



Public Safety and Court Services Committee

Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Apr 9, 2024 at 10:30 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien, following a brief delay due to technology issues.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Keane Hudson, Katie White, Angie Shippert, Michael Pearson

Mike Koppien, Keane Hudson, Katie White, and Angie Shippert attended in person. Mike Pearson attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Also present: Dean Freil (Board Member), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Clay Whalen (Sheriff) and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person. Teri Zinke (Animal Control Administrator) attended via Zoom video conferencing.

III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (March 12, 2024)

Minutes from the March 12, 2024, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented.

V. Animal Control

A. *Report and Graphs*

Teri Zinke presented quarterly graphs for the committee and an updated list of responsibilities and duties carried out by the Animal Control Office. These will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

VI. Circuit Clerk

There was no report from the Circuit Clerk's Office.

VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No representatives were present from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices and no reports were submitted.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

A. *Monthly Report*

Kevin Lalley submitted a detailed report to the committee. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

IX. Probation

Staci Stewart was not able to attend the meeting and there was no report from the Probation Office.

X. Sheriff

A. *Monthly Report*

Clay Whelan walked the committee through the report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the April County Board agenda packet.

XI. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra reported the following information from the State's Attorney's Office:

- Eventually the County will need to purchase additional servers to house body cam footage received from the various law enforcement agencies.
- Frustration is building on behalf of the judicial system and law enforcement regarding the disfunction and dangers stemming from the Safety Act.

A. *Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney*

Charley Boonstra provided the following information for the Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines:

- Total collected during March 2024 - \$2,763.72
- Total collected so far in 2024 - \$10,532.69

XII. Report of Abandoned Property Focus Group

Mike Koppien and Jeremy Englund reported that the Abandoned Properties Focus Group continues to meet on the Friday before Committee Week. Following are the latest highlights:

- The group continues to look for solutions to mitigate the health and safety hazards at the old Lee Center School. Several departments recently participated in a site visit for a reevaluation assessment.
- The County is still in talks with demolition companies that are looking to take down large commercial structures at minimal costs. Cooperation from the landowners would be required.
- Recent education on floodplain laws provided through the Zoning Office could also present another avenue to help deal with nuisance properties.
- Mike Koppien explained that each department involved has exhausted their resources and authority as to each of the current properties. More

enforcement will be sought through the State's Attorney's Office and through the attorney hired to work on these specific cases.

XIII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. New Business

A. *Purchase of Satellite Connectivity and Equipment - EMA*

The committee agreed to table this topic until more information regarding the equipment was available.

Motion to table the Purchase of Satellite Connectivity and Equipment. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Mike Pearson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. *2nd Animal Control Vehicle - Discussion Only*

Teri Zinke approached the committee with the possibility of purchasing a second vehicle for animal control. The vehicle she was considering was a 2017 and the cost would be between \$22,000 - \$25,000. The topic was for discussion only. No action was taken.

XV. Executive Session

There was no request for an executive session.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Angie Shippert. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

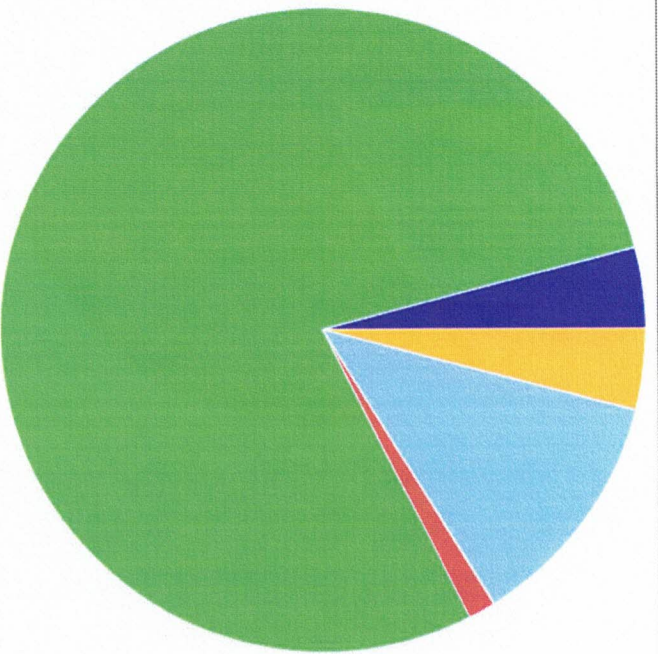
The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

The Lee County Animal Control office follows State Statutes and County Ordinances. Some responsibilities include:

- Responding to welfare calls; type up reports
- Bites (calling owners to give instruction on protocol)
- Picking up stray dogs
- Contacting owners of their overdue animals-rabies vaccine and/or registration by phone and in person.
- Caring for the animals in the facility (feeding, cleaning, medications if needed, setting up surgery appointments, taking the animals to their surgery appointments.
- Showing potential adopters an animal they are interested in.
- Taking photos of the animals that are picked up to add them to facebook to help find owner. Or animals that would be vetted and up for adoption.
- Calling and placing animals to rescue or shelters
- Picking up bats for rabies testing
- Picking up birds for west nile testing (months of testing are usually April – October)
- Cleaning of the office
- Microchipping
- Refer residents to outside agencies/resources
- Educating public regarding spay/neuter; training resources
- Maintaining database

**** CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH ****



- Animal At Large (3)
- County Registration (9)
- Owner's Duties (1)
- Vaccine (58)
- Vaccine-2nd Offense (3)

Criteria :

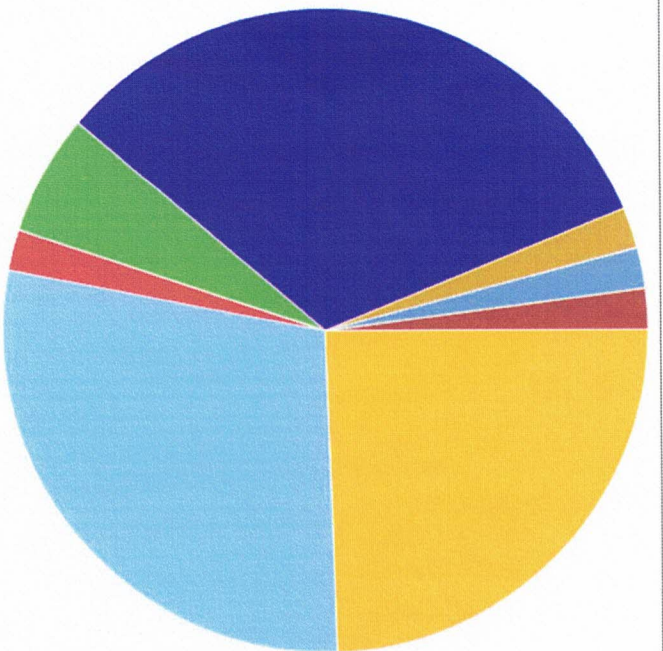
Enter the from date: 01/01/2024

Enter the to date: 03/31/2024

Report: **** CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH ****

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Tue 02 Apr 2024 08:53:47 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 04/02/2024 by tz2404

**** INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH ****



- Animals at large (12)
- Bite (14)
- Dangerous Dog (1)
- Dog on Dog (3)
- Neglect (16)
- Noise (1)
- Number of pets (1)
- Sick/injured animal (1)

Criteria :

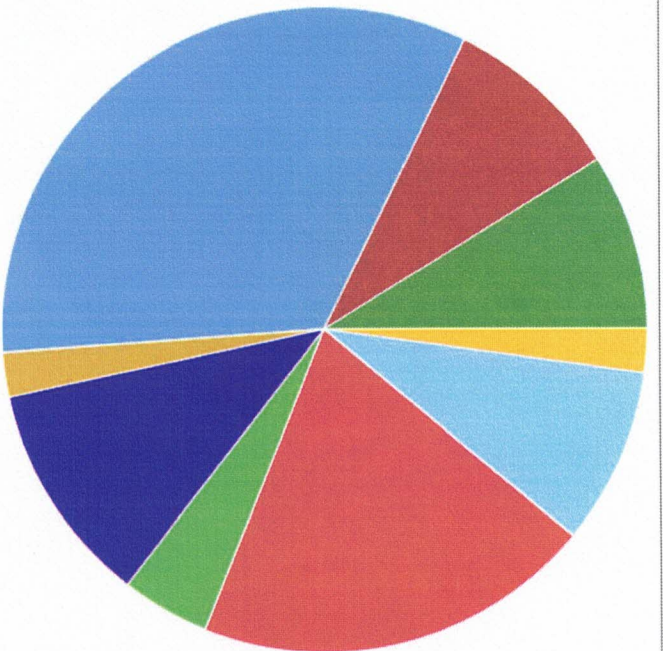
Enter the from date: 01/01/2024

Enter the to date: 03/31/2024

Report: ****INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH****

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Tue 02 Apr 2024 08:53:47 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 04/02/2024 by tz2404

**** ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH ****



- Boarding (1)
- Born in Shelter (4)
- Evictions (9)
- Owner Deceased (2)
- Owner incarcerated-hospitalized (5)
- Sick/Injured (1)
- Stray (15)
- Surrender - housing (4)
- Surrender - unable to cope with animal (4)

Criteria :

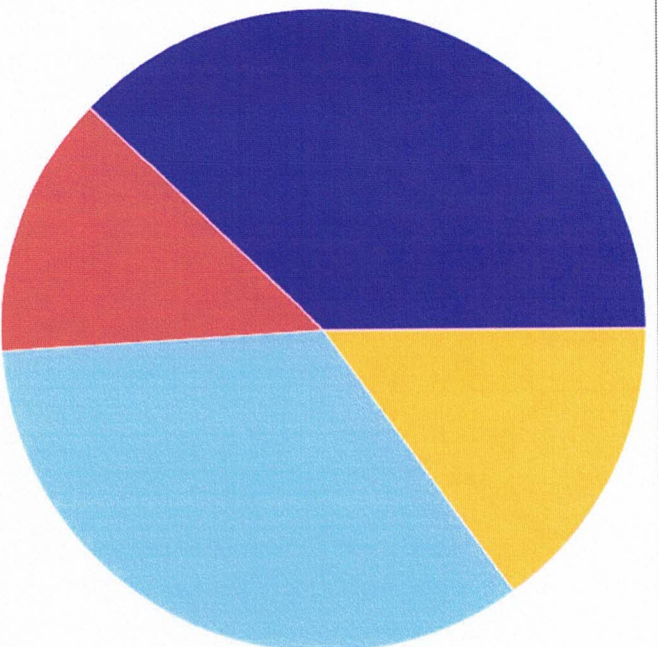
Enter from date: 01/01/2024

Enter to date: 03/31/2024

Report: **** ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH ****

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Tue 02 Apr 2024 08:53:47 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 04/02/2024 by tz2404

**** ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH ****



Adoption (8)
Reclaimed (18)
Euthanized (7)
Died (0)
Transfer (20)

Criteria:

Enter from date: 01/01/2024

Enter to date: 03/31/2024

Report: **** ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH ****

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Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Report for the April 9, 2024, County Services Committee

- The EMA office received questions from Lee County Villages and Townships on Asylum Seekers arriving in the county. Discussion was held on the process and plan. One agency asked for an in-person meeting and presentation.
- Attended NWS Flood briefing for 2024. Flood chances are normal to below normal for Lee County at the time of the briefing.
- The National Weather Service Chicago Office called and asked if Lee County was aware of a large fire south of Harmon and north of Walnut. It was determined the burn was a controlled burn unreported.
- Transported a phone box and FirstNet HPUE to a partner county due to a cyberbreach the day before the primary election to restore internet and phone service in their county.
- Attended regional tabletop exercise on Medical Response and Hospital Surge event to review plans and work as a team in the event of an incident occurring in our area.
- Continue to train on UAS and enhance program capabilities.

Kevin E. Lalley, Director
Lee County Emergency Management

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

April 9, 2024

In the month of March, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 790 calls for service.

As far as notable calls for the month of March, the following incidents occurred...

On March 15th at approximately 3:26 p.m., a Lee County Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 26 near South Eldena Road in rural Dixon. The vehicle was pulling a small utility trailer with no visible registration. After a K-9 alert and consent search of the vehicle, Deputies located 10.5 grams of Methamphetamine. Through the investigation, the driver was identified as Amy J. Allison, age 45, of Dixon. She was subsequently arrested for Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, a Class 2 Felony.

A passenger in the vehicle was identified as Albert J. Brooks, age 40, of Dixon. Brooks provided Deputies with a false name during the investigation as he was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant out of Ogle County. He was additionally charged with Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony, for providing false information.

Previously, the arrest of Lucas W. Underhile was reported to this committee that took place on January 26th after deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. Through the deputy's investigation, Underhile was arrested and charged with the following offenses after a loaded firearm was located in his vehicle:

- Possession of a Firearm Without Requisite FOID Card – Suspended, a Class 3 Felony
- Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon (3 counts), a Class 4 Felony
- Unlawful Use of a Weapon, a Class A Misdemeanor
- Possession of a Firearm Ammunition Without Requisite FOID Card, a Class A Misdemeanor

In accordance with pretrial release provisions, Underhile was released from custody later that same day on January 26th with a court appearance date. On March 21st, Underhile failed to appear, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. This is a prime example of the failure of the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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On March 23rd at approximately 10:16 p.m., Deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Department conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 2 near Mound Hill Road. The driver of the vehicle was ultimately identified through the investigation as Winston R. Wilbanks, age 36, of Rock Falls. Wilbanks had provided the Deputy with a false name and date of birth as his driver's license was revoked. Wilbanks was also on Parole / Mandatory Supervised Release from the Illinois Department of Corrections from charges out of Winnebago County for Manufacture of Ecstasy (15 to 100 grams). He had received a sentence of 7 years, 6 months in April of 2020 on the Ecstasy charges. On June 15, 2023, Wilbanks was released from the Department of Corrections on Mandatory Supervised Release conditions. He was arrested and charged with the following offenses as a result of the traffic stop:

- Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony
- Driving while License Revoked – Subsequent Offense, a Class 4 Felony
- Resisting / Obstructing a Peace Officer, a Class A Misdemeanor

The Illinois Department of Corrections – Parole Division was contacted and advised of the new offenses. They did not issue a parole violation on Wilbanks, and he was released in accordance with pretrial release provisions of the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

As far as staffing for the month of March, the Sheriff's Office is down two correctional deputies with a third correctional deputy being off under the Family Medical Leave Act. This has caused some overtime issues with minimum mandatory staffing.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board recently implemented minimum in-service training mandates that typically must be maintained over a 3-year rotation for professional proficiency. The winter months tend to be slower with call volumes so the local mobile training unit schedules them accordingly. During this month, deputies attended various trainings on Leadership, High Risk Traffic Stops, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Suspicious Death Investigations.

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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