



**VILLAGE OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**MEETING OF THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 2, 2015**

The Legislation Committee of Council met on March 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Obetz Government Center located at 4175 Alum Creek Drive with Councilmember Guiles Richardson presiding as Chair of the Committee.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Richardson called the roll with all members of the Committee present: Mrs. Bonnie Wiley, Mr. Guiles Richardson, and Mrs. Louise Crabtree. Also present were Mayor D. Greg Scott, Councilmember Angie Kirk, Councilmember James Wiley, E. Rod Davisson, Administrator, Eric Fischer, Assistant Development Director and Code Enforcement Administrator, and, Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director.

ROLE OF A COMMITTEE

Mr. Davisson discussed the role of committees. He reviewed sections of the codified ordinances including sections 505.05, 505.06, and 505.01. He also discussed Ohio Revised Code Section 959.04. He stated that currently under Obetz' code, an animal cannot be maliciously killed or poisoned; however, there was an exception for trespassing animals. He stated that the mission of the committee tonight was to determine if someone should be able to kill or injure a trespassing animal.

Mrs. Wiley discussed the case of her cat being shot in the ear with an arrow. She stated that the rules do not seem fair. Residents are spending their money to spay and neuter stray cats and feed them. People should not be able to kill trespassing animals. The owners may not know that their dog is running loose. Killing animals is not the answer; there are other options. Obetz is not a friendly community if it is killing animals.

Mr. Richardson stated that most people would agree that trespassing animals should not be killed. Mrs. Kirk stated that no one condones killing animals; however, she does not want to punish everyone who wants to shoot arrows in their yard. Mrs. Crabtree stated that people need to be able to discharge arrows in their yard. Mrs. Wiley stated that if people mismanage their arrows, they need to be held responsible. Mr. Davisson stated that there are civil remedies should something happen.

Council and the Mayor along with audience members discussed poisoning and killing animals.

Mrs. Kirk stated that this isn't about hating cats and dogs; if you have ownership of an animal, it needs to be contained. Council, Mayor Scott, and the audience discussed pet ownership issues and people discarding animals.

Mr. Fischer stated that two things are missing from the ordinances. First, there needs to be a good definition of animal types, for example wild animals versus companion animals. Second, there needs

to be regulations that allow individuals to humanely trap nuisance animals. Council and Mr. Fischer discussed this topic as well as individuals abandoning animals.

Mr. Davisson and Mrs. Wiley discussed her case regarding her cat being shot in the ear with an arrow. He advised her to pursue the matter in civil court should she want retribution for damages.

Council discussed what should be done when people are aggravated with neighboring animals trespassing on their property. Council, Mayor Scott, Mr. Fischer, and the audience discussed the matter further also discussing the difference between companion animals and nuisance animals.

Mr. Wiley stated that there should be a penalty for shooting an animal. Currently there is a loophole. This matter was discussed by Council and Mayor Scott. Mrs. Kirk stated that a law protecting animals already exists; it may not be fully understood.

Mrs. Crabtree stated that the people need to keep their animals from running at large. She discussed damage done to her property by trespassing cats.

Mr. Davisson stated that people shouldn't be able to keep animals tied up outside or in kennels. There should be a limited amount of time that people can keep pets outside.

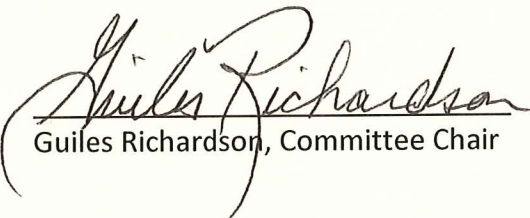
Mr. Fischer stated that there are different types of cats – domesticated cats, feral cats, and semi-feral cats. Feral cats should be treated like wild animals. Council discussed feeding stray animals. Mr. Davisson stated that pet food should not be left outside. It attracts other animals to the neighborhood including skunks, raccoons, and possums.

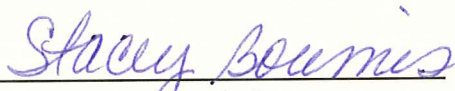
Mrs. Wiley asked if Councilmembers would consider creating an Obetz Humane Society. Mr. Davisson stated that is a long shot and a costly project.

Mr. Davisson stated that Mr. Fischer and Ms. Boumis would create legislation to be reviewed by Council that modifies the codified ordinances based on the discussion tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Richardson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mrs. Kirk; seconded by Mrs. Crabtree. All ayes. Motion carried. The Committee adjourned at 7:15 PM.


Guiles Richardson, Committee Chair


Stacey E. Boumis, Clerk