

**THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**
Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Thursday

October 15, 2020

Members Present:

Tom Westbrook, City of Ceres, Chair – Absent
Chief Richard Collins, City of Ceres Alt
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County – 9:20 a.m.
Joe Lopez, City of Modesto
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford - Absent
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson, Co-Chair

Staff Present:

Annette Patton, Executive Director
Martha Ruano, Business Manager
Daniel Solish, Deputy County Counsel

Jewel Warr, - Stanislaus Co. Alt
Adrienne Rios, Confidential

Guests and Dignitaries:

Supervisor Jim DeMartini

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Ken Irwin, Co-Chair.
2. **Roll call:** See above
3. **Public Comment:**

Michael Christian expressed his disagreement with Stanislaus Animal Services Agency's JPA Board meeting minutes referencing a Brown Act violation regarding online posting of the JPA Board agenda for the August 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Christian suggested Animal Services' staff to attend Brown Act training. He also recommended a review and update of the Board's By laws. He mentioned addressing, and/or implementing, a JPA Board meeting attendance policy for Animal Services staff. Mr. Christian pointed out that five (5) out of seven (7) seats of the Stanislaus Animal Advisory Committee are vacant and the committee has not held a meeting since January 2020. He discussed the legal case involving the dog Turbo, Rescues efforts to assist the animals in the shelter, and sought better coordination with Rescues and shelter staff.

Nancy Klein spoke about a dog named Cooper, animal ID 498466, brought into the shelter on August 2, 2020, as part of a confiscate case, tagged for rescue, and then returned to owner. Ms. Klein expressed her concern for Cooper and questioned why he was released to his owner and placed back in the same environment. She also stressed the need for the shelter to hire an

animal behaviorist and evaluator to increase the number of animals who are adopted. Lastly, Ms. Klein stated the JPA Board does not address topics brought up during public comment and requested the Board begin to address issues brought forth.

Angela Garcia stated she issued a complaint to the shelter and Board members regarding Cooper's return to owner. Ms. Garcia requested more information regarding the dog Turbo as she has many unanswered questions and lack of understanding of what occurred in the case. In addition, Ms. Garcia, stressed a need for more help and resources for animals deemed as aggressive dogs.

Nadia Borisova shared her concerns with a lack of response when emailing shelter staff. She urged staff to respond as quickly as possible as timely responses are in the best interest of shelter animals and offer rescues a better opportunity to assist. Ms. Borisova stated the shelter would benefit from having a licensed trainer work with animals to reduce stress. She also requested funds to be allocated to have proper assessments performed.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- A. Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2020.
(Modesto/Stanislaus County; 5/0)

5. Correspondence: None

6. New Business:

- A. Approval to Adopt the Amended Conflict of Interest Code for the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
(Hughson/Ceres; 5/0)
- B. Ratification of the Agreement for Professional Services with Dr. Sarah Cadwell and Authorization for the Executive Director to Sign the First Amendment to the Agreement
(Ceres/Hughson; 5/0)

7. Committee Reports: None

8. Informational:

- A. Financial Update: Martha provided an overview of the agency's September budget. Annette offered clarification on the correlation between dog licensing, canvassing, vaccination clinics, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. Operations update: Annette provided September's operations update.

C. Executive Director Report: Provided updates on DocuPet and recently confiscated dogs.

9. Member Referrals: None

Adjourned Regular Meeting at 9:54 a.m.

ATTESTED: ADRIENNE RIOS, Clerk
of the Governing Board
of the Joint Powers Agency
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency
State of California