

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**May 19, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson, Chair – Present  
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County– Present  
Scotty Douglass, Alternate for Joe Lopez, City of Modesto – Present  
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford – Present  
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson – Absent  
Alex Terrazas, City of Ceres – Present

**Staff Present:**

Sweena Pannu, Deputy County Counsel  
Jewel Warr, Alternate for Stanislaus County  
Ron Reid, Interim Executive Director  
Veronica Ayon, Business Manager  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairwoman, Merry Mayhew.

**1. Welcome:**

**2. Roll Call (Silent):** See Above

**3. Presentations:** None

**4. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**

A. Gail Tennis made a 5-minute public comment.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

A. Approved the Agency Board Meeting minutes from April 21, 2022 (City of Modesto/City of Waterford; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

B. Approved the Agency Board Special Meeting minutes from April 28, 2022 (City of Waterford/City of Modesto; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

**6. Correspondence:** None

## 7. New Business:

Item that was too late to add to the agenda before the required 72 hour posting time limits under Gov. Code § 54954.2(a)(1). Presented by Jewel Warr

Item 1A –

Motion to accept this Item too late for the Agenda under Gov. Code §54954.2(b)(2) (Stanislaus County/City of Ceres, 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

Item 1B –

Motion to Approve, as amended, the Appointment of Vaughn Maurice to the Position of Stanislaus Animal Services Agency Executive Director, Effective June 15, 2022, with a Starting Annual Salary of \$155,000; however, noting that approval by Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is not necessary and therefore will not be sought (City of Modesto/Stanislaus County, 5-0, City of Patterson absent).

- A. Motion to approve staff to request authorization to add an **Operations Manager** (Manager I/II) to the County's accepted positions allotted to Stanislaus Animal Services Agency (SASA), which would in turn result in the Joint Powers Authority Board (Board) allowing staff to amend SASA's Salaries and Benefits and Position Allocations by adding that Operations Manager and associated costs to Fund 6181 (Operations), Org 63584 (Administration) (Stanislaus County/City of Modesto; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

- B. Recommended

Motion to approve staff to add an **Account Clerk III** to the County's accepted positions allotted to Stanislaus Animal Services Agency (SASA), which would in turn result in the Joint Powers Authority Board (Board) allowing staff to amend SASA's Salaries and Benefits and Position Allocations by adding the new position and associated costs to Fund 6181 (Operations), under the ORG 63587 (Client Services) Motion to refer this item to the Budget Sub-Committee (City of Waterford/City of Ceres; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

- i. Motion to approve staff to add an **Accounting Technician** to the County's accepted positions allotted to Stanislaus Animal Services Agency (SASA), which would in turn result in the Joint Powers Authority Board (Board) allowing staff to amend SASA's Salaries and Benefits and Position Allocations by adding the new position and associated costs to Fund 6181 (Operations), under Org 63587 (Client Services) Motion to refer this item to the Budget Sub-Committee (City of Waterford/Stanislaus County; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)

## **8. Committee Reports:**

### **A. Executive Director Report:**

- i. Monthly shelter report and shelter statistics report reviewed. 242 dogs and 22 cats are currently at the shelter. The number of cats has increased due to kitten season. A lot of kitten preemies.
- ii. Significant push to stop taking in cats due to the number of dogs currently in the shelter. We have 188 kennels with 242 dogs. Kennels are doubled up.
- iii. Social Media coverage has indicated that we are killing dogs daily. We are not. Total number of dogs killed since 2/1/20-4/30/22-406 dogs euthanized. 294 were owner surrenders requesting to have animal euthanized due to sickness or bite dogs. Media coverage is inaccurate.
- iv. We recently brought back policy from 2018 asking people to take the dogs out of the shelter. We had one dog here for 6 months/183 days which is very unhealthy for the animal. Humane Society recommends no more than 35 days in the kennel for dogs.
- v. Last six weeks, we have not had to euthanize any dogs on the euthanasia list due to Rescue groups adopting the dogs on the list.
- vi. We are having little outbreaks of Parvo due to the capacity of the shelter. We are also having issues with splitting dogs up that are kenneled together. This is becoming an issue.
- vii. Thank you to the Rescue groups that stepped up and took dogs out of the Shelter.
- viii. Thank you to Gail Tennis for speaking today. We appreciate her involvement. Provided her with the Interim Director's phone number so they could schedule a date/time to meet and discuss her concerns.
- ix. Fielded a question about the timeline to get a dog spayed/neutered. We are facing problems with appointments being our further than we would like. Especially for foster dogs because we still own those dogs. If they get pregnant while being fostered, SASA must take those puppies. We offer them to adopt but leave them at the facility so we can fit them in to be spayed/neutered when other appointments no show. We are doing what can to expedite the limited amount of Vet time we have.
- x. We did reach out to the Rescue groups before re-establishing the euthanasia list. We worked with them, listened to them, gave them 6 weeks' notice that the list would be coming. We started at 5 dogs on the list but had to increase to 10 dogs due to the population in the shelter. We are starting to see a decrease in population due to reinstating this list. We also provide the Rescues a "Back 10" list that shows what dogs will be on the euthanasia list the following week. So, the Rescues have plenty

of time and notification to get dogs out of the Shelter. If the Rescues pull dogs off of the euthanasia list, we do not replace dogs and add dogs to the list.

- xi. With the JPA Boards authority, we identified a Personal Service Contractor for the social media position. Final interviews are tomorrow.
- xii. On the shelter statistics report, you will see non-partners such as Turlock and Out of County dogs. What happens is the shelter refuses to take the dog because they are not a partner citizen and then the party leaves the dogs in our parking lots or at our front door, so we end up taking the dog in anyway. So, that is why non-partners are listed on the shelter statistics report.

**9. Informational:**

- A. Scotty Douglas advised that the color-coding system currently being used at the shelter provides the Rescues with more time to pull the dogs out of the Shelter and makes it easy to identify which dogs are on the euthanasia list.
- B. Jody Hayes, County of Stanislaus, requested that the shelter provide a monthly inventory to the JPA Board. He advised that he is looking for a report that has trends over time showing shelter capacity. He requested to receive this report monthly. Interim Director advised that the person who does these reports is currently on medical leave, and we do not have staffing to provide this report currently. However, he is expected back on June 14, 2022. It is the goal to be able to provide this type of report when this employee returns.
- C. Alex Terrazas, City of Ceres, inquired if there is more the partners could do to assist with getting the word out for adoptions? Interim Director advised that the assistance the partners has been giving has been very helpful, continue to post/push out the monthly promotions. We are having good luck with our current promotions.

**10. Member Referrals: None**

**11. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 9:51am (Stanislaus County/City of Waterford; 5-0, City of Patterson absent)**

**Adjourned: 0952hrs**

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California