

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
April 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:05 p.m., on April 14, 2015, by the President, Rafael Morton, in the Council Chambers, fourth floor, County-City Building, South Bend, Indiana.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Robert L. Kruszynski
Mr. James O'Brien
Mrs. Diana Hess
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Mark P. Telloyan
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office were Mr. Michael J. Hamann and Ms. Teresa Shuter, Chief Deputy Auditor. Council staff present was Mr. Michael A. Trippel, Attorney and Ms. Jennifer Prawat, Executive Secretary. Absent were Mr. Corey Noland and Mr. Robert McCahill.

Petitions, Communications & Miscellaneous Matters:

Mr. Morton: First, I would like to welcome our newest Council member, Mr. Mark Telloyan, welcome sir.

Ms. Hess made a motion to reappoint Jerry J. Marley to the Water Resources Advisory board, Mr. O'Brien seconded, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 7-0.

Mr. Catanzarite made a motion to withdraw Bill No. 72-14 at the request of the petitioner, PSAP, as it is duplicated and was seconded by Mr. Kruszynski, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 7-0.

Mr. Root made a motion withdraw Bill No. 9-15 at the request of the petitioner and was seconded by Mr. O'Brien, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 7-0.

No report from the County Auditor
No report from the Board of Commissioners.

A report from Special Committees:

Mr. Catanzarite: Just briefly I'd like to say that the Sunrise Express limited nonstop service from South Bend to Chicago on the South Shore Commuter Railroad began its kickoff on March 16th with great success and we hope the citizens from St. Joseph County take advantage of it, it's on a one year trial basis and it's dependent on the growth of that line if we decide as a board to continue with that service to Chicago. It's a great train, it leaves at 6:00 a.m. Monday through Friday out of South Bend International Airport and I hope you take advantage of it.

Mr. Morton: Thank you.

First Readings:

BILL NO. 19-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING, OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 15316 STATE ROAD 23, GRANGER, IN FROM O/B OFFICE/BUFFER DISTRICT TO R SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT

PETITIONER: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCILMAN, JAMES O'BRIEN
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

BILL NO. 21-15: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR MINIMUM EMPLOYEE SALARY
PETITIONER: THE COUNTY COUNCIL
Assigned to the Budget and Administration Committee

Resolution:

BILL NO. 20-15: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL HONORING AND CONGRATULATING BONNIE STRYCKER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Council represents all citizens of this fine County and periodically recognizes persons who by their dedication and hard work have distinguished themselves in our community; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Strycker will retire on May 15th, 2015 from the Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County, Inc. after 41 years of service and 38 years as Director; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie has selflessly dedicated her adult life to improving the lives of the youth of our community; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie's faithful service and leadership of the Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County has guided the organization through transitioning from a municipal bureau to a private, not for profit organization with a multi-service capacity including Project Safe Place, The Young Mom's Self Sufficiency Program, Street Outreach, Youth Development Services Program, and the Porch Light transitional housing program for young Mom's and their children; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie has conscientiously and honorably served the children, youth, young adults, and families of St. Joseph County with an unwavering focus on transitioning those in crisis from surviving to thriving.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL, THAT:

SECTION 1: On behalf of the citizens of St. Joseph County, Indiana, the St. Joseph County Council recognizes and congratulates Bonnie Strycker for her accomplishments and offers our sincere appreciation for her exemplary service to our most precious resource, our children.

SECTION 2: The St. Joseph County Council sincerely wishes Bonnie and her family all the best in the years ahead, and hopes that she will continue to enrich our County for many years to come with her presence and active participation in our community.
Passed and adopted this 14th day of April, 2015.

Ms. Strycker: Rafael knows I can't pass up a moment and my family knows that too, I just want to sincerely thank the St. Joseph County Council. I began talking with you all back in the mid to late seventies about Safe Stations about run-a-way youth, about children in crisis and especially teenagers and young adults, while we have not always been able to find all of the solutions I heard no sometimes, I heard yes sometimes about funding, I have always been impressed by your compassion, your level of interest and your overall respectfulness toward me and toward human services in St. Joseph County. It has been a remarkable forty years. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Morton: I would just like to say, this is a personal thing for me, I was on the board of directors for the Youth Services Bureau and worked with Bonnie back in the fifties? I am kidding. I just want to say that all these years have passed and her commitment and enthusiasm and just unwavering desire to help our youth in this community is just unmatched and I saw that first hand as a board member but when I became a Councilman and dealing with Bonnie and her request, wow! A job well done and I just want to say thank you for all your service.

Motion to pass Bill No. 20-15 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. Kruszynski. Bill No. 20-15 was passed
to-wit; 7-0.

SALARY AMENDMENT:

Public Hearing/Public Comment:

BILL NO. 16-15: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TRANSFER

A. Juvenile Justice Center
General Fund

FROM: 1000-36200-000-0049	Repairs/Other Equipment	\$ 500.00
TO: 1000-44010-000-0049	Equipment	500.00

TOTAL: \$500.00

B. Juvenile & Probate Court
GAL/CASA

FROM: 1213-65030-000-0025	Inter Fund Transfer	\$ 124,000.00
TO: 1213-21030-000-0025	Office Supplies	\$5,000.00
1213-31070-000-0025	Other Contractual Svc.	50,000.00
1213-32020-000-0025	Travel	5,000.00
1213-32050-000-0025	Instruction & Training	2,000.00
1213-32051-000-0025	Promotions	50,000.00
1213-44250-000-0025	Office Machines	10,000.00
1213-44510-000-0025	Furniture & Fixtures	2,000.00

TOTAL: \$124,000.00

C. Circuit Court
DV/PO

FROM: 9113-65030-000-0019	Inter Fund Transfer	\$ 31,179.98
TO: 1000-05206-000-0019		31,179.98

TOTAL: \$31,179.98

D. Circuit Court
General Fund

FROM: 1000-21030-000-0019	Office Supplies	\$ 643.00
TO: 1000-44250-000-0019	Office Machines	643.00

TOTAL: \$643.00

E. Treasurer
General

FROM: 1000-11682-000-0003	Clerk/Cashier	\$ 4,000.00
TO: 1000-11950-000-0003	Part Time	4,000.00

TOTAL: \$4,000.00

APPROPRIATE

F. Department of Public Works
Local MM Const.

1172-43032-000-0023 Trails Project \$ 35,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 35,000.00

G. Department of Public Works
MCBF

1171-38017-000-0023 MCB Bonds – 2000 \$ 194,895.00

TOTAL: \$194,895.00

H. Circuit Court
Drug Free Community

9102-44250-000-0019 Court Scanner/Server Grant \$ 10,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 10,000.00

I. Health Dept.
Health Local Hlt. Svc. Grt.

9101-11193-000-0055	Health Educator	\$ 1,207.94
9101-14800-000-0055	FICA	2,206.26
9101-14810-000-0055	PERF	3,172.40
9101-14840-000-0055	Group Insurance	8,455.20
9101-21030-000-0055	Office Supplies	1,000.00
9101-31070-000-0055	Other Contractual Svc.	4,000.00
9101-32020-000-0055	Travel	3,000.00
9101-32200-000-0055	Telephone	540.00
9101-32350-000-0055	Postage	100.00
9101-33368-000-0055	Public Info & Educ.	8,500.00

TOTAL: \$ 32,181.80

J. Prosecutor's Office
General Fund

1000-32020-000-0018 Travel \$ 1,399.97

TOTAL: \$ 1,399.97

Motion to pass Bill No. 16-15 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. Kruszynski.
Bill No. 16-15 was passed
to-wit; 7-0.

Public Hearing/Miscellaneous Matters:

BILL NO. 18-15: THE AMENDMENT OF THE 2013 HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES AND BENEFITS MANUAL TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY OF "ON-CALL" UNDER SECTION 2.7 OF THE MANUAL AS SET FORTH HEREIN
Assigned to the Budget and Administration Committee

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 18-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Peter J. Agostino, Attorney at Law, 131 S. Taylor Street, South Bend, I am here on behalf of the Commissioners and PSAP. This is an amendment to the hand book to create a category for employees for on call, this ties in with a bill that will be before the Council this evening on 78-14. This 18-15 creates a new category of employees for St.

Joseph County that are deemed on call, it allows a hiring of employees without benefits who will fill in at the PSAP Center as needed by the PSAP director.

Mr. O'Brien: I am hopeful that using the on call category will help spread the extra work and make sure that we are not in the position where we are asked to have to appropriate more and more money for the underlying department. I like the idea of having on call employees for some period of time but it certainly is my anticipation and I think everyone else's anticipation that we are going to ultimately save money with the consolidation here. I guess time will tell, that's my hope and anticipation by creating this category.

Motion to pass Bill No. 18-15 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Bill No. 18-15 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

Public Hearing/Land Use Planning:

BILL NO. 1-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING, OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2500 BLOCK OF CLEVELAND ROAD, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46628 FROM R SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT TO M MANUFACTURING DISTRICT
PETITIONER: AXELBERG WISCONSIN LLC
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

Mr. Morton reported that Bill No. 1-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Angela Smith, Area Plan Commission, the petitioner is seeking to rezone a total of fifty five acres just on the north side of Cleveland from R Single Family to M Manufacturing. It's currently light industrial to the north within the city of South Bend to the north and to the east actually and to the south and west is R single family in the county. The site is currently a vacant farm field which has been tilled in the past. The site plan of the development of lot one, they are proposing a five lot industrial park, lot one shows here a two hundred and two thousand square foot building to be used for General Sheet Metal with associated eighty four parking spaces and appropriate landscaping for the site. The rezoning petition comes to you from the Area Plan Commission with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Mike Danch, Danch, Harner and Associates, 1643 Commerce Drive, South Bend, we are asking for a rezoning of approximately fifty five acres on Cleveland Road for a small industrial part but the main goal is for General Sheet Metal so they will be allowed to develop their new building site which is shown on lot one on the south east corner of the property. We are asking to rezone to the Manufacturing district to allow for that industrial use as part of the development, we have been working with the city engineer and also the county engineer. We will be doing all the landscaping required by the county ordinances. This particular case, even though we are out in the county, all of the lots, including the General Sheet Metal site will be connected to water and sewer and we are hoping with Council's approval that development will probably start within the next three to four weeks.

Motion to pass Bill No. 1-15 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 1-15 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

BILL NO. 2-15: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PETITION FOR SPECIAL USE FILED BY ROBERT B SMITH FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11917 FRANKLIN STREET, OSCEOLA INDIANA, 46561 THE SAME BEING PETITION NO. 03-04-15-17 FILED BY THE AREA BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

Mr. Morton reported that Bill No. 2-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Mark Lyons, Building Department, it is a special use for gun smith and fire arms sales. It comes to you with a favorable recommendation subject to written commitment for no on site sales; the petitioner has provided that written commitment to you.

Mr. Robert B. Smith, 11917 Franklin St. Osceola, I am here to petition for the special use permit so I can do on site gunsmithing and sales. Not a lot of gun sales, but some maybe.

Mr. O'Brien: You're saying some gun sales from the location?

Mr. Smith: It would be coming in from on line stuff, transfers.

Mr. O'Brien: So you mean you would ship them out?

Mr. Smith: No, I'd receive them and then transfer them to the customer.

Mr. O'Brien: I am not clear what your written commitment is telling us then. Your written commitment says no on site sales of firearms, so are you selling them via the mail or shipping them out?

Mr. Lyons: The way an FFL license works is, someone buys a firearm it can only be transferred through a licensed dealer so if someone purchased they could come to him from that transfer, he is not permitted to carry any type of inventory; someone could not come to his facility and look for guns or anything to buy.

Mr. O'Brien: So it get's shipped there and they have to pick it up, it's not a matter of you have to display it, I walk in and say I will take one of those and two of those.

Mr. Lyons: Exactly, it limits him from having no on site merchandise for people to buy.

Mr. O'Brien: Just come to pick it up.

Mr. Catanzarite: This is for legal Council; do we need to amend the original ordinance? They are a part of the permanent record?

Motion to pass Bill No. 2-15 was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Kruszynski. Bill No. 2-15 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

BILL NO. 8-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 154, PLANNING AND ZONING, OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED AT: 13197, 13183 AND VACANT PROPERTY EAST OF AND ADJACENT TO 13183 S.R. 23, GRANGER, INDIANA 45630 FROM R RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND O/B OFFICE BUFFER DISTRICT TO B BUSINESS DISTRICT PETITIONER: GFE ENTERPRISES, LLC
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

Mr. Morton reported that Bill No. 8-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Angela Smith, Area Plan Commission, the petitioner is looking at two parcels in which they are planning to divide, one is currently zoned O/B Office buffer and the other is zoned R Single Family. They would like to zone the entire site to B Business. The property is surrounded by R Single Family residential properties however, there is a large concentration of commercial properties at the intersection of Adams and 23 and there have been some other properties through there that have been rezoned in recent years. They have also agreed to the fact that at any point that parcel A gains access to State Road 23 or if they choose to expand their current operation, it will close the drive way onto Cherry Road and strictly use the access on to State Road 23 to prevent neighbors from going into that area and then provide additional buffering to the properties there. This comes to you from the Area Plan Commission with a favorable recommendation subject to the written commitments, please note this is an amended ordinance, they amended the ordinance to add that in there, subject to the written commitments.

Mr. O'Brien: Did you receive or were there any negative comments or remonstrates from any neighbors?

Ms. Smith: There was nobody present at the Area Plan Commission to speak in favor or opposition.

Mr. Mike Danch, Danch, Harner and Associates, 1643 Commerce Drive South Bend, as Angela has mentioned, we have two parcels here, parcel A and parcel B. Parcel A is where the existing Granger Eye Care Center is located. We are asking to rezone that from the O/B District to the B Business District. Midwest Eye Care would like to go in there. They are going to be doing a lease purchase agreement for that building. Under what they plan to do for future development is they would like to expand that building and make it larger. Under the County's zoning ordinance, they are limited under O/B, I can't go for a variance so the size of the building is limited unless you change zoning classifications. What we did in this case was we asking to rezone to B Business category but we are doing a written commitment to limit the uses on that parcel as if it was O/B so only professional office use's can go on that parcel, no retail uses, even though its zoned B Business so that's very important. We worked with the staff on that so that

maintains that buffer between the more intense commercial to the east and the single family homes to the west on the other side of Cherry Road. The second parcel is to the east of the Eye Care Center, which is vacant land. I think there is a house on it right now but there is actually two pieces of property. The owner would like to do a ten thousand square foot retail center which will probably be multi tenants and what we had shown is there would be access off of State Road 23, we are providing the required buffering along the entire north boundary line on this project site. This will also be hooked to sewer with the Granger area with the sanitary sewer that goes through there. They do have private wells because there is obviously no water line out at this location. We have worked the staff on that, we have done the written commitments and we will also be recording the final site plans as well.

Mr. Catanzarite: Mr. Morton, I would like to amend Bill No. 8-15 with the written commitments that were described by the Area Plan.

Motion to pass Bill No. 8-15 as amended was made by Mr. Kruszynski and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 8-15 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

BILL NO. 14-15: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL TRANSFERRING THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT GRANTED TO STRIPCO INC. (AND AFFILIATES AND LESSORS) UNDER RESOLUTIONS R19-08, R20-08, R06-11 AND R07-11 TO STEEL TECHNOLOGIES LLC DUE TO CHANGE IN PROPERTY OWNERSHIP PER IC 6-1.1-12.1-5
Assigned to the Land Use Planning Committee

Mr. Morton reported that Bill No. 14-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Jesse Naudiman, DuCharme, McMillen & Associates, 9229 Delegates Row, Indianapolis Indiana, I am representing Steel Tech. As you mentioned we are here to discuss the transfer of Abatements of personal property and real property from Strip-Co to Steel Tech. Steel Tech intends to continue to use this equipment for its original intended purpose and maintain the employment as laid out in the SB1 original application.

Mr. Catanzarite: I would just like to add for the audience, we don't normally transfer tax abatements, this is new to us, a first I think. Based on what we heard in our committee meeting Steel Technologies Inc. plans to not only do what their predecessor was planning on doing but actually increasing the work force over the next couple of years and adding more jobs to our community and I think they are going to be a good partner going forward and I think that's why there has been so much support to go along with continuing the tax abatement as it was originally proposed and we welcome you to our community.

Mr. Morton: I appreciate those comments Councilman.

Mr. O'Brien: Adding to what Mr. Catanzarite said at our committee meeting, as I recall, when the acquisition occurred the pay scale of every single employee at Strip-Co was adjusted upward so the wages that were committed to will have to increase because everyone got a raise, it's a welcome addition.

Mr. Morton: Thank you.

Motion to pass Bill No. 14-15 was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Catanzarite. Bill No. 14-15 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

AMEND BILL NO. 78-14: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 50-14, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2015 (Dept. 0034 – Commissioners/PSAP)

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 78-14 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Mr. Morton: Bill Number 78-14 needs to be amended, clerk will you please read the amendment.

Mr. Hamann: We need to amend it from 4930-11950-000-0034 part time to \$185,000.00 to read 4930-11950-000-0034 part time 33,000.00, 4930-14810-000-0034 PERF \$3,630.00, 4930-11415-000-0034 On Call, \$ 148,262.00 finally, 4930-31080-000-0034 group medical \$ 108.00 for a total of \$ 185,000.00

Mr. Catanzarite made a motion to amend Bill No. 78-14 and was seconded by Mr. Kruszynski, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 7-0

Mr. Morton: Petitioner, do you agree with the proposed amendment as read sir.

Mr. Peter J. Agostino: Yes. I think our Auditor did a great job reading this amendment. This basically transfers money into the newly created category on call.

Mr. O'Brien: Is this likely to help reduce the need for over time?

Mr. Agostino: Not immediately, but I think as we catch up towards the end of the year it will.

Motion to pass Bill No. 78-14 as amended was made by Mr. Kruszynski and seconded by Mr. Catanzarite. Bill No. 78-14 was passed to-wit; 7-0.

Privilege of the floor:

Ruth Szyarto, 32766 Early Rd. New Carlisle, 46552, I am here tonight to talk to you about the animal control services in our county. The St. Joseph County Humane Society is no longer worthy of holding this contract. The St. Joseph County Humane Society does not all that they can to save animals and the numbers that they report simply don't add up. For years you have heard complaints and defended against law suits because of the actions of the St. Joseph County Humane Society. Now is the time for change. The county must develop an alternative to contracting with the County Humane Society just like the city of South Bend has done. Recently the Humane Society released some rather alarming statistics from two thousand and fourteen. They reported four hundred and three animals that were dead on arrival, during the same period South Bend Animal Control only had seven and the Elkhart Humane Society had seventeen. Why is the St. Joseph County Humane Society reporting over twenty times as many animals dead on arrival when compared to other shelters in our area? This needs to be investigated. The St. Joseph County Humane Society also reported placing a hundred and forty five animals with rescues yet reports to government officials said that twenty eight animals from St. Joseph County and thirteen from Mishawaka were placed with rescues. Am I to believe that the other one hundred and four animals that allegedly went to rescues came from small towns like Osceola and New Carlisle that contract with them separately? These numbers defy logic and they deserve an explanation. When the St. Joseph County director was interviewed she said that the animal carcasses are dumped in the land fill because it would cost three to five thousand dollars per month to cremate their animals. Two companies who provide this service were contacted and even using the higher cost with two pickups per month the Humane Society would have to be disposing of nearly four tons of animals each month to cost three thousand dollars. If this is correct we have an even larger problem on our hands. They do not do all they can to save as many animals as possible, they seem to know the right thing to do but do not do it unless they are pressured by the community. This has been evident by the recent burst of placing animals with rescues after significant community pressure to do so. The issue here is not Carol Eckhart; the issue is our community's fundamental disagreement with the St. Joseph County Humane Society's handling of animal control. This permeates all decision makers in this organization, not just the director. Some of these issues are just common sense. It does not take a shelter professional to determine that partnering with as many as rescues as possible will save more animals and lastly, the St. Joseph County Humane Society's new building does not equal acceptable control, this new building may have been the directors dream but it has been the worst nightmare for animals who have ended up in a landfill after entering the doors of the St. Joseph County Humane Society. I work a group from the St. Joseph County Animal Welfare League and we want to help solve this problem. Please allow us to help you provide animal control in a different way besides contracting with the St. Joseph County Humane Society.

Mr. Root: I would just like to note, no matter which side of the issue you are on tonight that the Council does not have the official responsibility to enter into the contract with the Humane Society. The proper role for that is the County Commissioners office and they are the ones that have the legal and proper authority to enter into a contract with the Humane Society, not us. Thank you.

DeDe Perriguet, 937 S. Logan, South Bend, 46615, our community has been dissatisfied with the services for years. You need to look at the comments on the Humane Society's comments on Facebook to understand how our

community feels about them. Community comments include the words horrible, sadistic and disgrace. The mission of the Humane Society is to install reverence for all life and to enhance the human/animal bond through the compassionate cares of animals. I urge you to create your own animal control like the city of South Bend has done and help us keep the dead bodies out of the landfill.

Debrah Adams 19648 Southland Avenue South Bend, I am actually going to read a letter from a Victoria Drapper of Wichita Kansas, her experience with the Humane Society. On Valentine 's Day 2015, I found myself assisting two volunteer transporters that were involved in a blizzard in the South Bend Indiana. The statement should reflect I was Kansas and the transport originated in Arkansas. Because of my unique background I often find myself waiting through problems in other places to help volunteers for animal transport. Two individuals were badly injured and transported to a local hospital while their three dogs were taken care of by volunteers, firemen and a local vet. One dog was so highly agitated due to the wreck where his owner was cut out of the vehicle that he bit a fireman. All that dogs had been vetted and had transport papers in the vehicle but I am sure they were lost. They were properly tagged, however. Fighting to make sure everyone was treated and rescued, I found myself on the phone with Ms. Eckhart trying to ascertain a location of the dog that had bitten a fireman. Though greatly appreciative of quick actions that saved the dog, Ms. Eckhart was unreasonable several days after when it was time to transport the dog back home with the injured owner. Appropriate measures were taken to prove the proper vaccines had been enforced yet Ms. Eckhart was determined to keep the dog in quarantine even after the advice of the vet locally in South Bend and the regular vet in Arkansas said to return the animals home. The owner could not go back in ten days to take care of her pet but she couldn't afford the cost of many days in quarantine. This dog could and would have been destroyed if left in South Bend. I was appalled by the treatment I was given by Ms. Eckhart, everyone in South Bend had been marvelous to step up and help us, and the community opened its arms with offers of open doors, money and clothing for the two transporters. The hospital provided excellent assistance along with firemen and the EMT's, the vet and his staff. Local volunteers that searched for the dogs in the blizzard showed a deep feeling and the compassion of this community but Ms. Eckhart negated all those feelings while dealing with her on the phone. I was considering getting a court order to release the animal and told Ms. Eckhart the same, finally, she agreed, the head of the transport group got her to agree to release the dog and get it out of state immediately. She did not call the vet as discussed to release the dog. The vet had to contact Ms. Eckhart's office to get a release approval. We were told she wasn't there that day. It would seem this one hook (inaudible) was struggling within the framework of the Humane Society officer. Without the volunteers they may have lost all three dogs but the last one did reach his family and the two belonged to the transporter eventually made it home safely but not with the help of Ms. Eckhart but a sad thought, all of the goodness shown by citizens to two out of state volunteers could be damaged by someone who had so little compassion of sensitivity to the needs of the badly injured people visiting your state.

Adjournment: Mr. Morton stated that the meeting was adjourned 6:50 p.m.

Auditor, St. Joseph County

President, St. Joseph County Council

