

## Minutes of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman Owens, Members Wollrab, O'Connor, Rankin, Soeldner and Erickson

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Members Segobiano, Schafer, McIntyre, Caisley

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Walt Howe, Health Department Administrator; Ms. Michelle Anderson, County Auditor; Ms. Becky McNeil, Treasurer; Ms. Jennifer Ho, Risk Management; Mr. Jack Moody, Interim Director, Nursing Home

Others Present: Ms. Cathy Coverston-Anderson, Assistant Administrator, Health Department; Ms. Cathy Dyer, Fiscal Services Supervisor, Health Department; Ms. Marshall Thomson, Manager, Animal Control

Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Owens presented the minutes of the January 8, 2014 Finance Committee meeting, and the December 17, 2013 Stand-Up meeting for approval.

Motion by O'Connor/Soeldner to Approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2014, Finance Committee meeting and the December 17, 2013 Stand-up Meeting.

Motion carried.

Chairman Owens introduced the following speakers who requested the opportunity to address the Finance Committee:

- Mr. Larry Apfelbaum; Attorney, Kanoski Bresney;
- Ms. Valerie Wellin, Wish Bone Canine Rescue;
- Ms. Judy Stearns
- Mr. Randy Brunswick, DVM;
- Ms. Susan Albright, Chenoa Veterinary Clinic.

Chairman Owens advised that each speaker representing an organization will be allowed five minutes to speak and those representing themselves are allowed three minutes to speak.

Mr. Larry Apfelbaum, representing Wish Bone Canine Rescue, stated that he will comment on behalf of the organization and his own personal observations. He thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Apfelbaum advised that Wish Bone stands in opposition of the \$35,000 staff and budget request made by the Department of Health because that request is not supported by the documents or the reasons stated. He advised that Wish Bone believes that during these tough budgetary times there are better uses for tax dollars.

Mr. Apfelbaum indicated that Wish Bone believes that there are steps that Animal Control can take to reduce staff demands and lower expenses by lowering the number of animals they house and euthanize. He noted that rescue groups such as Wish Bone want to help Animal Control reach those numbers to lower the cost and make it a more efficiently run organization.

Mr. Apfelbaum stated that they have been told that Animal Control needs an extra staff person, extra equipment and extra training because they got rid of the gas chamber. He thanked Animal Control for getting rid of the gas chamber like almost every other county in the state.

Mr. Apfelbaum indicated that during the course of the gas chamber discussion, Wish Bone was not told that the gas chamber was inoperable since May of 2013. He pointed out that, since May of 2013, the records show that Animal Control has euthanized over 250 animals with existing staff and existing equipment. He stated that that practice shows that additional tax dollars are not needed going forward.

Mr. Apfelbaum referred to documentation that he distributed, noting that Mr. Howe says it takes an hour and 37 minutes of veterinarian time and an hour and 45 minutes of staff time to euthanize an animal. He stated that Wish Bone submits that these numbers are not credible. Mr. Apfelbaum added that some veterinarians will comment on that in a few minutes. He reviewed the time cards of Dr. Pearl, the County Vet, who has been euthanizing and working at Animal Control for four years. Mr. Apfelbaum pointed out that on September 17, Dr. Pearl euthanized ten animals, did two bite investigations and eight "something others" and it took five hours and 30 minutes, which doesn't match their estimate.

Mr. Apfelbaum stated that rescues organizations are not the enemy; every dog taken out of that facility saves the Shelter money, housing, food and the cost to kill the dogs, which by Mr. Howe's calculation is \$256.44. He indicated that in the four years of records he received from Animal Control, Wish Bone rescued 553 animals, thereby saving the County \$141,000 in euthanasia fees as well as the cost of food, housing and staff time. Mr. Apfelbaum indicated that Wish Bone is here to help. He stated that Wish Bone wants this organization to send a message to the Animal Shelter to lower their kill ratio, which is over 50%. He noted that Wish Bone wants this County to lead our state in the first low-kill shelter. Mr. Apfelbaum noted that the numbers are outrageous and not justified. He added that there are 500 communities in the country and 163 open admission shelters that have brought their kill rate down to around 10%, and he believes McLean County can do the same. Mr. Apfelbaum indicated that if Mr. Howe and his organization want more money for training, Wish Bone will support it if it goes to save animals and not kill them.

**(NOTE:** Please see *Attachment A* for Mr. Apfelbaum's handout.)

Ms. Valerie Wellin, Board Vice President of Wish Bone Canine Rescue, thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak. She discussed the strategies that are possible for her organization to partner with the Animal Shelter to improve the lives of the homeless dogs and cats of McLean County. Ms. Wellin noted that Wish Bone and their local rescue and shelter colleagues have received criticism from the Department of Health about how often their rescue help is offered, what animals they pull, and what animals they leave behind. She stated that, recently, when Wish Bone calls Animal Control to see if they can take some of their dogs, they are told that no adoptable animals are available. Ms. Wellin indicated that they have to accept that information as the McLean County Health Department website corroborates that point with only two dogs showing on-line as adoptable. She advised that of those two dogs one was pulled by the Humane Society of Central Illinois and the other was adopted. Ms. Wellin added that one adoptable dog was added to the website today. She indicated that if there are more adoptable dogs and cats, this website is doing a great disservice and leads the public and rescue organizations to believe that Animal Control has very few adoptable animals, which might explain why they have directly adopted only about 30 dogs all of last year. Wish Bone has adopted over 700 dogs during that same time range.

Ms. Wellin advised that rescue organizations ("rescues") are not supposed to take every animal out of shelters or animal control facilities; their mission is to take animals that are in imminent danger of being killed and, in the case of local shelters, to take some of the burden off those facilities. She indicated that by taking dogs, they make more space available for the intake of other dogs. Rescues are not meant to relieve Animal Control entirely of the dogs and cats in their care. Ms. Wellin noted that even if Wish Bone takes one dog that is one fewer dog that may be killed. She stated that Wish Bone

takes “cuties” from Animal Control, but they also take sick, old and decrepit dogs and dogs in need of medical and behavioral intervention. Ms. Wellin added that they do tend to take small and medium sized dogs because these are the dogs for which homes can be found. She indicated that they would take larger dogs but they are limited by kennel space, and Animal Control will not allow them to take photographs of their dogs, which is key for the marketing of the dogs for adoption or for foster care. She suggested that Animal Control better publicize its adoptable dogs, noting that it is not difficult or time-consuming. Ms. Wellin indicated that Wish Bone can help by posting the Animal Shelter dogs and cats on their pet-finder and Facebook pages to maximize exposure to prospective adopters.

Ms. Judy Stearns thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak. She noted that, as County Board members, you hold the responsibility for the animals and oversight of the animals, and you represent the citizens of this County. Ms. Stearns thanked the County Board for being responsible for overseeing the process of eliminating the gas chamber. She stated that everyone she talked to was appalled that their tax dollars would go to this kind of cruel euthanasia, and what most other counties think is a cruel practice.

Ms. Stearns referred to the funding and the potential of raising registration fees. She asked that the Committee take a good look at these expenses and compare them with what our veterinarians and other organizations are telling us about the cost of euthanizing and the cost of keeping animals. Ms. Stearns urged the Animal Control to get pictures on line to help with adoption and fostering because it will save taxpayers money, which she would hope is the Board’s goal.

Dr. Randy Brunswick, DVM; stated that he has been practicing veterinarian medicine here since 1981. He expressed his concern with the proposed request for additional funds to euthanize a dog.

Dr. Brunswick stated that the chemical immobilization gun and darts are almost 100% used for outside endeavors only. He noted that, In terms of public safety and liability with the dart gun, is that if it is not correctly powered, you will not only dart the dog, but the dart will likely go through the dog and potentially ricochet off the inside of the kennel and injure the wardens, help and veterinarians. Dr. Brunswick cautioned that a chemical immobilization should never be used inside.

Dr. Brunswick reviewed the cost of the drugs for euthanasia comparing the estimated cost as proposed by the Health Department and what his cost is for the same thing. He noted that to euthanize a 50 pound dog the cost is \$4.50 times 66 which equals \$297.00, which is a long way from \$1,500 to \$3,000, which was the Health Department’s estimate.

Dr. Brunswick stated that he believes the Animal Shelter already has some cages in stock and he questioned why they would need additional cages. He questioned the budget for the large custom squeeze cage at \$5,000 to be used for large pets and wildlife. Dr. Brunswick noted that he was the County Veterinarian for 15 years and they never saw a coyote or fox; they euthanized bats, possums and raccoons.

Dr. Brunswick indicated that his next issue is the time spent euthanizing animals. He indicated that as a veterinarian for 15 years at the Animal Shelter and, per Mr. Howe, he was instructed to only be there from 8:00-9:15 a.m. three days a week, no afternoons, no noon hours, and he made \$31.15 per hour at that time, while Dr. Pearl makes \$114.00 per hour. He noted that he and Mr. Park euthanized pets using anesthesia or just manual restraints and could do ten cats in 30 minutes and 5 dogs in 20 minutes. He avowed that it does not take an hour and a half to euthanize a pet.

Dr. Brunswick summarized that the amount of equipment they ordered is unnecessary, and there is a time management problem at the Animal Shelter.

**(NOTE:** Please see *Attachment B* for Dr. Brunswick's handout.)

Dr. Susan Albright, Chenoa Veterinary Clinic, expressed her concern regarding the costs presented to the Board by the Health Department. She provided information on what her cost is to euthanize animals of various sizes, and those numbers do not support the \$1,500 to \$3,000 for 66 dogs as submitted by the County Health Department. Dr. Albright reviewed the cost of drugs being used by Peoria County Animal Control which is in line with her expenses.

Dr. Albright reviewed euthanasia costs submitted by Ms. Lauren Malmberg, Administrator of the Peoria County Animal Control, who was unable to attend the meeting tonight. She advised that the Peoria Animal Control estimates that it takes about ten minutes to euthanize an animal, from drawing the drugs to the injection to being done, which is what she has experienced in her practice as well.

Dr. Albright stated that the McLean County Health Department estimated the euthanasia training for five-six employees was \$7,595-\$9,863, which she believes could be greatly cut. She indicated that there are euthanasia by injection trainers that are available to go on-site to train staff in their own setting and with their own equipment, which would save the County quite a bit of money. Dr. Albright noted one recent training for nine staff members cost about \$2,500.

Dr. Albright questioned the Health Department's estimated cost for Chemical Capture. She indicated that Peoria County has a much larger staff and animal population to deal with, and they have gone away from chemical capture as there are other ways to handle those types of situations.

**(NOTE:** Please see *Attachment C* for Dr. Albright's handout.)

Mr. Walt Howe introduced Ms. Cathy Coverston-Anderson, Assistant Administrator; Ms. Cathy Dryer, Fiscal Services Supervisor; and Ms. Marshall Thomson, Manager, Animal Control. Mr. Howe provided the following statement:

I come before you again to try and better explain the background and express the need behind the budget and FTE amendment submitted on behalf the animal control program and its association with the transition from use of the Carbon Monoxide Chamber to 100% traditional lethal injection.

I will make a brief statement of introduction and then let you hear from our staff. They are the experts. They daily protect the public's health & at times the very lives of our residents.

My plea is that we do not lose sight of the goals and objectives of the MCAC program amongst all the passionate issues that come forward when topics involving animals become public debate. I understand the strong desire to protect & defend "man's best friend". Believe me; our AC staff have the same powerful desires. But if we do not vigorously support the McLean County Animal Control program and it is unable to satisfy its mission, we have woefully failed in providing protective services to our citizens. This does not in any way diminish the need for animal protection services or companion animal programs in our community, but the community needs to support those programs and the organizations who provide them in a separate manner just as the charge of the programs are separate in design and intent.

Our program is not a primary adoption program nor is it an animal welfare program; we are an enforcement program with an overall objective to protect the public from a 100% guaranteed fatal disease...rabies. We also tangentially, not primarily but as a value added outgrowth of our enforcement duties, protect the public from vicious, dangerous/aggressive dogs. PERIOD. THAT IS OUR MISSION.

I agree we conduct and participate in a number of activities beyond the enforcement demands, but those are normally means to an end to assure we have the resources necessary to protect the public. For revenue, we contract

with both municipalities (Bloomington & Normal) to pick-up stray and straying dogs and cats in violation of their ordinances; we pick up and dispose of dead

animals on the public thoroughfares of each municipality, we respond to assist their law enforcement officers with the removal of often dangerous dogs subject to the issuance of warrants, removal of wild animals from within residential living areas, collect municipal animal control fees on behalf of the municipality, and provide written evidence detailing hours expended by animal control staff pursuant to each municipal agreement. All these activities are conducted via contract agreements designed to bring in revenue to support the program to reduce dependence on tax supported revenue. We also enforce County ordinances in the unincorporated legally subdivided areas of the County and assist other village law enforcement in assuring their ordinances are enforced. We attempt to provide peace of mind that any citizen that would come in contact with a dog or cat in McLean County would be safe from the deadly communicable disease of rabies.

I hope that you will take it upon yourselves to not only ask the questions, as you have done, but to hear the answers provided by our staff that work day-in and day-out to protect the citizens of McLean County. There are no alternative motives, plans or plots. The staff of the MCAC are only asking for the tools they need to protect our community's public health in a manner that is both safe and cost effective.

When the determination was made to eliminate the use of the Carbon Monoxide Chamber, we were already in the process of gathering specific data to be used in preparation for the FY15 budget process, which generally starts in mid-April, to request additional staff for the AC program. We realized over the past couple of years we are far under staffed and over-worked in this program. The reality is that the elimination of the CO chamber created a tipping point and an ideal opportunity to determine if a different, more cost effective, staff mix could work towards assuring staff safety with the more labor intensive lethal injection needs as well as provide a better matched staff combination to resolve long term staffing needs of the program that was to be addressed as part of the FY15 budget request. As you remember back in October when we presented the initial amendment discussion, our scenario at that time included the request for an additional warden position to assist with the duties reconfiguration. The change was tied directly to timing.

As indicated, I strongly believe and have been overwhelmingly convinced by staff that the program is under-staffed and over-burdened with mandated activities and we are honestly looking to add the most cost effective FTE

assistance available to absorb the workload and demands in effectively protecting the public health of our community.

As we have now been awarded the opportunity to come back again and present more detailed information on our request, timing has again presented itself as a variable. Our need has in no way changed, but hearing from members of the County Board and some members of the community at large we would like to take this opportunity to better evaluate the precise staffing compliment necessary to better meet the growing community expectations and requests. We therefore offer a revised amendment reduced by \$7,803 due to timing of implementation and by offering to utilize a portion of the dedicated animal control emergency funds to support the proposed amendment through December 31, 2014 offering us an additional 9 operational months to more clearly evaluate the appropriate staff mix necessary to best meet the programs needs and assist with the protection of our community.

I will now allow staff the opportunity to provide supporting details to the modified amendment and let them answer any questions the Committee might have regarding the FTE/Budget Amendment as provided.

Ms. Cathy Coverston-Anderson, Assistant Administrator of the Health Department, presented the following statement:

In regards to this specific amendment now totaling \$36,697: As previously reported, this request includes adding 1.0 FTE Office Support Specialist (OSS-I) employee (now targeted for an April start date), training resources (which includes costs for mileage/travel, lodging, and registration fees for staff attending mandatory Chemical Immobilization Training which is not always provided within Illinois each year) and some non-annually recurring equipment and supply items to be used to more safely euthanize more aggressive dogs and non-domestic animals. These items were spelled out in our replies to several of the questions from the County Board members.

STAFFING: Let me give you a very abbreviated summary of why an OSS I staff position is being requested, and also why it may be a better fit for our program right now.

The total number of warden staff budgeted to provide animal control services to our community is 4.85 FTE's composed of 6 employees, 3 full-time Animal Control Wardens and three part-time Warden FTE's. We also have the Animal Control Director (Marshall Thomson) and the Center Manager (Bill Clark). Dr. Gary Pearl is on contract as our veterinarian. He has brought a new level of

professionalism to the Center. He is a highly competent, well-trained and respected professional with decades of experience in veterinary medicine. He is frugal and very aware of the need to be good stewards of Animal Control funds. We are proud to have him on our staff and we are very grateful to him for the support that he has given to our staff, programs and mission.

Of the 4.85 FTEs scheduled to provide Warden Services:

- 1.85 FTE's are On-Call Wardens that work after hours on weekdays from 4:30 pm to 7:59 am, on Holidays and on weekends. They operate out of a base of operations that is their home/vehicle. They are only paid for worked hours & receive a minimum "availability" fee. These after-hour responsibilities are handled by three part-time employees of one Warden at 0.85, and two Wardens at 0.50 FTE's.
- Three FTE warden positions cover 5 days a week, M-F, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm for weekday daytime warden response services. Their base of operations is the animal control center. When these 3 are taking their accrued sick/vacation/personal leave, it takes an additional 0.25 FTE just to cover this leave time. So, even with our request for an additional OSS-I FTE, we are still only getting an additional 0.75 FTE in coverage.

A word about Warden duties: they require that an individual receive specialized training and a series of 3 immunizations for pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis, followed by booster shots. So, Wardens are individuals that are not easily or quickly replaced. Our warden staff is currently everything to everybody. We have worked exhaustively to keep costs and FTE's down. Our wardens are responsible for a laundry list of duties that are continually reviewed and prioritized by management. Our number one concern is the public health and safety of the community, followed up by safety of staff, response to our contracts, and assistance to law enforcement. Administrative duties, data gathering and analysis if often left at the bottom of the list. These administrative and support duties, though often not necessarily life preserving, can definitely have a very positive impact on the overall improvement of the daily operation of the program. This is why we would like to get an Office Support person to assist with these duties and free up warden time for direct warden duties, including availability to support aggressive dog or wild animal lethal injection situations. Here is a list of warden duties that can act as an example:

For the three Full-time daytime wardens: (during FY13)

- They responded to 1,973 calls for assistance from the Town of Normal,
- 4,098 from the City of Bloomington
- 2,037 from unincorporated areas of County; and,
- 261 from Villages.

- They routinely assist with: adopting and reclaiming of dogs and cats; registration entry, making tags, vicious dog response, dangerous dog response, court appearances, bite investigations, wildlife calls & response, dead animal pickup & disposal, warrant assistance to law enforcement, impounding of animals, vaccination/registration enforcement, enclosure reviews, cleaning the facility from cages to floors (all day long) and including toilets, sinks and walls; they clean vehicles (after every dog pick-up), buy animal food, pick up donated food or supplies, transfer animals to vets, provide tag distribution to vets and welfare organizations, reconcile tags, attend training, provide documentation and paperwork for municipalities, paperwork for the County, enter activity reports, provide community presentations (schools, police, vets, boy scouts, Boys and Girls Club; Community COMPACT), participate in Emergency Preparedness drills & training, work with the DNR & Conservation Police, complete cage cards for dogs and cats, provide web site assistance, data entry chameleon, turn in paperwork, transfer turn-ins to the County, produce, monitor and track vouchers and PO's, invoice villages produce and mail late notices, work with Bloomington dispatch and Metcom, maintain and clean equipment, respond to FOIA's, complaint letters, do research.... And this is just a partial list.

CHANGES TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM: In addition to the duties above, many statutory as well as programmatic changes have occurred since 2008, which have added additional duties for the Wardens:

- While “work generating”, some of the changes are also revenue producing:
  - 1/1/2009: beginning of cat registrations: approx. 6356 --6840/year (ave. = 6,656)
  - 2009/2010: expansion of our adoption program: needed because we don't get all of our adoptable cats and dogs transferred to rescues/shelters. For example:
    - Between 10/9/2013 and 1/26/2014, several shelter organizations have visited many times, leaving behind numerous adoptable animals that do not meet their standards or needs: 1) Wishbone Canine Rescue came to the Center 3 separate times, transferred 6 dogs (and no cats), leaving behind 21 dogs available for adoption; 2) Rescuing Animals in Need (RAIN) came to the Animal Control facility 3 separate times, transferred 5 dogs (and no cats), leaving behind 30 dogs available for adoption; and, 3) the Humane Society of Central Illinois came to the Center 5 separate times, transferring 24 dogs and 19 cats, leaving behind 8 dogs and 54 cats available for adoption.

- 2010: spay/neuter voucher program underway: over \$30,000 given back to McLean County residents, shelters and veterinarians in 2013
  - 1/1/2011: beginning of primate registrations in Illinois
  - 2013: late notices began to be sent out using Chameleon
- Other changes generate more work, but not necessarily more revenue, such as:
- cage cards required for dogs and cats that are adoptable
  - The county now has a formal FOIA process that has generated additional requests. In 2012 Animal Control processed 14 FOIAs; in 2013, 10 FOIAs (which also requested more information per FOIA).
  - No Kill Movement activities
  - More aggressive enforcement by law enforcement; more warrants
  - More dogs having their vaccinations registered (from 14,958 in the year 2000 to 19,399 in 2013), a percent change of 29.7%.
  - More outreach to the community to provide rabies education and emergency preparedness for pet owners.
  - Since 2000, there has been a 148% increase in bite investigations (from 202 in 2000 to 501 in 2013) (it first hit the 500s in 2006 and hasn't been under 500 since then)

This is why we have reached a tipping point on asking for an additional staff person with this amendment. We feel we cannot afford to juggle or put-off more duties to make way for additional staff for lethal injection. The issue now is how much of these duties can transition to an administrative support vs. a warden? An OSS-I could perform many of the following tasks, for example: processing reclaims and adoptions, answering phone calls, registration payments, village counts, data entry into Chameleon, assisting the Center Manager with bite-related activity, cage card development, mailing complaint letters, turn-ins, documenting inventory. All of these OSS-I tasks are currently being completed by a Warden at the Front Reception area at the Center.

Our Animal Control Program is under-staffed and over-worked and we will be required to add FTE's just to absorb the workload demands of our growing community, which rises with each US Census. This addition was targeted for the budget development process, but this amendment appeared as an opportunity to truly gauge our needs with mechanisms of support to get the optimal staffing design moving forward.

The chamber transition situation tied the staffing request directly to the compliance demands of our community. Currently up to this point we are juggling warden staff to assure safety, often at the expense of administrative

duties. We have extensive reports, analytics, maintenance of facility, program training, and even requested leave time by staff are sacrificed to assure staff are available for safety of the staff and community. The chamber gave us some staffing relief since we were at times able to get by with 1-2 staff for safe euthanization of even the most challenging animals.

Now, the loss of the chamber requires a mandated "availability" of staff for the assurance of safety. Staff believe somewhere between 2-3 Wardens are necessary for aggressive euthanizations and a minimum of 2 Wardens for traditional euthanizations requiring longer periods for animals requiring sedation to secure the animal until safer to handle or get in close proximity.

The term "availability" is the operative word. Staff agrees that not every euthanasia by injection will require 2-3 support staff or extensive sedation, but a surety is that we will need to have it available when we need it or the result could be a tragedy.

As indicated by the duties list given previously, our warden staff is composed of uniquely skilled employees and we do not have a pool of back-up personnel to call upon for our services. Marshall Thomson, Program Director, is the only employee with certification to be a euthanasia technician (which was just received on 1/31/2014, but is not in effect until further certification and a site visit occurs with the state). She works hard to assist her staff to provide the program excellence she demands. In FY13, Marshall worked almost 100 hours of overtime to fill gaps for warden services. Bill Clark, Center manager responsible for oversight of the Shelter itself and primary bite investigator also worked over 80 hours of overtime filling warden gaps. This amount of overtime in addition to their already demanding jobs cannot be sustained.

I feel this amendment is necessary and I come before you to ask for some administrative relief to assure safety and to attempt to provide much needed administrative support that is routinely called for by contract partners, program managers, external inquires and for the public health of our community.

This will be our basis for our FY15 staff request. We will continue to have services & staffing needs go unmet even with the addition of the 1.0 FTE OSS, but it will certainly allow us to meet administrative demands that we currently cannot meet while simultaneously assuring warden time will be made available to better protect our staff when aggressive dog or wild animal situations call for more staff participation in the lethal injection process.

Mr. Howe noted that Dr. Pearl was unable to make it to the meeting due to the weather, but he prepared a statement, which was presented by Ms. Coverston-Anderson.

**(NOTE:** Please see *Attachment D* for Dr. Pearl's Statement.)

Chairman Owens noted that there has been a question regarding the rules to speak at the meeting. The rules are as follows: Appearance by non-members of the Board and/or staff are allowed three minutes for individuals and five minutes for an organization; staff is not required a limited time as they are required to put forth to their oversight committee what they feel is needed so that we can make our recommendations.

Ms. Marshall Thomson, Manager, Animal Control presented the following statement:

Thank you for your interest in the Animal Control Program I am honored to be a part of McLean County, before I get started I want to thank Walt Howe, Cathy Coverston-Anderson, Cathy Dreyer, Dr. Pearl, all the Health Department employees, each Municipality, County Administration, members of the Finance Committee, members of Board of Health, members of County Board, rescues, humane organizations for providing this opportunity for the staff and the Animal Control Program to continue exceptional rabies prevention and animal control services for McLean County citizens. I have been providing animal control services for approximately 16 years in many different capacities of the Animal Control Program. I have two children 13 and 4. I also have pets of my own, dogs and cats that I truly adore. Missy is my Border collie that I adopted from the Animal Control Center; we have a very special bond. I understand how people feel about loving a dog.

I ask for your understanding if I become emotional for I am still traumatized by the very recent events where a 4 year old child was allegedly killed by the family's dogs on January 17, 2014. I was one of the first responders to the child's home. I want to share with you how I will never forget the horrific nature of her death. I will forever see the damage of her loss of life embedded in my memory. I want to send my sympathies and heartfelt cries to everyone as we evaluate and heal together from this horrible tragedy.

Children are the treasures of today and tomorrow, they remind us of the importance of protecting the future, everyone benefits from the investments of our children in the community.

In the recent past McLean County Animal Control has responded to several serious dog biting attacks. Citizen's experienced significant bodily injury from the Dogs.

- On October 24 the 2012 two people delivering phone books were mauled by two dogs,
- On September 9, 2013 two people were attacked near the constitution trail,
- On September 19, 2013 two dogs attacked an elderly woman sitting on her front porch,
- On March 22, 2013 a 6 year old child was attacked while playing ball in the back yard of the caregiver.
- In 2013 The Animal Control Center has responded to 501 bite/rabies investigations.

Public safety and rabies prevention are the very operation of the Animal Control Program and the County must stay true to public safety and rabies prevention endeavors. It has been estimated that over 55,000 thousand people die worldwide annually from rabies. It is imperative that the program continue to place a protective barrier between rabies and the pets we love.

The current contract veterinarian for the Animal Control has been an improvement to the Animal Control Program since he started in January of 2009. He provides exception medical treatment, rabies prevention, quarantine evaluations, preventative care opportunities and kind compassionate euthanasia. The program would be deficient without his professional guidance and services that directly impact the health and wellbeing of the animals housed at the Animal Control Center. He administers euthanasia with respect and compassion and does everything within his power to prevent suffering. The call for service to support an animal control program often has little gratitude from the community served. I am disheartened by the efforts to discredit a veterinarian within the community, where he is so highly thought of by the Animal Control program and his colleagues.

Each organization should support one another recognizing the needs for services provided by each group are equally critical within a community.

If all organizations could offer support in areas of interest the community could benefit greatly. Public safety would be supported, euthanasia reduction would occur and change could facilitate a better tomorrow for everyone. All environments within the animal kingdom must balance and support each other to maximize the productivity of each group within that environment. A symbiotic relationship has great potential in maximizing the success of the environment. Understanding is the key to a successful relationship, being tolerant of one another and providing acceptance of diversity.

Many similarities are identified to help in the reduction of unwanted dogs and cats, this includes spay/neuter incentives, education programs, reduction of euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats. Yes cats are a part of the equation to, not just dogs. The economic problem must be identified within each community that causes unwanted dogs and cat births; the animal control program is not the only variable with the equation of accountability.

The Animal Control Program offers spay/neuters incentives with the McLean County Pet Population Control Fund, educational tours and presentations.

I personally do not enjoy the euthanasia process but I recognize it is an essential component of the Animal Control Center and public safety. Dr. Pearl, Bill Clark and I weigh every decision and calculate all variables before selecting an animal for euthanasia. Every staff member contributes to the decision making process during the animals stay at the Center.

I ask the finance committee to weigh all decisions with the need to provide rabies prevention and public safety. Look at McLean County numbers in comparison to other Animal Control Facilities to truly evaluate the success of McLean County Animal Control.

For 2013, 152 dogs were adopted and 84 cats were adopted.

Currently the Animal Control Center has 10 dogs, 1 is available for adoption.

Currently the Animal Control Center has 32 cats, 20 are available for adoption.

The numbers vary typically fluctuating with the seasons and weather conditions.

In addition, Dr. Pearl was unable to attend, but if you have specific questions, please provide him with a transcript or written questions about his process and he will be happy to respond to them.

Ms. O'Connor commented that she has heard how understaffed the Animal Control Center is and asked if that has to do with going to lethal injection or just understaffed in general due to the growth of the community. She asked if we take the cost of that person out, what is the cost per animal and does it fall more in line with the figures we received from other organization or are we still way out of the ballpark. Mr. Howe replied that the Animal Shelter is truly understaffed and overworked, and was preparing to ask for additional staff in the 2015 budget cycle. He stated that they have made every effort to avoid adding staff because that has always been a primary objective

from the Board, so they have worked diligently to keep staff requests down. Mr. Howe indicated that it has come to a point – a tipping point – that the loss of the C.O. Chamber made them realize that they will need to ask for staff sooner than anticipated.

Ms. O'Connor asked if it is due to the loss of the chamber or a growing population. Mr. Howe replied that it is a result of both.

Ms. Wollrab reminded Mr. Howe that she supported his request for the fee increase and Appropriation request at the Board meeting last month. She expressed concern with the wide disparity between the figures that Mr. Howe has requested and the figures that have been presented this afternoon from the outside groups. She asked if it is true that the CO Chamber has not been active since May. Ms. Coverston-Anderson replied that it has not been used since May, but when maintenance personnel came to work on the chamber, a decision was made not to purchase any equipment to fix it. Mr. Howe added that they made a concerted effort not to use the chamber. Ms. Wollrab stated that she was not aware within all of the recent conversation that the chamber was no longer being used. Mr. Howe noted that it was only being used for aggressive dogs and, at the latter part of 2013, there were not as many aggressive dogs. At that time, they decided to make a reduction in the use of the chamber and to not invest any resources or maintenance into the chamber, and to use 100% lethal injection.

Ms. Wollrab asked what the period of time was that the 100 hours of overtime was performed. Ms. Coverston-Anderson replied that it was for a year. Ms. Wollrab responded that she does not feel that is a burdensome amount of overtime.

Ms. Wollrab expressed concern with the amount of time they predicted that it took to prepare a syringe for lethal injection and the disparity in costs of the process, and questioned the accuracy of the information provided by the Health Department. She stated that she will be withdrawing her support.

Mr. Erickson echoed the comments of Ms. Wollrab. He stated that he wished that the people involved in this issue would get together and just talk to each other, but that didn't happen. Mr. Erickson pointed out that accusations have gone back and forth and he regrets that it got to this point. He noted that it bothers him to have someone bring in a statement that uses the phrase "defamation of character." Mr. Erickson stated that he did not hear Dr. Brunswick or Dr. Albright accuse anyone of anything. He also noted that he does not believe that Dr. Pearl's comment was directed at them, but he wanted to defend Dr. Brunswick and Dr. Albright by saying that they never accused Dr. Pearl of anything either.

Mr. Erickson expressed the same concerns expressed by Ms. Wollrab that the math does not add up, and he believes the County Board members have a right to ask other people in the community for their expertise. He advised that he will not be supporting this request either.

Mr. Rankin stated that there has been an air of someone lying, with lots of accusation and hard feelings. He pointed out that this Committee has to make a determination on the information they have received and heard. Mr. Rankin indicated that he appreciated the information provided by community members. Mr. Rankin also expressed his appreciation of the Animal Control staff. He indicated that the situation as he sees it reminds him of a quote by Rahm Emanuel "Never let a good crisis go to waste." Mr. Rankin stated that we have heard that Animal Control is understaffed, but he also recognized that that is the case in every County Department. He asked if this was such a serious issue why it wasn't brought up in the previous budget cycle. Mr. Rankin indicated that it was Mr. Howe's responsibility to at least stress his needs at budget time and let the Committee make a determination.

Mr. Rankin stated that he is an advocate of Wish Bone, and he supports Mr. Apfelbaum's idea of a low-kill Animal Control Shelter.

Mr. Rankin indicated that he thinks the public needs to know that the Finance Committee only has the fiduciary responsibility of Animal Control, but animal Control is the ward of the Health Department. Mr. Howe stated that the Health Department took over control of the Animal Shelter from the County; it is actually the responsibility of the County.

Mr. Rankin believes that the Animal Control can be made better. He suggested that the FTE increase come during the regular budget cycle and supported with data. He asked why we are just hearing about this serious understaffing. Mr. Howe replied that it has been brought up in the budget development process, but it has become more of a crisis recently. He agrees that everyone wants to adopt good adoptable pets, but creating a website and becoming an adoption facility creates more responsibility within the organization. Mr. Howe stated that efforts have been made internally to expand their resources to meet the demands of what is being called upon for this program. He advised that in 2015 they will ask for additional staff and ask for increases in fees. Mr. Howe indicated that the Animal Control was supposed to be a self-supporting program.

Mr. Howe stated that he surveyed 70 health departments in the State of Illinois and only four operate animal control programs.

Ms. O'Connor asked, if the Animal Control is fee-based and if the community population is increasing, wouldn't the budget be increasing as well. She asked if it is running in the red or the black and if it is in the black why aren't we using that money to hire another person. Mr. Howe replied that it runs in the black. He noted that there is a Fund Balance of over \$220,000 accumulated over 25 years, but that money is set aside for emergencies. Mr. Howe also noted that the cost of the program grows every year right along with the population, so the increase in the fee budget doesn't grow faster than the cost of running the program.

Mr. Soeldner pointed out that the Animal Control and the Health Department listened to the wishes of the community to get rid of the CO Chamber. He stated that his concern is with the safety of the staff at the Animal Control. Mr. Soeldner indicated that we have to do whatever it takes to make it right. He noted that Mr. Segobiano used the term "micro-managing" at the last Board meeting. Mr. Soeldner stated that, at times, he believes that is what is happening. He believes it is important for the Board to look at the financials, but he also believes that the costs are warranted. Mr. Soeldner advised that he went out to the Animal Control Center. He reported that the facility needs maintenance and repairs, but he was pleasantly surprised at how clean it was. Mr. Soeldner said that he would support Mr. Howe's request for approval of an Ordinance amending the 2014 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control).

Chairman Owens clarified that the Health Department is asking for a full FTE at this time. Mr. Howe replied that a full FTE is being requested, but it won't begin until April. He stated that if a person is hired, the Health Department will evaluate the potential need of requesting an additional staff person during budget review.

Mr. Erickson stated that he believes the numbers presented for approval are far off of what they should be.

There was a discussion on the feasibility of hiring someone now and making a determination during budget meetings whether or not to continue the FTE. It was the consensus of the Committee that it would be unfair to hire someone with the potential of letting that person go in the near future.

Ms. Schafer asked if hiring someone part-time was considered to assist with the needs through the end of this year while determining if a full-time position was necessary. Mr. Howe replied that he would be willing to consider the possibility. However, he expressed concern that the part-time employee may need training to assist with the euthanasia process, and there are lots of projects that need to be done at the Shelter.

Mr. Rankin asked what would be the salary of that employee. Ms. Coverston-Anderson replied that the person will make \$13.19 per hour for an OSSI.

Ms. Wollrab asked if there are funds available to purchase the equipment and the training if we vote no on this request. Mr. Wasson replied that if the decision is to address the personnel separately, it would be necessary to amend the Appropriation and Budget Ordinance by deleting the employee-related costs.

Mr. Caisley stated that there have been a lot of statistics about cost, but most of these things have to do, not with the euthanizing process, but with the paperwork that goes with it. He suggested that an outside agency come in to conduct a study to determine what paperwork could be cut and how to make this operation more efficient. Mr. Caisley believes that there is enough evidence presented to suggest that lethal injections are less time-consuming than using the carbon monoxide chamber. Mr. Caisley expressed concern that this issue is just being used as a red herring for increasing the budget and full-time equivalent budget, and is being used as retaliation against the people who wanted lethal injection.

Mr. Caisley recognized that there are staffing needs in many County departments that are understaffed and need additional help, such as the Public Defender's Office and Circuit Clerk's Office. He stated that he is opposed to this request.

Ms. Thomson replied to Mr. Caisley's concern about the paperwork. She advised that some of the paperwork is required by law for the documentation of the controlled substance and could not be eliminated.

Mr. Rankin made a motion to remove Line 0503-0001 as well as Line 0599-002, keeping the rest of the Ordinance as is.

Ms. O'Connor asked that a breakdown be provided of the disbursement of animal registration fees, including what part goes to euthanasia. Mr. Howe replied that he can provide a breakdown on expense lines but not on things where data was not collected.

Mr. Rankin suggested that the use of interns be considered. Mr. Howe replied that it is difficult to do the necessary training for such a short amount of time.

Mr. Wasson clarified Mr. Rankin's motion to Approve this Ordinance with the following changes:

- Delete 0503-0001 Full-time Employee Salary of \$19,294;
- Delete 0599-0002 Employee Medical/Life Insurance increase of \$4,118;
- Modify the request to increase revenue line 0112-0061-0065-0400-0000 Unappropriated Fund Balance from \$33,697 to \$10,285.

Mr. Erickson suggested that legal counsel assist Ms. O'Connor in her question to Mr. Howe about the disbursement of registration fees.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2014 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control), as amended.

Chairman Owens called for a roll-call vote:

Erickson:	No
Soeldner:	No
Rankin:	Yes
Wollrab:	Yes
O'Connor:	No
Owens:	No

Motion failed 4 to 2.

Mr. Soeldner made a motion on the original request as submitted by the Health Department.

Motion by Soeldner/Rankin to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2014 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control).

Ms. O'Connor made a substitute motion to table the request to the March 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Meeting so that the issues and cost factors can be resolved.

Motion by O'Connor/Erickson to Recommend that the Request of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2014 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control) be tabled until the March 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Meeting.

Chairman Owens called for a roll-call vote:

Erickson:	Yes
Soeldner:	No
Rankin:	No
Wollrab:	Yes
O'Connor:	Yes
Owens:	Yes

Motion passed 4-2.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Howe and his staff.

Ms. Michelle Anderson, Auditor, advised that the Internal Revenue Service has changed the standard mileage rate from 56.5 cents to 56 cents. She reminded the Committee that the County Board Resolution Establishing Mileage Reimbursement states that the County mileage reimbursement rate is set at the rate approved and authorized by the Internal Revenue Service. This change is effective January 1, 2014.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Anderson.

Ms. Becky McNeil, County Treasurer, presented a request for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the McLean County Board to execute a Deed of Conveyance on PIN 08-33-401-013. She noted that this is a standard conveyance like previous ones.

Motion by Soeldner/Erickson to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chairman of the McLean County Board to Execute a Deed of Conveyance on PIN 08-33-401-013.

Motion carried.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the statistics on the Deed of Conveyances. She noted that there have been more of these than in the past. In 2012 there were three and in 2011 there were two. Ms. McNeil stated that this year there were 13 parcels that the County had to and we acquired 34 deeds through the tax fee process. She noted that 25 of them have been conveyed this year. As of December 31, 2013, the inventory was at 22. Through the deed process and the auction process it was possible to raise \$29,000 of which \$10,000 goes to the Trustee for their services, \$250 to the County Clerk for the preparation of the tax deed, \$745 to the Recorder and \$17,900 to the taxing bodies.

Ms. McNeil pointed out that the important thing is that the parcels are back on the tax rolls in the hands of individuals who are willing to pay the property taxes.

Ms. McNeil reviewed her Financial Reports for the period ending January 31, 2014.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Summary of Tax Vouchers Report. She provided a detailed report reflecting the 12-month comparison. Ms. McNeil indicated that

Ms. McNeil advised that the 2013 estimated Budget Revenue was \$9,559,877.00 and the Year to Date Actual Vouchers was \$9,586,397.94, which is an increase of \$26,520.94 or 0.3%. She noted that these numbers will be "tweaked" as receipts come in from January-February-March since these taxes counted for 2013 because that is when the County earned them. Ms. McNeil indicated that the Christmas sales receipts will be reflected in the March Report.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Investment Report. She advised that across all fund, the County has cash and CD's invested in the amount of \$40,793,435.65.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the County Treasurer's Summary of Tax Revenue Sales, Local use, Income and PPRT. She noted that Sales Tax decreased from \$456,856.53 in January 2013 to \$403,270.30 in January 2014. Ms. McNeil added that she does not have specific information on the decrease. She pointed out that the other items were substantially higher than January 2013. The monthly comparison showed an increase from \$911,764.28 in January 2013 to \$948,217.54 in January 2014, or an increase of 4%. Ms. McNeil stated that the year-to-Date comparison will be the same difference.

Ms. McNeil stated that the County Budget is at \$47,274.50 over budget.

Mr. Wasson advised that we are monitoring a negative trend in Sales Tax. He indicated that he has been communicating with both the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to analyze the cause of this trend.

Ms. McNeil noted that she also included the 2013 Report for the Committee to track the Sales Tax throughout the entire year. She stated that by the end of the year the County had \$5,233,000 compared to \$5,097,000, so we were up as far as yearly totals go. However, towards the end of the year the numbers started to fall down.

Ms. O'Connor asked what the difference is between Sales Tax and Revenue Sales Tax. Ms. McNeil replied that the Sales Tax is the ¼% that is collected County-wide and the Revenue Sales Tax is the 1% that is collected in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to accept and place on file the Month-end Financial Reports from the County Treasurer's Office for the month ending January 31, 2014, as submitted.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. McNeil.

Ms. Jennifer Ho, Risk Management, presented a request for approval of the proposed insurance program for Fiscal Year 2014. She advised that the total PY'2104 program cost is \$548,368, which is \$63,427 less than the proposed PF'2014 Budget of \$611,790; and 4.13% over 2013, which was \$526,622.

Ms. Ho reviewed the summary as submitted in the packet.

Motion by Rankin/Soeldner to Recommend Approval of the Proposed Insurance Program for Fiscal Year 2014.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Ho reviewed her Fourth Quarter FY'2013 Management Fund, as submitted in the Packet.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Ho.

Chairman Owens presented the County Clerk's Monthly Report for the period ending December 31, 2013, as well as the Monthly Recording Report as submitted by Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk.

Mr. Jack Moody, Interim Director, Nursing Home, presented the December 2013 Monthly Report for the Nursing Home. He noted that everything is running very smoothly.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Moody.

Ms. Eisner reviewed the critical personnel position requests received by the County Administrator's Office through January 28, 2013.

Motion by Rankin/Erickson to Recommend Approval of the  
Critical Personnel Hiring Requests.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Wasson reviewed the distributed information on the process to eliminate the Office of County Auditor as requested by Mr. Rankin. He noted that a similar review was provided at the Justice Committee for the elimination of the Coroner's Office. Mr. Wasson stated that the current status of Auditors offices in Illinois is as follows:

- 17 of 20 counties over 75,000 and not more than 3,000,000 in population have an elected Auditor including McLean County.
- Three counties having more than 75,000 population have elected to eliminate the elected office of Auditor by referendum and have the Auditor's functions performed by a Finance Department, along with an independent audit. Two of those are communities that already had Finance Departments and they then exceed the 75,000 in popular and determined to eliminate the elected Auditor.
- 81 counties having less than 75,000 population and not more than 3,000,000: In each of these counties, the Auditor's functions are appointed or combined with another office by statute, along with an independent audit.

Mr. Wasson reviewed the options available to the County Board, as follows:

- Continue to have an elected County Auditor.
- Place on the ballot a referendum question to the manner of selection from elected to appointed officer.
- Place on the ballot a referendum question to have said office eliminated and have the duties of said office transferred to another department, such as a Finance Department.
- Place on the ballot a referendum question to have said office eliminated without providing for the performance of the duties by another person.

Mr. Wasson advised that these duties would need to be performed so, again, a Finance Department would be appropriate.

Mr. Wasson reviewed the action required of the County Board as follows: "A resolution of the County Board which initiates the submission of public questions pursuant to law must be adopted not less than 79 days before a regularly scheduled election to be eligible for submission on the ballot at such election. Therefore, the County Board action would be required to precede August 17<sup>th</sup> appear on the November 4, 2014 ballot, of which the July County Board meeting is the last regularly scheduled Board meeting preceding this date."

Mr. Rankin stated that he asked this question for very specific reasons. He indicated that when the Recorder's Office was originally questioned, he felt that it would have been appropriate for all non-constitutionally mandated elected offices to be examined. Mr. Rankin noted that his motive for this question is not about a person; both the Coroner and the Auditor are qualified, intelligent people who have done good jobs, and he has no issues with them. He stated that these are positions that require a strict level of professionalism, and he expressed concern that an individual running for Auditor or Coroner could potentially win an election without having the necessary qualifications. Mr. Rankin acknowledged the decision can be put in front of the voter and the voter can determine whether or not that person has the qualifications, but he is concerned that the average voter may not understand the function of the Auditor's office. He indicated that since being on the board he is very strongly in favor of having a Finance Department. Mr. Rankin advised that he is also very strongly in favor of having less elected officials.

Mr. Rankin advised that Illinois is number one in units of elected offices in the entire country. He stated that you could almost add number two and three together and still barely have as many elected offices as Illinois.

Mr. Rankin stated that he would like to see a discussion on whether or not we move forward to considering other options with the Auditor's Office. He asked Mr. Wasson where that discussion should be held. Mr. Wasson responded that the motion to place the question on the ballot for the Recorder's Office came through the Executive Committee. Mr. Rankin asked if that Committee is the appropriate place for the question to go. Mr. Wasson responded it would be the appropriate place.

Mr. Erickson asked if it would be an agenda item on the Executive Committee. Mr. Wasson replied that a member may make a request for it to be placed on the Executive Committee Agenda. Mr. Erickson asked if someone wanted to come speak in favor or opposition, they would have the same three minute rule to speak. Chairman Owens replied that if they are a member of the public, they would get three minutes.

Chairman Owens presented the January 31, 2014 Finance Committee bills and transfers for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Finance Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$1,185,332.22 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Motion by Soeldner/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Finance Committee bills and transfers as of January 31, 2014 as recommended by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Owens presented the January 2014 Nursing Home bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Nursing Home bills include a Prepaid Total of \$196,658.41 and a Fund Total that is the same.

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Motion by Wollrab/Erickson to recommend approval of the Nursing Home bills as of January 31, 2014 as recommended by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Committee members expressed frustration with the lengthy reading of statements by the Health Department staff.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Owens adjourned the Finance Committee at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary

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