

Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
6:30 PM
South Milwaukee City Hall Common Council Chambers

Members: Vice Chairperson Marie Becker; Karen Stewart, Mike Jankowski, Chairperson John Reynolds (a few minutes late); Dr. Scalzitti, Secretary Cyndi Kieck; Public Health Administrator Jackie Ove; Alderman Jim Shelenske and Martin Zabkowicz, Environmental Health Specialist

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Marie Becker, Vice Chairperson on behalf of Dr. John Reynolds, Chair, who called to say he would be late.
- II. Appeal of Health Department Order to correct conditions by Gail Krug, 505 Madison Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI, with regard to the keeping of a pygmy goat.

Public Health Administrator – J. Ove – Provided the board with the background of the ordinance by calling the police chief and M. Zabkowicz to share in their findings.

12/14/08 – Police were called to the residence regarding a possible overdose of illegal drugs. Police noticed a goat on the premises along with other animals and contacted the health department.

12/15/08 – M. Zabkowicz received a referral for the home at 505 Madison Avenue in South Milwaukee by the SM Police Department

12/16/08 – M. Zabkowicz contacted the owner to set up an inspection

12/19/08 – M. Zabkowicz inspected the premise of 505 Madison Avenue in South Milwaukee. He had visual verification of a goat, 2 dogs, 2 cats, and many reptiles.

1/31/09 – Search Warrant was executed to the home for illegal substances. A referral was made to the health department regarding the amount of animals in the home as it was believed to be a violation of the city ordinance.

1/31/09 – M. Zabkowicz received a referral from SM Police Department for 505 Madison Avenue, SM regarding the amount of animals in the home.

2/5/09 – M. Zabkowicz sent out a letter regarding the violation of city ordinance and the removal of the goat and excessive dogs/cats.

Chapter 24.33 - Exotic Animals

Chapter 23.11 – Excessive dogs / cats

M. Zabkowicz shared his research regarding the Nigerian dwarf goat: is considered a farm animal; can carry diseases including rabies, as there is no rabies vaccine for the goat.

J.Ove – past precedent – The city has not allowed a pig, rooster or chickens in the city as the city is not zoned as “agricultural” even though these animals can be considered “domesticated”.

The city ordinance regarding animals assists the public health department in upholding the order in the community and keeping some control over diseases city residents are exposed to. No one complained about the prairie dogs until the outbreak of Monkey Pox.

Comments from Gail Krug and _____:

Ms Krug addressed the concern about fecal matter per the police. She stated it was due to the litter box not being cleaned out. The pictures from the SMPD did not show any fecal matter.

The Police Chief stated pictures of fecal matter were not taken as they were in the residence looking for drugs and drug paraphernalia.

The Krug family would be willing to follow the procedures for rabies if the goat were to bite anyone.

Spaying is dangerous for the goat.

The goat has been visible for 1 ½ years in the home.

The Nigerian Dwarf Goat is bred primarily for pets and they are seeking certification for the goat to be a therapy animal. The goat is housebroken.

Ms Krug submitted letters from the veterinarian and son’s doctor, pictures taken from the police and letters and petitions.

C. Kieck moved to receive the letters to place on file with the Public Health Department. K. Stewart seconded the motion. All approved. The letters were received.

Dr. J. Reynolds moved to receive the pictures to place on file with the Public Health Department taken by the SM Police Department on 1/31/09. Dr. Scalzitti seconded the motion. All approved. The pictures were received.

C. Kieck moved to receive the letters and petitions to place them on file with the Public Health Department. M. Jankowski seconded the motion. All approved the motion. The letters and petitions were accepted.

Discussion followed with questions to the Krug Family.

Discussion ended.

Possible Motion:

Dep. Order to correct conditions with regard to the keeping of a pygmy goat per city ordinance 24.33.

C. Kieck moved to uphold the Public Health Administrator's decision. K. Stewart seconded the motion.

4 members voted in favor; 1 member voted against.

Motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm by Marie Becker.