

**SPECIAL CALLED COMMISSIONERS &
ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING**

Jefferson County Public Safety Center, 300 E Main Street, Madison, Indiana

DATE 10-14-2022

Commissioner Ron Lee called the meeting to order, and led The Pledge of Allegiance along with Commissioner Robert Little, Commissioner David Bramer, Councilman Ray Denning, Hannah Fagen, Warren Auxier, and Dr. Joy Barron. Councilman Ray Denning attended the meeting via zoom. Those absent were animal shelter advisory board members Kathi Scroggins and Dr. Sue Stack. The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the current issues at the animal shelter.

Dr. Joy Barron started the meeting by stating that preventative care has not been adequate at the shelter. Dr. Barron has recently provided guidance to staff and assisted with training the staff on protocols and various veterinarian recommendations. Dr. Barron proposed the Animal Shelter Advisory Board be eliminated and the Director of the Animal Shelter report directly to the Board of Commissioners. A veterinarian oversight board shall be established to provide medical guidance to the Director and staff to ensure the Animal Shelter is medically sound and the animals are taken care of properly. Dr. Barron made mention that, in the past, local veterinarians faced harassment when trying to help the shelter. She also stated that she currently is facing harassment for her improvement efforts. Dr. Barron stated that the local veterinarians are in favor of establishing a committee or board but insisted that the overall organizational structure of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board be dissolved.

Councilman Ray Denning stated he has spoken with Mayor Courtney regarding a structural change of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board. Humane Society President, Warren Auxier also spoke in favor of an organizational change with the addition of a veterinarian oversight board, and with the Director reporting directly to the Commissioners. He will speak with the Human Society but believes the Society will also be in favor of this change. Hannah Fagen also agreed that the structure of the board is necessary for adequate vet care for the animals.

Warren Auxier recommended a request for services be created, regarding pricing on specific services from local veterinarians. Dr. Barron stated that she has had some conversations with local veterinarians about spay and neuter costs and will continue those conversations regarding a pricing schedule. Commissioner Bramer stated the commissioners will work to develop a request for services.

Commissioner David Bramer made a motion that a new interlocal agreement be created with the addition of a veterinarian oversight board. Commissioner Bramer also included in the motion that he will create a document for request for services as well. Warren Auxier stated that the oversight board meetings will be considered public meetings. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed. With this motion, the current interlocal agreement has been dissolved.

Dr. Barron has reached out to previous animal shelter employee, Tricia Parker about the current situation at the shelter. Shelter Director, Lindsay Stultz is out on family medical leave at this time, leaving the shelter without a person in management. Tricia Parker agreed to returning to the shelter as Interim Director, so long as the organizational structure of the board has been dissolved and the director report directly to the commissioners. Dr. Barron made a motion to appoint Tricia Parker as the interim director of the animal shelter. Warren Auxier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all those in favor. Dr. Barron will speak to Parker about scheduling a start date. In the meantime, the animal control officers will fill in the gaps and make sure the protocols set by Dr. Barron are in place. Hannah Fagen also stated she will continue to volunteer at the shelter from 4-6pm each day and will communicate with Dr. Barron if the need arises.

Other updates: Hannah Fagen said that Pet Point is being utilized daily by shelter staff. She is staying up to date with the staff every day to make sure they are adding information each day. Commissioner Little stated that the fence is being installed. Funding has been secured for concrete to be installed on the shelter runs, a new camera system, a new key card system for

entry, and cat room improvements. Hannah Fagen also spoke to Auditor Heather Huff about fund balances. Auditor Huff found an issue with credit card adoption fees that were not being appropriated to the correct fund. The boards thanked Auditor Huff for her findings. Warren Auxier discussed the necessity to look into the shelter run drainage. Currently, animal waste is being washed behind the current kennels. Auxier recommended a catch drainage for waste. Discussion followed with Commissioner Little on different solutions for the animal waste. Commissioners will look into other options.

Public Comments & Questions:

Julie Patterson: Requested explanation of the medical oversight board. Dr. Barron stated the medical oversight board will advise and oversee the animal shelter medical operations, which would make sure protocols are in place and being followed for animal care. With Patterson's TNR program, Patterson would communicate with the shelter director and/or the commissioners. Warren Auxier asked if the medical oversight board will also keep track of medical records for the animals and Barron confirmed that the medical oversight board will see to it that medical records and vaccination records are maintained in Pet Point by shelter staff.

Adam King: Questioned a guarantee if the new interlocal will succeed. Dr. Barron responded stating the involvement of the local veterinarians will oversee the medical operations and it will not be just the responsibility of just one person. King also questioned if a vet tech on staff, with experience, would be beneficial to communicate with the board. Dr. Barron stated she has spoken to other veterinarians that are involved with animal shelters. 4 out of the 5 that she spoke to have vet techs on staff. Dr. Barron agreed that employing a vet tech would indeed be beneficial. King also asked about a volunteer program and Dr. Barron stated that would be up to the animal shelter director. King spoke in favor of the need for additional funds in the animal shelter budget for operations and staffing. King questioned the open hours of the shelter. Dr. Barron stated that Wednesdays are now open to the public and this will be a discussion that will be had with the interim director. Later in the meeting, King asked about covers for the kennels. Councilman Ray Denning stated that the money may have been appropriated last year and it has gone back to the original fund. Hannah Fagen stated that donations may be available to be used for the covers. A previous employee had sent out a letter asking for sponsorship of kennels. Fagen is tracking down the letter that was originally sent to sponsors to make sure that money can be used for the kennel covers.

Tami Hagemeir: Recommended that the Madison Police Chief and the Jefferson County Sheriff also be considered as part of the medical oversight board to address animal control issues. Dr. Barron stated that the animal control officers are respected by all local veterinarians and will have those discussions with the board.

Mayor Courtney: Spoke in favor of the new direction that the shelter is heading and will collaborate with the commissioners and the veterinarian oversight board.

Commissioner Little: Gave kudos to the Council regarding funding for the animal shelter. Also made mention that carports might be an option for the kennel covers and will look into that.

Hannah Fagen made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Barron seconded. Motion passed.

ATTEST: _____
Heather Huff, Auditor

Ron Lee, Commissioner President

Robert Little, Commissioner

David Bramer, Commissioner

Ray Denning, Councilman

Hannah Fagen

Dr. Joy Barron

Dr. Sue Stack

Warren Auxier

Kathi Scroggins