

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

Present were Commissioners:

Betsy Benac, Chairman
Vanessa Baugh, First Vice-Chairman
John R. Chappie, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.
Robin DiSabatino
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Robin Liberty, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court

Chairman Benac called the work session to order at 1:32 p.m.

AGENDA

BC20150212DOC003



1. **ANIMAL SERVICES MATRIX CONSULTING GROUP REPORT REVIEW**



Bill Hutchison, Public Safety Strategic Planning Manager, introduced Animal Services staff. Matrix Consulting Group concluded a consulting engagement related to the service provision by Manatee County Animal Services. He presented the Animal Services Matrix Report Summary offering 26 recommendations, priorities and funding implications associated with these recommendations, as well as the budgetary needs for short-term implementation.



Mr. Hutchison gave a slide presentation, highlighting objectives, recent changes at Animal Services, and save rates for the period of September 2014 through January 2015.

Joel Richmond, Animal Services Field Manager, explained the difference between the save rate and the live, release rate.

Mr. Hutchison continued with the slide presentation addressing facility issues, the 26 recommendations, additional best management practices, and critical observations.

Debra Starr, Manatee United 4 Pets, spoke on identifying neighborhoods where animals are not neutered. The next step is community effort to educate the public.

Discussion ensued regarding potential source of funding, Manatee County Animal Services is an open-admission shelter, differing perceptions of "No Kill" meaning, continue the Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) Program, educate the Public on TNR, publicize spay and neuter Programs, relationships with rescues, rescue agreements, pre-approval inspections, foster program, foster program with volunteers, adoption program with a satellite center, adoption incentive events, evening adoption hours, staff training, a free Pet Pages resource handbook is included in all adoption packages, behavioral and medical intake assessment, staffing adjustments, comprehensive shelter behavior assessment program, communications plan,

volunteer annual work program, field canvassing program, Animal Services Director Replacement, undertake a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a public private partnership (P3), re-evaluate Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB), Policy and Procedure Manual, staff training on policy/procedures, comprehensive staff training, and, the recommendation to fill the Dispatcher position.

Mr. Hutchison requested an in-house, contracted veterinarian to perform non-procedural specific work. The cost will be offset by a currently approved budget for professional services and by significant cost savings realized from not having to transport animals.

Mr. Hutchison addressed staff's short-term recommendations and priorities for FY2015. There is a request for a recurring \$180,000 prorated (March-September 2015), and a non-recurring \$60,600.

Laurie Crawford, Sue Kolze, and Debara Mathews commended Animal Services staff and asked that animals be protected.

John Marble stated it is time for the Animal Services facility to be upgraded.

Speaking in favor of the Matrix Report, the importance of an in-house veterinarian, micro-chipping animals, and the importance of volunteers were: Debra Starr, Julia Johnson, Charles Hamilton, Jean Palen, Agatha Mantanes, and Lori Falcetti, who also asked for a rabies clinic.

Mr. Hutchison stated the County can perform the micro-chipping but, an in-house veterinarian only can administer vaccinations.

Barbara Hines asked for reduced-size tags for smaller animals, spoke on Government in the Sunshine, and asked that a link be placed on the Animal Services website for Animal Network.

Mr. Hutchison suggested Ms. Hines get her cats micro-chipped.

Katherine Morningstar spoke in favor of Recommendation 20 – Animal Services Director Replacement and requested clarification of Recommendation 21 regarding the RFP process.

Debra Glow was present, but did not speak.

Lorie Gurley asked for a citizen-friendly Animal Services sign at the facility, and suggested holding an animal adoption event at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars facility.

Crystal Lee questioned the protocol for animals that come in with a heart worm problem.

Mary Lupey suggested a free spay/neuter program.

Philip Brown, President of United Way, endorsed the RFP process for a public private partnership.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Benac closed Citizen Comments.

Commissioner Whitmore recognized Dr. Luke Berglund, Beach Veterinary Clinic, for his services.

Karen Windon, Deputy County Administrator, stated an item will be on the next Board meeting agenda regarding funding the short-term needs. The long-term needs will be part of the budget process later in the year.

BC20150212DOC004

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the work session at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____