

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

February 24th, 2025

Members Present:

Robert Trentman, Chairman
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Mike O'Donnell
Lonnie Mosley
G.W. Scott, Jr.
Robert Wilhelm
Harry Hollingsworth

Others Present:

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman
Herb Simmons, EMA Director
Robert Allen, County Board member
Ann Barnum, Human Resources
Ken Sharkey, County Board member
Annie Markezich, Zoning Director
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
John Coers, County Board member
Matt Smallheer, County Board member
Marty Crawford, County Board member
Phill Henning, County Board member

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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: Is there any public comment? Please keep your questions or comments to about 2 minutes and direct them towards this chair. I'm not hearing anything from anyone. I need a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve the minutes of December 30th, 2024, meeting. Second by Mr. Mosley.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Reports from Ashley, our AC Director.

Ashley: So, we had a pretty good December. We brought in 96 animals and 100 that left. We had 25 adoptions, and we actually had a fair amount of return to owners. 13, which doesn't seem like a lot, but it really is compared to the 4 that we normally have. We were able to help with some owner surrenders and obviously able to intake more strays than we normally would do. We ended up with a 100% live release rate, or a little above a 100% live release rate for December. In your packet I have our December adoptions so you can all see the little babies that went home. We are picking up on a lot of adoptions here lately and December was a really good month for us and January looks like it is going to probably be close to that as well. As far as the end of the year goes, we also had a 100% live release rate. I don't know if you guys seen on our website but its just our year at a glance. We did pretty well. We transferred almost as many to the adoption center as we had leave the facility for rescue last year. So that was really good. We ended up with a 100% live release rate for the whole year. 25% of all intakes ended up getting transferred to the adoption center. That's really good for us as a hole especially with the amount of animals that we did have brought in. Just a couple of things that we had going on here recently; we had an animal cruelty-neglect case in Swansea that we had 12 animals come in – 9 of them being alive and 3 of them being deceased. I just want to say thank you again to all that were involved, especially the State's Attorney, Swansea PD, all of them who did a really great job at making sure this was handled properly and efficiently. We now have custody of the dogs and they are now available for adoption. We also had our ground breaking ceremony which was awesome. We are so excited, I'm so excited about it. Construction on the new building is going to start soon. I just want to thank everyone for coming that day and celebrating with us. We are very very excited to see what the future holds for us. I have Dawn here who is our, well Dawn has been with a couple of different organizations; sometimes she is here with others but now she is here with us. She is our new adoption center manager and she is over the adoption center. And then Eddie, do you have anything that you would like to add to our recap.

Eddie: We are just excited about the New Year and the new beginnings. Everything is looking wonderful and can't wait to get that new building going. Just excited about the future.

Mr. Trentman: Dawn, do you have anything that you want to add? What's going on with the adoption side?

Dawn: We have had a lot of traffic coming in and out of the doors. Sometimes people are thinking that we are the humane society and we are like no, but we have animals too and they will stay and see what we have. So, we have had a good amount of foot traffic. Even past the holidays, January, sometimes the adoption can kind of go down for adoptions in general and it seems to be looking well. So, things are going well.

Mr. Trentman: Do you have anything planned for this year? Any adoption events? Are you still thinking about things?

Dawn: Still in the plans of things, but we are looking to go to Tractor Supply. They reached out to establish a partnership to go there once a month.

Ashley: We have our first one scheduled for February 8th and then we will be going back to the fairgrounds for the flea market as of this month. Should be getting some foot traffic. They are really excited to have us back. I talked to her the other day and its green light for getting back in there.

Mr Trentman: Let me ask you something. What would be the process? Say someone found two dogs on the street and she has them at her house. What would be the process? She will get the spayed and neutered or whatever it takes. But how would she, and she would foster, how would we get her into the mix? Do we have to actually take the dogs on ourselves?

Ashley: We would have to have the space and capacity to do that. We do not have a foster program for strays so the only foster program that we technically have right now is for sick and injured, if we have to by temporarily taking them home, or nursing/pregnant moms, or puppies that are too small – things of that nature, just through the adoption center. Foster to adopts, or just trials where we do between 3 days and a week, maybe two weeks just to make sure that its going to be a good fit for your family. Without the animals physically being in our care, we rely on other organizations and their foster programs to actually have a working foster program to take on those animals. Then that would mean that they are responsible for the expense of getting the animals fixed.

Mr. Trentman: Someone reached out to me and I didn't really know the whole procedure. I kind of thought it was like that.

Ashley: If they would have called and had filled out a lost/found report or whatever the case, then we would add them to our waitlist and take them as we could but like I said, those 9 – hopefully they will move out of here soon, so we should have some more space. I definitely wasn't expecting nine dogs all at once. Large dogs too.

Mr. Trentman: Yeah, nine dogs all at once. Does anyone else here have any other questions for Ashley, Eddie or Dawn?

MOTION: by Mr. Greenwald to approve Ashley’s report. Second by Mr. Scott.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: We have no ordinances or resolutions. Any other business to come before this board?

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. O’Donnell. Second by Mr. Mosley.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.