

ANIMAL SHELTER MEETING

MINUTES

December 19, 2022 – 2:00 PM

PRESENT

Tim Fitzgerald, Augusta County Administrator

Mike Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager

Leslie Beauregard, Staunton Interim City Manager

Jon Hilbert, Interim Shelter Director

Candy Hensley, Assistant County Administrator

1. Minutes were presented and approved. Minutes are attached.
Motion: Hamp Second: Beaureard Approved
2. Mr. Hilbert gave an update on hiring. Two, full-time kennel attendants have been hired. Currently hiring for one full-time clerical position, three part-time kennel attendants and one part-time clerical person.
4. Mr. Fitzgerald gave an update on the population report, which is attached.
5. Mr. Hilbert updated the owners and those in attendance. The Interim Director's Report is attached.
6. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed a list of items that have been completed since July 1, 2022 as well as items that are planned. The list is attached.
7. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated we are working to get all animals vaccinated and spay/neuter as quickly as possible. There have been some issues in the fall with a full shelter, staff sickness, etc. We are working towards having the protocols in place and completing this need.
8. The public in attendance had various comments and questions.
 - a. Why is the SPCA is being used for spay/neuter and not Angles of Assisi? Mr. Fitzgerald shared that we are making the change because there are concerns with care of the animals, travel time for the animals and risks, and staff's time involved in travel. The shelter and SPCA have an agreement moving forward.
 - b. County is going to lose a \$30,000 grant because we do not have a spay/neuter program. Mr. Hilbert shared the grant is not lost and we are still working on the details for submittal.
 - c. An animal care assistance program is recommended. This should involve the community, animal control and the shelter. There was a question on what have the owners done to work together, insure continuity of all parties.

- d. Friends of the Shelter has taken in approximately \$100,000 for animal care that is outside the shelter's budget.
- e. There should be someone in charge of the volunteer program. It is underutilized. A paid person is recommended for this.
- f. How often are managers at the shelter? Mr. Fitzgerald indicated he is there approximately once a month.
- g. Is there a timeline on hiring the vacant Outreach Coordinator's position? It was indicated a person would be hired as soon as possible.
- h. A suggestion was made to have night meetings to allow the public to attend easier.
- i. There were concerns about the number appointments moving forward to get animals spay and neutered timely. Mr. Hilbert and Mr. Fitzgerald indicated there are plans to get this taken care of as soon as possible and prior to animals being in adopt to foster programs or taken out into the public.
- j. A volunteer program needs to be in place. Potential volunteers are not being contacted back after filling out applications.
- k. There needs to be better animal bios on social media.
- l. Dogs should be exercised at least twice per day.
- m. The public should not be allowed in the dog kennel area. It is not good for the dogs and it stinks. There was a suggestion to have a TV in the lobby to show case animals up for adoption.
- n. Staff needs to be able to recognize behavioral traits and be able to match animals to the person.
- o. There needs to be a meet and greet area.
- p. Hire staff that is knowledge about animals.
- q. Have competitive wages for staff.
- r. There needs to be a person experienced with grants. Mr. Hilbert indicated he has experience in writing grants.
- s. We should educate citizens on how to keep pets in their homes. I.e. help with expenses and behavior issues.
- t. Staff does a great job with pet retention.
- u. There needs to be a microchip program.
- v. Where do the donations go? All donations should go towards the animals.
- w. ADA has \$10,000 available to the public in 2023 for spay and neuter.
- x. By law, the shelter does not need to intake cats.
- y. There is not enough room in the existing shelter.

8. Mr. Fitzgerald announced that the owners will be moving forward to establish a new municipal shelter located at the current Verona Elementary School. We are in the very early stages and have an architect on board for design.

9. There was no closed session.

10. Next meeting – January 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM

12-19-22

Interim Director's Report:

Dr. Brandy Callison has been providing vet care for our dog population at the shelter over the course of the past three weeks. This is a needed resource for our shelter dogs and we are pleased with her work thus far. Dr. Callison is providing full assessments, including bloodwork, as well as Bordetella, Distemper, 4DX, and rabies vaccinations. Dr. Callison has included foster dogs into her schedule as well, to help us catch up from the past few months where we experienced a significant amount of staff turnover.

Dr. Stacey Reeder continues to provide excellent care for our cat population.

We are currently hiring for one FT and three PT Kennel Attendant positions, a FT Administrative Assistant, and a FT Outreach Coordinator. Staffing the shelter with dependable staff is our top priority at the moment.

Tracey Meadows networked with a local rescue organization and coordinated the transfer of ten of our cats to Richmond Animal Care and Control. I'm personally thankful for Tracey's dedication to the shelter and her resilience.

SVASC staff participated in both the Waynesboro and Stuart's Draft Holiday Parades. Both staff and shelter volunteers helped initiate this community minded project, and were happy to showcase several of our dogs on the floats.

Our Saturday event at the Staunton Petco allowed seven cats to go to permanent homes.

WHSV provided one news piece on 12/12/22 that highlighted the need to adopt from us.

Blauch Brothers completed a scheduled project on 12/1 and 12/2. The shelter experienced a severely clogged drain beneath the dog adoption floor. Hand augers and mechanical augers were unable to clear the clogged drain so we needed to have the concrete floor removed in small sections to access the buried pipe. Staff are very happy now that they do not have to use a shop-vac to clear the drain channel several times throughout each shift.

There have been questions concerning shelter operations. I would like to answer some of those questions. There are 23 dogs in our foster-to-adopt program. Less than 10 of these dogs currently need s/n. We are diligently working to correct past issues with timely s/n and other vet care. We have an agreement with the SPCA for s/n. Starting next month there will be regular days that s/n will occur. All of our pets will have the procedure asap. This includes 4DX testing and vaccinations. As indicated earlier we have veterinarians on board who are helping us with veterinarian care regularly. In addition, we are looking at our medical protocols and will be revising to include assessing the animal, when and what vaccinations will occur by staff and a veterinarian and when it is expected to occur after intake. We ask the rescue has to bear with us as we get these protocols in place and implemented. If rescues have concerns about our procedures, I as that you contact me and not the staff.

**Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center
Population Report
12/19/2022**

CAPACITY
46 Dog Runs
104 Cat Cages

Current Animals On Hand

Dogs:	84	Cats:	160	Other:	11
Foster:	49	Foster:	78	Foster:	4
Court Cases:	1	Court Cases:	0	Court Cases:	0

Year To Date Total Intakes

Dogs:	758	Cats:	781	Other:	65	Total:	1604
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Year To Date Euthanasia

		PERCENTAGE (live release)
Dogs:	39	94.85%
Cats:	16	97.95%
Other:	1	98.46%
Total:	56	96.51%

Year To Date Adoptions

Dogs:	279	Cats:	249	Other:	73	Total:	601
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Year To Date Transfers

Dogs:	74	Cats:	365	Other:	4	Total:	443
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Year To Date Return To Owner

Dogs:	337	Cats:	19	Other:	2	Total:	358
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Total Intake By Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Augusta County	896	56.52%
City of Staunton	417	26.31%
City of Waynesboro	272	17.16%

Total Save Rate Year To Date

96.51%