



Forsyth County Animal Services Advisory Board

March 19, 2019

6:00 - 7:30 PM

5570 Sturmer Park Circle

Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Bill Cowan, Chair

Mitch Cromer, Vice Chair

Terry Jessup

Amy Pugh, DVM

Cristina Griffin

P.J. Lofland

Joseph Chrobak

Chad Griffin

Erin Turner

Michelle Connelly

Members Present

P.J. Lofland

Chad Griffin

Bill Cowan

Erin Turner

Cristina Griffin

Mitch Cromer

Michelle Connelly

Terry Jessup

Amy Pugh

Staff Present

Capt. Van Loveland

Tonya Ward

CALL TO ORDER

- The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Bill Cowan.
- Approval of meeting minutes January 16, 2020
MOTION: Chad Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mitch Cromer and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Priscilla Ivester commented during the discussion on the Board's future. She discussed her desire to see a wide variety of positions available on the Board so the Board could better assist Animal Services.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Rabies Clinic**
The rabies clinic which had been scheduled for March 14th was postponed due to public health concerns related to COVID-19. A new date will be determined. Staff was still able to make

spay/neuter vouchers available by having citizens come into the building one at a time on March 19th and more will be distributed on March 23rd. Thirty-two vouchers distributed so far.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***The Future of Animal Services Advisory Board***

Deputy County Manager Damon Sanders-Pratt was present and spoke to the Board. He gave a brief overview of the history of the Advisory Board and discussed past and current versions of the Board including Hearing Tribunals. He went on to talk about the changes at ASD and how that has affected the Board. Animal Services is a division of FCSO and the Sherriff does not report to the County Commissioners which changes the dynamic. There was discussion regarding the best way for the Board to communicate with the Commissioners> Mr. Sanders-Pratt said the Board could go directly to the Commissioners or he would be glad to act as a liaison between the two. Captain Loveland pointed out that Board works for the Commissioners and, as such, should communicate directly with them. Chad Griffin said he had questions regarding the appeal process, especially regarding PDD and DD appeals. He is concerned about dismissals. Captain Loveland explained that he cannot change the Board's recommendation on PDD or DD appeals. Mr. Sanders-Pratt stated that Board is independent, not appointment by the Sherriff. Bill Cowan pointed out that the Board is able to make recommendations to the Commissioners. There was further discussion of appeals. How appeals other than PDD and DD are handled, how to ensure impartiality. Captain Loveland reminded the Board that he sits in on hearings to ensure that the Board has all pertinent information needed to make an informed decision and he generally does uphold the recommendations of the Board on matters other than PDD and DD appeals. Mitch Cromer pointed out that he feels it is important that citizens be able to come and speak. There was discussion of whether the current method is fair to citizens and concern as to whether any Division Commanders who follow Captain Loveland will be as fair. There was discussion of Preventative Measures vs a stay of enforcement. Captain Loveland said he is communication with the County Attorney's office regarding these differences and having clarification.

There was discussion of being sure that seasoned Board members hear appeals and Captain Loveland pointed out that the Board has the capability to vote on procedures to ensure that new members observe Tribunals prior to sitting on one. PJ Lofland pointed out that it also should be easier to remove members who do not attend meetings. There was discussion of the procedure needed to do so as well as the fact that it would be preferable to having positions filled more quickly. Bill Cowan brought up his conversation with County Manager Dudly Watts who asked that new officer elections be put on hold for the time being and that Bill remain on the Board.

- ***Hearing Tribunals***

The docket and members for the Tribunal Hearings for April 16th was discussed. Amy Pugh, Erin Turner, and Cristina Griffin said they were available to serve in April.

- ***Rabies Vaccination Laws***

Due to likely length of discussion following previous lengthy discussion, it was proposed that this topic be postponed until the May meeting. Mitch Cromer made a motion to table the discussion which was seconded by PJ Lofland. The Board voted unanimously to table.

- ***Annual Report***

Captain Loveland presented the 2019 Annual Report. The statistics in this report are from the 2019 calendar year. He stated that euthanasia is down due to FHS taking over this task in July 2019 except for wildlife or emergencies. He also pointed out the citation numbers are down due to a push to educate rather than just citing citizens.

- ***Pet Licensing***

Captain Loveland let the Board know that he has met with County Attorneys as well as County Management regarding Pet Licensing. The original goal of licensing was to increase the spay/neuter rate but we realize at this point it is ineffective in this regard. There is a very low compliance rate within the county. He stated he feels strongly the licenses for Dangerous Dogs should remain but wanted to discuss with the Board their opinions on other licensing. The money from the licensing program is not funneled back into Animal Services but to the County at large. There was discussion of licensing vs having information on rabies vaccines, this is what is really important. Concern was expressed that receiving a "bill" for a pet license afterward would discourage some from obtaining a rabies vaccine for their pet. Captain Loveland stated that Dudley Watts had asked him to speak with the Board as well as local welfare groups to determine if the ordinance needs to be changed. He asked Board members to give this topic consideration.

ADJOURN

MOTION: With no further business Bill Cowan asked for a motion to adjourn. Chad Griffin made the motion, which was seconded by Erin Turner. Bill Cowan adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.