

DRAFT

Animal Shelter Board Meeting Minutes

9 February 2021

By Zoom @ 6:00 pm

The Animal Shelter Board met on 9 Feb. 2021 by zoom meeting at 6 pm.

Chairman Mike Barnett called meeting to order.

Chairman Barnett asked for roll call.

Members present was Chairman Mike Barnett, Dr. Bob Acuff, Kelly Collins, Sonja Culler, Kim Birchfield, Mike Simerly and Wes Frazier. All members present.

Minutes was presented by email. Motion was made by Sonja Culler and second by Kim Birchfield. All voted Aye, none opposed.

Chairman Mike Barnett asked director Shannon Posada to give shelter reports. Director Posada stated Wendy Mathes mother had passed away in January 2021. Mrs. Roberta Hughes was a big part of the shelter for many years. Her beautiful smile and caring heart will definitely be missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing her.

Current totals for the shelter are 27 Dogs and 81 Cats

Total January intakes 40 Cats, 32 Dogs, and 1 Rabbit

January total adopted out was 72 including the Rabbit

The shelter spayed and neutered 22 cats last week

The shelter had a few cancelled trips for the feral community cat program due to COVID among the facility & staff members of the veterinary facility

We have a feral/community cat trip scheduled next week with a total of 20 cats scheduled as of now.

Shelter is having a Valentine Adoption Event starting tomorrow 10 Feb. 2021

Mike Barnett discussed the leak on the outside dog runs. Chairman Barnett stated he is currently working with Joey & Travis from Trade-Mark . Mike discussed the 2nd issue with the pump not functioning correctly. Chairman Barnett said he is working with Joey & Trade-Mark to resolve both issues.

Chairman Barnett moved into discussion of shelter becoming 501C3. Chairman Barnett said some of the information, graphs & and comparisons had been sent out from neighboring communities and areas. Chairman Barnett asked board members to join in the discussion. Chairman Barnett stated there has been some confusion on the counties part of the funding for the shelter. Chairman Barnett stated the counties part was less than \$240,000. Chairman Barnett stated the shelter staff has done their best to offset & cut the cost of the shelter. Chairman Barnett opened the floor up for discussion. Dr. Acuff referred to the previous Financial Management meeting and the information that was presented was not correct. Dr. Bob Acuff explained the information he had received on WCAS and some other counties. Chairman Barnett stated what this board and our community wants is to relieve the burden on the tax payer but give a very needed service to our community. Chairman Barnett discussed both governing bodies to make a resolution to continue to support the shelter and work together.

Mike Simerly stated he was speaking on the city council behalf that the city fully supports the animal shelter and always will. Mike Simerly stated it is very unfortunate what has been going on lately.

Kelly Collins asked to discuss some of the some of the information that had been received she found to be misleading. Kelly Collins discussed some information she had found upon research.

Travis Hill stated he had spoken with Buncombe County director. Travis Hill said he would continue to try to get more information and will share information when received.

Director Posada reminded everyone of the special called meeting on 22 Feb.2021 @ 6pm by zoom.

Mike Hill discussed some of the 990 forms from Avery County that he had reviewed. Mike Hill discussed information on funding/support for Avery Cuntly Animal Shelter in comparison with Carter County.

Chairman Mike Barnett asked to discuss the dog catcher proposal. Chairman Barnett stated even though officers are responding to animal calls, no one is able to transport animals to the shelter if needed. Director Posada asked Chief Jason Shaw to discuss issues EPD is having due to lack of animal control. Chief Shaw stated there is no way to get animals to the shelter after his officers respond to calls. Chief Shaw said his officers are placed in a bind and need some way to get the animals to the shelter. Director Posada stated there is a huge need for animal control. Director Posada

Stated calls continue to come into the shelter and after speaking with several people, she had worked on a dog catcher proposal. Director Posada discussed in detail the proposal and details pertaining to the position.

Kelly Collins stated she would like added to the proposal if the dog catcher sees a cruelty or neglect case the CCSD or EPD and not part of the dog catchers duties. Director Posada explained how cruelty and neglect has previously been handled.

Dr. Acuff added he thinks the dog catcher is a great fall back position. Dr. Bob Acuff stated he wanted everyone to know why dog catcher position was not titled as ACO. Dr. Acuff explained in the Nov. 2020 commission meeting the resolution wasn't passed and ACO had no jurisdiction under the law.

Sonja Culler stated Sheriff Lunceford would have been on the call but was out of town.

Commissioner Travis Hill stated in Nov. 2020 a motion was made to transfer the money from CCSD to ECCAS and motion did not pass. Travis Hill stated he is happy to except a motion from the floor to present dog catcher proposal to the county commission.

Kelly Collins spoke up and stated we would have another problem if things move forward and ECCAS does become a 501C3. Kelly Collins said there was many more issues that needed addressed.

Sonja Culler asked for attorney Josh Hardin to comment on the employees being county employees if shelter was to become a 501C3. Attorney Josh Hardin explained his opinion on 501C3 and employees remaining county employees.

Sonja Culler asked Director Posada if she had enough money in her current budget for the dog catcher position. Director Posada reply No.

Dr. Bob Acuff made a motion to move the money from the CCSD to the ECCAS. Motion was second by Sonja Culler. Chairman Barnett asked director Posada to call the roll. All voted Aye with exception of Wes Frazier being absent from meeting.

Commissioner Kelly Collins asked for a vote for the dog catcher position to be voted on for the record. Sonja Culler made a motion to approve the dog catcher position and all provisions that was written within. Kim Birchfield second motion. All voted Aye with exception of Wes Frazier being absent from meeting.

Sonja Culler asked attorney Josh Hardin to explain the resolution that did not pass and did not pertain to state law. Attorney Josh Hardin explained the authority of an ACO if the resolution was passed. Attorney Josh Hardin the dog catcher position will have no authority other than picking up stray animals.

Sonja Culler asked how long Sullivan County has been going through the 501C3 process. Travis Hill commented he did not know. Ginger Holdren said she did not know. Ginger Holdren stated she did not have an exact year written down but stated Sullivan County was still early in the 501C3 process.

Chairman Mike Barnett asked Ginger Holdren why there was so much push back on the ACO resolution if its based on state law. Ginger stated she received an email from director Posada that she had requested from attorney Hardin outlining anything that did not pertain to state law. Ginger Holdren said 50% of the regulations was highlighted. Travis Hill stated he heard some chatter about the amount of citations as to why the regulations and resolution wasn't passed.

City Manager Daniel Estes explained the dog catcher position as presented working with city and county law enforcement. Daniel Estes said he was looking at the thinner proposal will help but will it cure everything, he said couldn't answer that. Daniel Estes stated ther is less to pay for in this position. Daniel Estes said a person gets you a person and we need to acknowledge that up front. Director Posada stated she agreed with Daniel Estes. Director Posada stated the community need for the shelter & ACO will not change.

Kelly Collins spoke up about dog catcher going out to same house or same dog running at large. Kelly Collins stated original plan for ACO would be to give the owner a penalty. Kelly Collins said she had spoken with WCAS and was told for the most penalties was paid at the shelter and very few citations so it didn't bog down the court system. Commissioners Sonja Culler and Bob Acuff agreed with Kelly Collins statement.

Mike Barnett asked Daniel Estes to discuss support of the animal shelter in the past and now. Daniel Estes walked through the numbers he had prepared. Daniel Estes said he is happy to share information to respective bodies to city and county. Daniel Estes explained the cost profile and breakdowns.

Chairman Mike Barnett asked if anyone had anymore had any comments for our board or visitors.

Chairman Mike Barnett asked Dr. Acuff if he could chair the Animal Shelter Board Meeting scheduled 9 Mar. 2021? Dr. Acuff stated he would be happy to chair the meeting.

Chairman Mike Barnett thanked everyone for joining the zoom meeting.

Next meeting scheduled 9 March 2021 @ 6 pm by zoom.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mike Simerly and second by Sonja Culler.

Approved

By: _____