

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 5:30 P.M.

March 27, 2023

Members Present:

Robert Trentman, Chairman
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Lonnie Mosley
Robert Wilhelm
Mike O'Donnell
G.W. Scott
C.J. Barecivic

Others Present:

Chairman Mark Kern
Herb Simmons, EMA Director
Ashley Jett, Animal Services
Dawn Blackwell, Belleville Area Humane Society

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Trentman.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

Public Comment:

Mr. Trentman: Please keep your questions or comments to about 2 minutes and direct them to this chair. Does anyone have anything? Anything, Dawn?

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes of February 27, 2023. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Ashley, what do you have?

Ashley: We are 93% save rate this month. We had a few more euthanasia for behavioral type issues than we normally do, but that's going to happen. They are finishing up the kennels. They have one more week of kennel repairs and then we will be done officially with the building repairs from the flood. The paint didn't stick, they didn't use the right epoxy-based paint, or they didn't prep it properly the first time, so we had to shut down portions of our kennels for about a week and a half and now they are working on the second part. So, we should be good after that, and we can move on from this. We had a total of 63 rescue transfers, I mean, 38 rescue transfers this month. So, we are pretty slow. We are trying to get animals out, but everyone is in a bind right now. Everyone is just trying to work with what we got. We have created a couple of newer programs at AC in the last month or so that we are trying to put into place, so we are kind of excited about that. We are offering a \$10.00 microchipping to anyone who has pets who need their animals microchipped. They come in, complete the paperwork, pay us the \$10, we microchip, we register them to the owners, and then they are good to go. They then have the capabilities of updating that information whenever they want to. We also are going to be doing the spaying and neutering of some of the long-time animals that have been at animal control to maybe help spark rescue interest or something, or potentially fixing them – getting to know the dogs a little better – and then maybe moving them to our adoption center after that. So BAHS is going to be helping with that and try to do 5 a week for us and hopefully we can get everything in the shelter fixed, we should be seamless, we shouldn't have any issues. It should be super beneficial. We also did create a heartworm treatment plan for adoption dogs. We have a lot of animals that come through animal control that are heartworm positive and we as the county cannot treat them because it is super expensive. It is also a long, drawn-out process of potentially 18 months before you can get a negative result for them. We came up with a plan through Gateway Pet Guardians, so they are going to help us with it, and we are going to do 2 dogs a month. So, 2 dogs a month that can go through the adoption center, and then the advocates are going to fundraise to pay for the cost of the heartworm treatment, and then the adopter is still just responsible for the adoption costs themselves. We had to come up with something. Animals are not moving out of the building as fast as they could potentially and if we have the capabilities of putting them through the adoption center – its always the super nice dogs that are heartworm positive and they are usually fully vetted and ready to go. We don't really have any money invested in them, so if we can get them out and get them to adoption. We have one test guinea pig right now to see how it works.

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Mr. Trentman: So, on the older dogs, you are doing the spay/neuter on them?

Ashley: So dogs that have been there since November of last year, that are not being pulled by rescue on the AC side.

Mr. Trentman: So, they will be 100% adoption ready.

Ashley: Yes, but minus a microchip, because we don't want to implant a microchip into them because then they will trace back to our facility, but that easy to do. They will have a rabies vaccination. BAHS has been doing their surgery, spay or neuter, rabies vaccination and then heartworm testing them while under anesthesia. Then if we want to move them over to the adoption center, they will be ready.

Mr. Hollingsworth: What kind of dogs are they?

Ashley: A lot of mixed breeds, but large breeds.

Mr. Hollingsworth: Probably pit bulls.

Ashley: Probably more on the pit bull side. Pretty much all large breed Pit Bulls for the most part.

Dawn: The spay/neuter will really help.

Ashley: Yes, with everything.

Mr. Trentman: It sounds like it will save the rescues a lot of running around, and taking them, well you have a vet now, so you do them in-house.

Ashley: It also kind of saves them time. Because even if they can pull them in like 3 weeks, and they are ready to go and their vet is on vacation, or if they have one of their transports that come in and they are booked up for the week but can still from other places, they just don't have surgery capabilities, it will help them eventually too, and

Mr. Trentman: That's a good idea.

Ashley: We are just trying to...

Dawn: There are rescues around here that don't have a vet, us, and Gateway, that's it. It would be a help for us.

Mr. Trentman: So how many are you teaming up with, how many are they going to do per week?

Ashley: They are going to do 5 a week.

Mr. Trentman: 5 a week?

Ashley: And it's supposed to be starting, she said give them until the end of March. So, I'm assuming we are going to start getting on their books for next week. They have already done one for me and that went pretty well.

Mr. Trentman: Great.

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Ashley: We also had a real long timer, she has been there since September, and she had entropion. Entropion is kind of where the eyelid folds and it has eyelashes that rub the cornea of the eye, so it causes irritation all the time. So basically, all they do is like an eye lift, they just tack it and go that way. So, we had her looked at, they diagnosed her, and then we ended up fundraising the money and we raised \$900 to cover her bill. So, we had her entropion surgery done last week on Tuesday, so she is good. She goes tomorrow to the vet to get her sutures out and then put her through the adoption center. She's a good girl. She's a big bull in a china shop, but she's a good girl so I think we can find her a place to go.

Mr. Trentman: Have you made any progress on, you were looking for some astroturf.

Ashley: Nothing yet.

Mr. Scott: I tried calling him last week and this weekend and he hasn't called me back.

Ashley: I'll look into that again too. The only other thing that I accomplished that I started working on when I started over at animal control or started my position at animal control – we have records for like 25 years. So, I have gone through the IL Documentation – and I just got my approval letter – yay! So, we can start destroying some documents. I have to apply and let them know what I want to destroy and then we will get with the auditor's office to get someone to come in, so that will give us a lot more room and I'll have one more thing checked off my plate. It's going to be a lot.

Mr. Wilhelm: That's a lot of stuff. 25 years?

Ashley: There are things from a really long time ago. It's the archives office.

Dawn: Isn't like 7 years to hold.

Ashley: Some of them are 7, some of them are 2, some of them are 7 plus 1. It just depends. It knocks everything down for you. So hopefully we will be able to get rid of some things that we don't need.

Mr. Trentman: Does anyone have any questions for Ashley?

Ashley: We have this...

Mr. Trentman: You want to talk about the resolution, is that what you are talking about?

Ashley: This is just an amendment to one of the ordinances that we already have and it's just to increase the registration fees for the county. It doesn't affect the spayed/neutered ones as much with the increase, but we did a larger increase on the registration of the animals that are unaltered. And our intent with that is – the more money that we collect on unaltered animals goes into our pet population fund which means that we can provide more spays and neuters, we can provide more TNR surgeries and be able to help the community as a whole. The more money that we put into the pet population fund the more surgeries that we can provide or vaccine clinics or anything of that nature, maybe even help with pet retention or things like that.

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Mr. Trentman: Can you go through the amounts?

Ashley: Yeah. So, it says: Every person who is or has been a resident of this County for thirty (30) days or more and who is the owner of any dog or cat, four (4) months or more of age, shall cause such dog or cat to be registered and shall pay an annual fee for such dog or cat. The annual fee shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) for each spayed or neutered dog or cat and Thirty-Five Dollars (\$35.00) for each dog or cat which has not been spayed or neutered when paid within twenty days of the annual vaccination date of the dog or cat. Annual fees paid later than twenty days, but before the forty-first day shall be Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each altered dog or cat, and Forty Dollars (\$40.00) for any unaltered dog or cat. Annual fees paid on the forty-first day or later from the annual vaccination date shall be Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for an altered dog or cat, and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each unaltered dog or cat. Ten Dollars (\$10.00) of the fee for unaltered dogs and cats shall be deposited in the State of Illinois Pet Population Fund. The original fees for spayed or neutered animals was \$10.00 and \$20.00 for intact animals. So, we raised it \$5 for spayed or neutered animals and \$15.00 for intact animals. So that would potentially be \$10.00 going into the revenue portion of it and \$25.00 going into the pet population fund.

Mr. Trentman: So, it's an advantage to have your pet spayed or neutered, right?

Ashley: Yes.

Mr. O'Donnell: How big of a piece of astroturf were you looking for?

Ashley: I can't remember.

Mr. Scott: A little over 3, 000 square feet. But it doesn't have to be that big.

Ashley: That would be for the entire back yard. We are just really looking for a piece to go behind the kennel area which I can't remember how big that is, but its about half, or a quarter of the total we are looking for. Just anything to cover the mud so we can get some sort of. It kind of goes down a slope and it sits like this, so it's, all the water just sits at the top and at the very bottom. So, it's just muddy all the time.

Mr. O'Donnell: I have a piece in the back of my truck, I don't know how big it is. It's folded. When we put some astroturf on the field at the high school there was a piece laying, so I grabbed it. Bob, do you have your truck here?

Mr. Trentman: I do have my truck here.

Mr. O'Donnell: You can look at it if you want. Check it out.

Mr. Trentman: Cover up the worst spot.

Ashley: yeah.

Mr. O'Donnell: It's not a real big piece.

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Ashley: That's totally fine for me. Just anything right now. Like I said I reached out to all the soccer fields because I know they replace their astroturf every couple of years, and I think we missed the year that they were doing it.

Mr. O'Donnell: This doesn't have any of the junk in it.

Ashley: That's good. We don't want all the beads and stuff. The rubber balls.

MOTION: by Mr. Barecivic to approve Ashley's report

2nd by Mr. Mosley

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: For ordinances and resolutions we have Ordinance 23-1279, Ashley just read it, are there any questions on it? Fees are going up a little bit. If we don't have any questions, I need a motion.

MOTION to approve by Mr. Scott.

2nd by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.

Mr. Trentman: Any other business to come before this board. Does anyone have anything? Ok. Thank you all for coming.

MOTION to adjourn by unknown.

2nd by unknown.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.