

North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District

Board Meeting Minutes

January 29th, 2026

108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

American Fork	Ryan Archuleta
Cedar Hills	Chandler Goodwin
Highland	Scott Smith
Lehi	Chad Ray
Lindon	Orlando Ruiz
Orem	Blake Fenn
Orem	Kris Pease
Pleasant Grove	Carl Nielson
Saratoga Springs	Owen Jackson
Utah County	Steve Alder
Utah County	Yvette Rice
Vineyard	Eric Ellis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eagle Mountain	Fionnuala Kofoed
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OTHERS PRESENT

CEO/Director	Tug Gettling
Legal Counsel	Laramie Merritt
Minutes	Shaylee Wiser

OPEN THE MEETING

- Welcome and Introductions:** Yvette Rice started the meeting at 10:05 AM. She welcomed everyone and thanked the public for coming.
- Prayer/Thought:** Prayer offered by Chad Ray.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

- No Items:**

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- No Items:**

GENERAL MEETING ITEMS

1. **Public Comment:** No comments.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes from the November 20, 2025 Meeting:** Chandler Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2025 Board Meeting, Steve Alder seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Financial Report:** Tug Gettling
 - a. Check Register: Due to such a mild winter, the gas bill is a little lower than expected. The roof replacement bill was paid in November, in the amount of \$63,940.
 - b. Financial Report: 57% of the year has passed. Income is at 80% and expenses are at 49%. All city participation fees have been paid. Chandler questioned why the spay and neuter expenses are low; Tug explained it shows that animals are getting adopted and owners are not getting them spayed or neutered.
4. **Shelter Progress Report:** Tug Gettling
 - a. Facilities: The new roof is doing great, and no leaks have been reported so far. Security upgrades to a cellular communicator are complete and functioning well.
 - b. NUVAS is fully staffed after hiring one part-time Animal Care Attendant.
 - c. Animal Numbers:
 - i. There are about 27 dogs and 27 cats currently in the shelter, which is historically low.
 - ii. 63% redemption rate for dogs in December, with an 85% live release rate.
 - iii. 6% redemption rate for cats in December, with a 66% live release rate.
 - d. NUVAS received approximately 350 rehoming requests in 2025. Because animal counts are currently low, they have begun a trial period of accepting owner surrendered animals, which will be based on available space.
 - e. Events:
 - i. The Steps Recovery group has done some weeding and walked dogs.
 - ii. Students from the Rocky Mountain Elementary School donated bandanas and made thank-you cards.
 - iii. A Young Women's group donated adoption goodie bags.
 - iv. Nova Supports group did a tour.
 - v. The Boys and Girls Club donated some supplies.
 - vi. Ability First Utah is currently gathering donations for the shelter.
 - vii. Kris continues to pick up donations from Costco and other corporate groups; his help is appreciated.
 - f. There is a lot of interest in volunteering, and it is going well.
 - g. Three more rescue groups have become partners, so the list is up to 77 now.
 - h. The court hold on the three cats that have been at the shelter since July has come to an end. The defendants pled guilty and surrendered ownership of the cats. All three cats have been adopted.
 - i. NUVAS now has a Facebook page that is up and running. Comments have been disabled on the page so the shelter can focus on highlighting different animals.
 - j. RFP: The contract with Animal Shelter Services is currently being negotiated. The evaluation is expected to begin around February and last about 14 weeks.
 - k. Legislative: There are two new proposed bills worth mentioning.
 - i. Senate Bill 102: Will designate animal control officers as first responders.
 - ii. Senate Bill 201: Animal shelters in Utah may not euthanize animals unless they have contacted every other shelter and rescue group for every single animal on the euthanasia list, to see if someone wants to take the animal. Tug expressed some concerns with the bill, including increased costs for holding an animal for extra days, liability for dangerous animals, and community welfare and population control if feral cats are released.

5. **Other Business:**

- a. There was some discussion on the Vineyard Connector, and that it will be going right through the animal shelter. The board talked about increased traffic through the connecting cities, and the need to look for a location for a new shelter. The timeline is unknown, but appears to be coming soon.
- b. Yvette suggested adding the election of board members to next month's agenda.
- c. Laramie announced the retirement of his partner, Tucker Hansen. The firm will transition to Merritt-Egner Law, and he suggested the board discuss whether to continue with his legal services, or place a bid out for a new contract.
- d. Yvette reminded everyone the next board meeting will be on February 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

6. **Adjourn:** Yvette adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION

1. **No Items**

Next Meeting: February 26, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

PENDING MINUTES (subject to change until approved)