

**MINUTES OF THE UNTAH ANIMAL CONTROL AND SHELTER SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON** July 11, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., in the Uintah County Building at 152 East 100 North, Vernal, Utah 84078.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ed Long, Nile Mathisen and Debra Hamaker

**STAFF PRESENT:** Devin Cobb, Donna Long, Abbigayle Jackson, Angel Collins and Colt Atwood.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Morgan Batty, Quentin Johnson, Ritchie Anderson, Scott Chew, Brent Hamaker, Clay Batty, Lisa Wilson with Ouray Bird Refuge, Zane Tahgov The Ute Tribe brand inspector, Miles Hanberg with The BLM and Autumn Wagner from Best Friends Animal Society.

**WELCOME:** Debra Hamaker welcomed everyone to the meeting and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**STANDING BUSINESS**

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 13, 2025, MEETING:** Debra Hamaker asked if there were any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the minutes from the meeting. The Board had no concerns. *Ed Long moved to approve the minutes as presented. Nile Mathisen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mathisen, Hamaker and Long voting in favor.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE REMOVAL OF THE PREVIOUS SHELTER MANAGER CREDIT CARD FROM ZIONS BANK AND ADDING THE NEW MANAGER-:** Devin Cobb explained that because the shelter has acquired a new manager, she will need a bank card to fulfill her job duties. *Ed Long moved to approve this agreement. Nile Mathisen seconded. The motion passed with Mathisen, Long and Hamaker voting in favor.*

**HORSE ROUND UP- MORGAN BATTY-:** Morgan Batty explained the issues he's been having with estray horses around the Ouray bird refugee. He estimates over 100 horses to 40 – 50 cows. These animals are destroying hay fields they aren't permitted to be in. Most of these estray animals have no brands or identification. These issues have persisted throughout the years and continued to become worse with time. Scott Chew also mentioned the state has allocated money for this gathering and would like to see it done. Devin Cobb presented two quotes to the board. One from Sampson and one from Catoors both including help with helicopter. Devin Cobb stated a third quote was presented by Mike Richens but he would be without a helicopter. Zane Taguv stated that the Jenks have no range leases for these estray horses, and they are technically trespassing on tribal lands they reside on. Ritchie Andersen explained that unless these estray horses are claimed by someone they must be held at the expense of the special service

district. The Jenks usually take claim of these horses but won't do their due diligence with vaccinating and branding. Ritchie Anderson brought up the possibility of a contract being written between the special service district and the Jenks stating all stray horses captured be turned in immediately and sold. Nile Mathisen questioned where the cows came from and who would claim them. Ed Long had concerns about what the role of ACO would be in all of this and how this operation would be funded. Zane Tahguy mentioned that other entities that these stray animals affect i.e. oilfield, trucking businesses would be willing to donate funds to help fund this as well. Ritchie Andersen also stated that many employees from Deserado and the power plant have been stating against these stray animals. Zane also stated that if everyone teams up it could be faster and more productive. The board is concerned with the cost of this event and what will occur if the district runs out of funds. Zane Tahgov also requested a letter be written to the Ute Tribe as a notice the special service district is planning a horse round up. *Ed Long moved to approve this motion. Nile Mathisen seconded. The motion passed with Mathisen, Long and Hamaker voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF ONE OF THE HORSE ROUND UP QUOTES-:** The board agreed that more discussion was needed before the approval of a quote.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL DOG TRAP AGREEMENT-:** Angel Collins presented the new agreement. The board agreed this would benefit the district by implementing it. *Ed Long moved to approve this agreement. Nile Mathisen seconded. The motion passed with Mathisen, Long and Hamaker voting in favor.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CAT INTAKE FORM-:** Angel Collins presented the new intake form. The board agreed this would benefit the district by implementing it. *Ed Long moved to approve this agreement. Nile Mathisen seconded. The motion passed with Mathisen, Long and Hamaker voting in favor.*

## **PUBLIC BUISNESS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE HORSE ROUND UP-:** No comments were made.

## **POLICY & LEGISLATION**

***NONE***

## **MANAGEMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**The board agreed due to time constraints that the remainder of the meeting be tabled until August 8, 2025.**

**TREASURER REPORT-: Tabled**

**MONTHLY PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT JUNE-: Tabled**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT MAY 2025-: Tabled**

**DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENT JUNE 2025-: Tabled**

**ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS-: Tabled**

**SHELTER STATISTICS-: Tabled**

**DISTRICT ACTIVITIES REPORT-: Tabled**

**MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES & REPORTS: None**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further discussion, *Nile Mathisen moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned.*

ATTEST:

**X**

Chair-person

**X**

Secretary