

North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District  
Pending Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
87 East 100 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

American Fork- Stuart Fore  
Cedar Hills- Chandler Goodwin  
Highland- Scott Smith  
Lehi- Chad Ray  
Orem- Karalee Johnson  
Orem- Kris Pease  
Pleasant Grove- Carl Nielson  
Saratoga Springs- Owen Jackson  
Utah County- Steve Alder  
Utah County Sheriff's Office- Yvette Rice  
Vineyard- Don Overson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Director- Tug Gettling  
Legal Counsel- Laramie Merritt  
Minutes- Janeen Olson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Alpine-  
Eagle Mountain- Tara Freeman  
Lindon- Orlando Ruiz  
Utah County-

**OTHERS ABSENT:**

**OPEN THE MEETING:**

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Yvette Rice greeted the members and opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m., she requested the new Board Members introduce themselves. Karalee Johnson stated she was promoted in November of 2023 by Orem City Police Department and with that she will be filling this position, also noting she loves animals. Stuart Fore advised he also loves animals and is currently over Investigations with American Fork Police Department and was recently appointed to fill in as their representative. Chandler Goodwin is the City Manager for the City of Cedar Hills, he previously served on the board about seven years ago and is happy to be back.
2. Prayer/Thought- Offered by Scott Smith  
Owen Jackson entered the room at 10:04 a.m.

**WORK SESSION ITEMS:**

1. No Items.

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**

1. No Items

**GENERAL MEETING ITEMS:**

1. **Public Comment-** Karen McCoy stated she is a residence of American Fork and pleased to see a representative here, after her sister lost a cat, she noticed not a lot of information available online to see where the animals that are brought to the shelter are picked up from, and a date and time, and she believes posting more of that would help owners locate their animals easier. Karen advised she volunteers, fosters, and donates and wants to try to make a difference, although she feels like she is being listened to, she doesn't feel like anything is being done referring to previous suggestions made such as looking into insurance for more volunteers, the possibility of a new shelter, and how to obtain funding, low cost

spay, and neuter clinics and minutes not being posted. She suggested having public comments at the end of the meeting so questions could be answered. Yvette thanked her for her comments and advised her of the process for making formal proposals. Also, in attendance from the public were Caroline Fox, Becky Halliday, Kirsten Halliday and Tom Sinnott??

2. **Review and approve Minutes from the October 26th, 2023, and the November 16th, 2023, North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District (NUVASSSD) Board of Directors Meetings-** Owen Jackson moved to approve the minutes, Scott Smith seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.
3. **Financial Report-** Tug advised it was good to see everyone after the holiday break and stated he sent out two months of Check Registers, November and December, nothing of note in either one but he pointed out both months contained employee bonuses for Thanksgiving and Christmas. He also stated that they have been spending a lot on medicines for the animals and that he will go over it more in the progress report. Moving on to the Monthly Financial Statement, it reflects 56.4% of the fiscal year has passed with total Income at 81.9% and Expenses at 44.2% which is favorable and just where we want both of those to be. Tug pointed out under Expenses, the line item of Supplies- Medicine and Vaccines is at 67.9% which is what he was referring to earlier, due to a couple of things we are battling right now. One of which is a canine respiratory illness going around the nation, Tug gave a brief overview of some of the symptoms and why it is considered a mystery illness at this time. It is costing us a lot to treat, noting medicines such as doxycycline and other over the counter drugs we have had to purchase. The cases we have had are not following the same symptoms reported such as, ours are not coughing as much, however they are prolonged in the amount of time it takes them to recover, Tug noted one dog "Molly" was ill for three to four months, however she did recover and has since been adopted out. So far it has not become nationwide, only about ten states have reported what is referred to as the canine infectious respiratory disease complex, for us it has been a daily battle with checking our dogs, isolating, and treating them. Tug referenced an article from the American Animal Hospital Association that sited the disease is most likely not new but how the dogs interact with humans and other dogs, including the fact that 23 million more dogs were adopted during the pandemic, disrupted vet care during COVID, and the frequency of vaccination to name a few of the reasons. Tug confirmed this only affects dogs not cats and is not isolated to one specific region of the nation. Chandler inquired if there is anything pet owners should be doing, Tug advised owners should vaccinate against everything they can, especially if they are going to be boarding them at a kennel. All of the dogs that enter the shelter are vaccinated, however it takes 2-3 days to build up the immunity in their system.
4. **Shelter Progress Report**
  - Physical Facilities- Tug gave an update on the air handler unit that we set monies aside for, the County approached Tug last November stating they were concerned about shipping and the price going up and wanted to purchase it then. Tug advised them to go ahead, however last week he was contacted by the County about the status of the order. It appears there was some miscommunication at the County level, and it did not get ordered, they advised they will get back with him with the current cost. In November they quoted \$34,244 we have \$50,000 budgeted, so we should be okay just depending on any price increase, shipping, and installation cost. With the switch to Utopia, neither the shelter nor the County have been able to make minor adjustments to the HVAC system online. As of this Tuesday, the company advised it should be fixed now we are just waiting for confirmation from the County it works.
  - We still have not been able to access the till system and other online connections, the Steering Committee with Orem City IT met in November of last year and will meet again in February, we are still sitting at 5<sup>th</sup> on the list to be addressed, we have been waiting now a year and half. Owen advised we need to be prioritized or look at contracting with someone else.
  - Personnel- Finally fully staffed, with lower animal numbers right now this will give us the time to get everyone trained before the numbers start to pick back up.
  - All city participation fees have been paid.
  - Operationally- Currently we have about 73 dogs and 71 cats, normally we have more cats than dogs, Tug stated part of the switch is due to the illness previously discussed that is causing delays on us being able to adopt the dogs out.

- The Humane Society put out a press release with the headline stating that animal shelters face an unprecedented 78% surge in abandoned pets in 2023, some of this can still be attributed to COVID.
  - We started tracking how many customers are coming to the shelter after 5p.m., right now the daily average is .71 persons after 5, not a lot but Tug still feels like it is a good option, and we will continue to track and stay open until then.
  - They have updated the shelters website with a counter going back ten years, showing how many animals have been placed in a new home, currently that count is at 14,979 and they will continue to update that every month going forward.
  - Tug will be meeting with SUVAS again next week, to continue the discussion on whether there is a need for another shelter, the logistics and costs involved or do we just need better practices to get the animals adopted out of the current shelters. He also stated they are reorganizing the Utah Coalition of Animal Shelters, with hopefully the first meeting in February, this will help the networking between other shelters and directors.
  - Tug gave a brief update on the Legislative Session and the bills associated with animals; HB130 Animal Fighting Penalties, HB145 Veterinary Amendments, HB249 Utah Legal Personhood Amendments, SB62 Dog Related Liability Amendments, Laramie advised that one doesn't really change the bill, the statute of limitations is still the same, it just clarifies it, and SB116 Eviction Notice Requirements.
  - The shelter has started to receive some of the restitution owed from the hoarding case, Provo City has sent around \$3,000 of the \$16,000 owed.
  - We have had three cases in the last few months where an animal was thrown from a vehicle, normally we get one every few years.
  - Tug relayed a situation with a dog that keeps escaping from the kennels, this is the same dog that previously was able to open one of the doors in the shelter, still working on trying to get the owner to come pick him up. He also advised the group of a theft case currently being investigated by Lindon Police Department and a hoarding case with Pleasant Grove City.
  - Tug reviewed the protocol for taking care of the animals in the shelter over the weekend.
5. **Other business-** a correction to a previous date relayed was made.
6. **Adjourned-** Scott Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Don Overson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

**CLOSED DOOR SESSION:**

1. No Items

Next Meeting: February 29th, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.