



## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY Administration/Board of Commissioners

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*Grand Traverse County provides mandated and necessary services that ensure safety and add value to our community.*

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

### **County Animal Control Services Moved**

December 21, 2015

**Traverse City** – On Wednesday, December 16, Grand Traverse County Commissioners approved the 2016 County budget. Included in that budget is a transition of Animal Control services from the Health Department to the Sheriff’s Department starting January 1, 2016.

Faced with a looming budget deficit totaling millions of dollars, County Commissioners have, for several months, been examining ways to restructure the organization, yet avoid entirely eliminating County services. County Commissioners, the County’s Finance Department, and County Administration agreed that moving Animal Control functions to the Sheriff’s Department makes sense at this time.

Primarily funded by the County’s general fund, the Animal Control budget will be removed from the Health Department’s budget, but the service will not be eliminated. Until January 1, Animal Control will continue to operate 40 hours a week on weekdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Sheriff’s Department has always received calls related to animal control services outside of those hours. Nearly \$100,000 in animal license fee revenue will move to the Sheriff’s Department come January 1, when service is moved under that department.

The level of service may change next year, and that will be determined during a planning meeting among the County Administrator, department heads from the County Sheriff’s Department and Health Department, and staff from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Until the meeting takes place, services specific to animal control will not be enhanced under the Sheriff’s Department. Once County expectations and what is mandated by law have been defined, a transition strategy will be established, and the public will be notified.

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