

RESOLUTION 2011-33

Resolution Requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners (WCBOC) to Honor Its Contractual Agreement with the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV)

Whereas, Washtenaw County is mandated by state statute to provide and operate a county run “**Animal Control Facility**” and to provide services to animals including an estimated 185,000 dogs and cats that live in Washtenaw County; and

Whereas, the services mandated by state statute to Washtenaw County require, *inter alia*, that the County provide services to animals that are:

1. Stray and abandoned,
2. Victims of cruelty whose owners are being prosecuted,
3. Bite/rabies quarantines,
4. Dogs in the process of being deemed dangerous by the courts,
5. Animals otherwise brought to the **Animal Control Facility** for various legal reasons; and

Whereas, the services mandated by state statute that requires Washtenaw County to provide the aforementioned services have instead been provided by the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV), a nationally recognized non-profit corporation that also focuses on the following:

1. Insuring proper, nurturing care for the animals in the shelter,
2. Placing all adoptable animals in loving homes,
3. Reducing pet over-population,
4. Caring for the physical well-being of animals in Washtenaw County,
5. Providing education and outreach to the residents of Washtenaw County,
6. Stopping animal cruelty; and

Whereas, the **Michigan Pet Fund Alliance**, a not for profit charitable 501C organization, in 2009 and 2010, respectively, awarded HSHV the “**Outstanding Shelter Award for the Best Large Open Admission Shelter**”. Likewise, at the Pet Fund Alliance’s “**No Kill Conference**” held in March 2011, welfare workers and animal advocates from all over the state of Michigan toured HSHV and “...**marveled at their array of programs, progressive practices and ever increasing save rate.**” (emphasis supplied) In addition, HSHV also received an award from Crain’s Magazine “...**for having one of the best managed non-profits in Michigan;**” and

Whereas, if Washtenaw County provided all of the services mandated by state statute to operate a county run “**Animal Control Facility**” the costs to the County is estimated to be **\$900,000** as compared to the **\$500,000** that is currently being contractually reimbursed by the County to HSHV to perform these mandated services; and

Whereas, in 2007 HSHV advised Washtenaw County of its plans to build a new animal shelter; however, it also advised the County that its then current contract to provide Washtenaw County’s state mandated services in the annual amount of **\$200,000** was unsustainable and thus offered the County the option to either pay a contractual amount closer to

HSHV's actual costs or, in the alternative, to make plans to build and run a county owned ***Animal Control Facility***; and

Whereas, in response to HSHV's proposal, former Washtenaw County Administrator Robert E. Guenzel signed a letter dated ***May 1, 2008*** addressed to Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan, expressing the County's "***...unqualified support for the Humane Society of Huron Valley's plan to build a new facility on the property acquired from the University of Michigan (currently part of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens site)***." A copy of said letter being attached hereto and incorporated by reference, labeled Exhibit A; and

Whereas, former County Administrator Guenzel also confirmed that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners (WCBOC) had committed to "***...increasing the operational support to the Humane Society by \$100,000 each year through 2010 via a ten-year contract. This increase brings the total level of operational support to \$300,000 in 2008, \$400,000 in 2009 and \$500,000 in 2010. Thereafter, through 2018, the County will honor the \$500,000 commitment with an additional cost of living increase every year.***" (emphasis supplied); and

Whereas, in further evidence of the WCBOC's contractual commitment to HSHV, former County Administrator Guenzel stated the following:

As both a practical and philosophical matter, the County depends on the Humane Society's professional experience and passion for animal welfare to carry out the County's statutory obligation for animal control. In fact, the Humane Society has consistently risen above and beyond this basic legal mandate. I believe the County demands no less. and

Whereas, in spite of the WCBOC's financial commitment to HSHV (who relied upon this commitment in constructing its current facility), the WCBOC is proposing to cut its service contract with the HSHV from ***\$500,000 to \$250,000*** in contravention of both the letter, spirit and partnership that has existed for years between the County and HSHV.

Now Therefore, Be it resolved, that the Charter Township Board of Trustees goes on record in requesting the WCBOC to honor its contractual agreement with the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) as set forth in the ***May 1, 2008*** letter from former County Administrator Robert E. Guenzel and in accordance with the County Board's previous resolutions.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the WCBOC seeking their support of Ypsilanti Township Resolution 2011-33.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Clerk's for each Township located in Washtenaw County requesting their support of Ypsilanti Township Resolution 2011-33.

I, Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan hereby certify the above resolution is a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2011-33 approved by the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Board of Trustees assembled at a Regular Meeting held on November 1, 2011.



Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti