

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

June 30th, 2025

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Sue Gruberman, County Board Member
Ann Barnum, Human Resources Director
Robert Allen, County Board member
Phil Henning, County Board member
Dawn Blackwell, Animal Services

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: Public comment. Please keep your comments or questions to about 2 minutes and if you have anything direct them towards this chair. Alright not hearing anything.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Scott to approve the minutes of May 27th, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

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

Ashley: Let's see here, so we took in a lot of animals in the month of May, we had 110 animals brought in. A few owner surrenders, mostly strays, some confiscations from abandonments, things like that. We did 14 adoptions; we put 14 animals into our adoption center. We've had our largest return to owner this year which has been 21 animals, so that's pretty impressive considering we've had about 4 every month from January to here, and we transferred 30 animals to other rescue organizations. Our live release outcome is 83%, so we're a little under that 90, but once again we're having more aggressive animals coming in and it's also our intakes as opposed to our outcomes work. We are down a little bit further, we didn't have as many leave as we've had come in. As far as animals that were transferred out, BAHS took 28. 6 of them were cats, 19 of them were kittens, and 3 were dogs. GPG took 1 dog and Partners for Pets took 1 cat back and it was one of their adoption cats, so it was one of their previous adoptions. As far as things that are going on next month, we've got an Empty the Shelters event coming up, so we've got that discounted adoption rate, so \$50.00 adoptions for dogs and cats from July 5th through July 19th. We also have our next clinic date scheduled for July 23rd. So, our May clinic, just for a recap, we seen 33 pets come in that day and our June clinic we had 39 pets come in that day. So, it's pretty good, we average about between 35 and 45 animals and that's me booking 3 animals every 10 minutes, because I like to stress everybody out. Our bite cases are absolutely out of control. In May we had 49 bite cases that we handled in our office and in June so far, I've received 43. That's been pretty consistent, in April we had 57. So, one animal control officer handling all the calls for St. Clair County, plus all the bite cases. It's a lot. I'm trying to think of anything else that we have.

Mr. Trentman: The building?

Ashley: The building is great. I was just there today. We had a meeting. The Department of Ag came too and she kind of walked everybody through the state requirements for having a facility and what kind of things we need to make sure that we have and what's required and what's recommended. Give them some ideas, so they were pretty happy with that. But we have floors, they poured all the concrete last week in the majority of the building. They are getting ready to do all of the radiant heat floors, we are just waiting on a couple of answers from our kennel supplier so we can figure out how the kennels are affixed to the ground because we don't want to puncture any sort of radiant heat lines or anything of that nature. So, we're just waiting on a couple of answers to see how those get attached to the concrete. But, it looks good, they just posted- if you guys aren't following Wright Construction on Facebook, follow them because they'll post like aerial. It's like once every 2 weeks they'll do like an aerial video with a drone and

it's pretty cool, you can see the progress. It's neat to watch. And I, of course share them, and the Chairman shares them almost every time too.

Dawn Blackwell: People can actually see this.

Ashley: Yeah, it helps for them to be able to see what we're doing and why we have a need for what we're doing. The only other thing that I wanted to kind of mention, we're going to have some change of staff. One of our part-timers is moving, so she is moving to Germany, so her last day was Friday. We've been chatting about getting a couple more part-time people to be able to help and I'll have another full-time position available and then I think we'll be able to fill our other warden position with one of our current employees if he decides to accept, so that'll be good and help Eddie and kind of alleviate some of his calls, his load that he has.

Mr. Trentman: Give him a chance to breathe a little bit.

Ashley: A little bit, yeah. A little bit. What else did I want to mention?

Mr. Trentman: If she's moving, if she wants I'll pay for 2 adoptions if she takes 2 dogs with her.

Ashley: Oh, she's maxed out on 3 cats. So, she's actually flying regular flights instead of doing the military flight over there and she's taking her parents with her so that they can take all 3 of her cats as carry-ons. I know isn't that- yeah. So yeah she's at her max, they can only have 3 in Germany. I don't really have much else.

Mr. Trentman: How about our volunteers? Do we have anybody showing up?

Ashley: We have a couple. I have a really good friend of mine who's been coming every single day and has been taking her lunch break and she's been taking an animal control dog for a walk every day for an hour. So, that's been great, we've been posting that all over our Facebook page hoping to get some more people to do Doggy Day Outs even if it's for an hour, taking them to the park. She's taking them to bicentennial so it's super close and she's been walking. She gives me videos and pictures, and we post them with a "come adopt him, he's perfect", or she likes this or whatever the case may be. So, it kind of gives people that- it's one thing seeing them in a kennel as opposed to seeing them out in everyday life. So trying to get them some exposure for some of our long-timers. We have one of our long timers from the adoption center going home this week and we had another one go home, so that's good.

Dawn: One from September when he originally came into the system and then-

Ashley: And then Jell-o is going home.

Dawn: Jell-O is the momma dog that had the puppies with us. It's her turn.

Ashley: Yep, it's her turn. She leaves on Thursday. So, that's pretty much all I have.

Mr. Trentman: What do you have Dawn?

Dawn: When she was talking about some of the volunteers; we've had a couple people now kind of create their own consistent schedule. We actually have some help this holiday. One of our dog walkers that comes in most Fridays of the month, Caitlyn, is going to come in and help walk dogs on the 4th of July morning so they'll be able to get a little more time out. She comes

routinely. We have some people that help us with laundry. We went to the Fairgrounds the past 2 months, we took our buddy, Luca, to get a little exposure of who we are, what we do and about how we want to have advertise a little bit more because we're right in the breezeway where literally probably 500 people come through that door. So, maybe a little bit more signage and stuff that I've been thinking about for the next one. There is WIFI access so we can use a laptop there so people can do things too, but people like us and they're excited about you know, people come up and ask us if it's our new building and there's people from out of town too. I think it's good exposure.

Ashley: It gets the pets out of the shelter for a little while.

Dawn: It's like a Dog Day out kind of thing. Gives us more information too. So that's been good.

Mr. Trentman: Do we- as far as the school year coming up September, end of August. Do we have anything - gear anything towards having some of the new kids, or maybe getting some of these animals to some schools?

Ashley: We haven't just because of staffing, you know it's kind of hard for us to do that. We do have the girl scouts coming on August 1st or 2nd, it's a Friday. So they have been grabbing information for what we need. We sent them our Amazon wish list, gave them a run down of homemade things they can make as a Girl Scout troop and what they can do to earn their badges and they're going to come for a couple hours and volunteer and we are going to do like a Q&A session and a free for all with dogs in the lobby and see who they like. They can just pet everybody, mess with the kittens and do things.

Mr. Trentman: If you can line up some, I can personally take them myself. A couple dogs that I can handle.

Ashley: Yeah, school field trips.

Dawn: I would say, start with the private schools. That's usually..

Mr. Trentman: I'm going to start with Henry Raab, that's right down the street from you guys. We can walk a couple down there.

Dawn: I used to work for an orthodontist, and sometimes they were kind of weird about that. Only the private schools would let you come in and give presentations during dental health month. But, it might have changed.

Ashley: I'll reach out and see. Maybe I can contact District 118 and see what kind of regulations they have or what they want.

Mr. Trentman: If you can line it up, I volunteer to take the dogs.

Ashley: Yeah, I'll look and see.

Dawn: Perfect.

Mr. Trentman: Okay. Ashley, is that all you got?

Ashley: I think so, I feel like there's something on the tip of my tongue that I want to say, but I can't remember.

Mr. Trentman: Are the air conditioners working well?

Ashley: Yeah, they are, nice and cold.

MOTION: by Mr. Wilhelm to approve Ashley's report. Second by Mr. Scott.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: Any other business, come before this board. Anybody got anything?

Mr. Hollingsworth: I got a question. Can a county board member adopt a dog there.

Ashley: Of course.

Mr. Hollingsworth: I've been wondering about that for the longest because I never did ask. So I guess this was my opportunity to ask.

Ashley: What are you looking for?

Mr. Hollingsworth: I'm looking at certain things.

Ashley: Inquiring minds want to know.

Mr. Hollingsworth: I want to get one for my friend because she lost one and she has been in limbo ever since. I think it would be nice for her so I'm thinking about bringing her in and me to look at something.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell. Second by Mr. Scott.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.