS PROPERTY ONE TIME TO LOOK AT THE DOGS. SHE STATED SHE DIDN'T WANT ONE, SHE JUST WANTED TO SEE THEM. HE REPORTED THAT SHE WAS YELLING AND HATEFUL, AND HE REFUSED TO LET HER GO IN HIS BARN BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO IDENTIFY A DOG, OR TAKE ONE.

A LETTER SIGNED "LLK" STATING MR. ISAACS CAME INTO HER YARD AND TOOK HER DOG.

JOE SAID HE DIDN'T GO INTO YARDS AND TAKE DOGS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE. WITHOUT KNOWING THE WRITER OF THIS LETTER, HE COULD NOT COMMENT.

(DAVID GLICKFIELD ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS TIME.)

A LETTER FROM MRS. SULLIVAN OF 10TH & H STREETS IN GAS CITY STATING SHE HAD A VIDEO OF A MAN IN HER YARD TAKING HER DOG.

JOE ACCOMPANIED MRS. SULLIVAN TO THE BARN, BUT HER DOG WAS NOT THERE. SHE SAID I HAVE A VIDEO OF YOU TAKING IT. HE ASKED WHERE THE VIDEO WAS AND ASKED TO SEE IT. LATER SHE TOLD HIM THE MAN IN THE VIDEO WAS A TELEVISION REPAIRMAN. SHE THEN STATED THAT THE NEIGHBORS SAW HIM TAKE HER DOG. SHE AGAIN LOOKED IN THE BARN FOR HER DOG AND IT WASN'T THERE. SHE STARTED YELLING AND USING FOUL LANGUAGE AND MR. ISAACS ASKED HER TO LEAVE.

AN UNSIGNED LETTER STATING THE WRITER SAW JOE CHOKE A CAT.

DAVID GLICKFIELD HAD TOLD TARA DAVIDSON THAT HE WOULDN'T CONSIDER COMPLAINTS ON UNSIGNED LETTERS. TARA PRINTED "MRS. FOUDRAY" AS THE WRITER.

JOE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN BITTEN IN THE HAND BY A CAT, AND EXPLAINED HOW A CAT BITES, AND THAT YOU HAVE TO SQUEEZE IT'S THROAT TO GET IT TO RELEASE THE BITE.

SUE VAN METER OF FAIRMOUNT WROTE THAT JOE WAS NOT A FIT DOG WARDEN.

JOE REPLIED THAT THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT HAD MANY CALLS ON THE VAN METER DOG AND THEIR NEIGHBORS (THE FELTONS) DOGS. THEY LIVE ON 100W BEHIND MADISON GRANT SCHOOL. THE FELTONS HAVE 4 DOGS. WALT WOOD COMMENTED THAT ONE OF THE FELTONS DOGS IS THE MEANEST DOG HE HAS EVER SEEN. ANOTHER NEIGHBOR, JO CURTIS, HAD CALLED COMPLAINING OF HAVING 6 DOGS IN HER YARD. JOE SAW ALL SIX OF THEM. WHEN HE PULLED IN DRIVEWAY, THE VAN METERS' GARAGE DOOR WENT UP AND SHE CALLED THE DOGS IN THE GARAGE. JOE TALKED WITH PROSECUTOR ABOUT ALL THE INFRACTIONS. SHOULD'VE PAID APPROXIMATELY \$60.00 IN FINES, BUT JOE STATED NOTHING WAS CHARGED. SUE VAN METER ACCUSED HIM OF HARASSING HER DOGS BY DRIVING BY.

IT WAS STATED THAT STEVE JOHNSON WAS TOO BUSY TO ENFORCE DOG INFRACTIONS.

DAVID GLICKFIELD COMMENTED THAT IF FINED, THE INFRACTION MIGHT NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

JOE REPORTED THAT AT ONE TIME, HE SAT IN THE COURT HOUSE TWO HOURS WAITING ON A CASE OF DOG INFRACTIONS THAT COULD'VE SEEN FINES OF \$1500. ENDED UP GETTING FINED A TOTAL OF \$87.00 WITH COST.

DAVID GLICKFIELD AGAIN STATED HE FEELS STATUTES SHOULD BE ENFORCED.

IT WAS DISCUSSED THAT PAUL HILLSAMER, TOWN MARSHAL OF CONVERSE, IS SHOOTING STRAY DOGS. JOE ISAACS AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS NEVER SHOT A DOG IN PUBLIC AND THAT MAYBE HE HAS BEEN CONFUSED WITH MR. HILLSAMER.

MR. ISAACS REPORTED THAT TAXPAYERS IN MARION (APPROX. 32,000) PAY \$2.25 EACH PER YEAR TO SUPPORT THE HUMANE SOCIETY, AND THAT GAS CITY RESIDENTS (APPROX, 6000) PAY \$1.00 EACH PER YEAR. HE ESTIMATED THAT HE REPRESENTS THE REST OF THE COUNTY WITH APPROXIMATELY 35,255 RESIDENTS WITH A COST OF 66 CENTS EACH. HE STATED HE IS NOT UNHAPPY WITH HIS PAY AND THAT HE ENJOYS AND TAKES PRIDE IN HIS JOB.

DICK PUCKETT INTERJECTED THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM EACH OF THE TOWNS THAT JOE PATROLS STATING THEY ARE PLEASED WITH HIS SERVICES.

WALT WOOD ALSO STATED THAT THERE WERE LETTERS IN THE FILES DATING BACK TO 1987 IN SUPPORT OF JOE ISAACS AND HAD BEEN COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS FROM MIKE ROSS OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

MR. ISAACS REPORTED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE SURPRISE INSPECTION HE CALLED SHERIFF LAWSON TO ASK IF HE HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NOT AND HE CALLED LT. JAY KAY OF THE MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SEE IF THE CITY HAD RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS. LT. KAY TOLD SHERIFF LAWSON THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS ON THE DOG WARDEN.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED THAT SHERIFF LAWSON REPORTED TO THE COMMISSIONERS THAT HE WAS 100% BEHIND THE WORK OF JOE ISAACS AND HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS FOR 5 OR 6 YEARS.

A LETTER TO COMPLIMENT THE WORK OF JOE ISAACS WAS SENT

BY MRS. COLLEEN COMPTON. SHE, AS SECRETARY FOR THE COMMISSIONERS, STATED SHE HAD RECEIVED VERY FEW COMPLAINTS SINCE HE HAD BEEN THE DOG WARDEN, AS COMPARED TO MANY WITH PREVIOUS DOG WARDENS.

A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY TRUSTEES WAS DISCUSSED. THE REPORT WAS THAT SINCE JOE HAD BEEN DOG WARDEN THERE HAD BEEN VERY FEW CASES OF WILD DOGS KILLING FARM ANIMALS, AS HAD BEEN DONE OFTEN BEFORE JOE WAS DOG WARDEN.

DR. KIRSTEN SENT A COPY OF USDA REGULATIONS, AND SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR MR. ISAACS COULD FOLLOW. HE STATED THERE WERE NO VIOLATIONS OF REGULATIONS THE DAY OF THE INSPECTION. ONE SUGGESTION WAS TO MOVE THE FREEZER WHERE IT CANNOT BE SEEN BY THE PUBLIC SO CLEARLY. ANOTHER SUGGESTION WAS FOR JOE NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH BUD LOVE OR DAVE STEVENS. HE SUGGESTED THAT JOE KEEP MORE COMPLETE RECORDS, IN MORE CATEGORIES, AND HAVE A FORM SIGNED BY THE DRIVER, AS TO THE INVENTORY OF ANIMALS PICKED UP, WHEN THE FREEZER IS EMPTIED. DR. KIRSTEN ALSO REPORTED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF BLACK MARKET DOGS. THE WAY A DOG IS EUTHENIZED WAS DISCUSSED, WITH DR. KIRSTEN SUGGESTING THE INJECTION SHOULD BE IN A VEIN. MR. ISAACS STATED THAT ONE PERSON COULDN'T HOLD A DOG AND GIVE THE INJECTION IN THE VEIN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE GIVES THE INJECTION BETWEEN THE 3RD AND 4TH RIBS INTO THE HEART AND THAT IT SEEMS VERY PAINLESS. THE TEMPERATURE OF THE BARN WAS DISCUSSED WITH SUGGESTIONS OF 50 DEGREES FOR SHORT HAIREDD DOGS AND NO HEAT FOR LONG HAIREDD DOGS.

JOE STATED HE WOULD RESPECT THE IDEAS PRESENTED HIM BY DR. KIRSTEN, AND THAT HE HAD WELCOMED HIS COMMENTS. HE AGREED TO WORK ON AS MANY OF THE SUGGESTIONS AS POSSIBLE.

WALT WOOD STATED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD MONITOR THE FACILITY.

MEETING RECESSED AT 9:55 A.M.