

Minutes of Animal Control Facility Study Ad Hoc Committee

Call to Order:

The Animal Control Facility Ad Hoc Committee held its weekly meeting at the Waterford Town Hall on **May 9, 2011** at 5:30 p.m. Co-chairperson Margaret Ormond called the meeting to order.

In attendance were:

Margaret Ormond
Lt. Jeffrey Nixon
Robin Perkins
Yvette Savoy
Toni Bingham
Michael Glidden
Diane Amburn

Absent members:

Lee Carpenter

Approval of Minutes:

Lt. J. Nixon motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2011. R. Perkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer D. Amburn reported that there are currently \$7,052.68 in the New Animal Control Facility Fund. In addition to many generous donations from individuals, \$4,060 was raised from a fundraiser run by Quaker Hill second graders.

New Business

A. Guest Speaker-Margaret Ackley, N.L. Chief of Police:

Co-chairperson M. Ormond, welcomed Chief Ackley, as well as, Waterford Chief of Police, Murray Pendleton and Waterford First Selectman, Dan Steward, and provided some background information on the committee which included our current regional ACF status with East Lyme. She also noted that initial regionalization discussions began with

New London when Special Advisor to the City Manager of New London, Keith Chapman, contacted our committee. M. Ormond also invited Chief M. Ackley to share New London's ACF philosophy, administrative information on N.L. facility such as facility size, adoption policy and any other issues.

A summary of information that Chief M. Ackley shared includes:

- Keith Chapman was asked by the City of N.L. staff and officials to contact our committee to gather regional ACF information
- N. L. is working with more of a "city environment of animals", which can pose different issues, including more crime situations that involve dogs.
- N.L. ACO Captain Michael Lacey handles the day to day management of the ACF and that her "administrative style is not to micro-manage." She suggested inviting him to our committee meeting. M. Ormond pointed out that invitations have been extended to Captain Lacey, but he has not agreed to attend yet. The Chief agreed to "extend our invitation to him personally when he returns from medical leave."
- N.L. follows CT state laws pertaining to the ACF policies but must also maintain their rights as a municipality so to benefit N.L. She added that N.L. may be willing to consider other ACF related philosophies.
- Chief Ackley also expressed that she would like more information on Waterford-East Lyme's ACF policies sent to her (committee members briefly discussed the Waterford-East Lyme focus on saving animals and adoption. This often requires fundraising, soliciting donations and animal fostering from citizens and charitable organizations and donated or reduced-cost services from local vets).
- Chief Ackley explained that the Public Works director of N.L. is working on decision issues pertaining to an ACF such as location. so that the needs of N.L. are met. It has not been decided at this time, whether an independent or regional facility with Groton or Waterford-East Lyme would be the optimal choice. (First Selectman Dan Steward pointed out that Waterford will need to know N.L.'s needs, which will require animal numbers and therefore kennel requirements to better understand the impact should N.L. choose to request a regional arrangement with Waterford and East Lyme.)
- Chief Ackley indicated that ACO Captain Lacey would be the best resource for ACF statistics.
- N.L. currently has \$150,000 budgeted for ACF new construction/ renovations. The current facility is old, needs many improvements, and is undersized. There are often approximately 3 dog bite calls per week, many roaming dog calls-which are resolved with dogs being returned to

their homes. They do not currently house cats. In cases of overage, N.L. dogs have been temporarily housed in Waterford-East Lyme and Groton facilities in the spirit of cooperation, which has worked well.

- N.L. has made efforts to adopt out animals and has used advertising to find homes for dogs. They do not follow a strict "number of days housed" limit for their euthanasia decisions. N.L. assistant ACO's work very hard and care deeply about the animals in their charge.

- Chief Ackley will work with Captain Lacey to arrange his attendance at one of our future meetings.

M. Ormond reviewed the items that would need to be shared in a regionalized ACF agreement; included were: overall facility cost, overhead costs and ACOs salaries. The ACF would be located on Waterford town property, preferably in the center of town near the police station, and Waterford would hold the title.

The committee will follow-up sending additional information to Chief Ackley on the Waterford-East Lyme ACF policies.

Lt. Nixon agreed to send our policy.

On behalf of the committee, M. Ormond thanked Chief Ackley, Chief Pendleton and First Selectman Dan Steward for attending the meeting.

Old Business

A. Fundraising Brochure:

Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward distributed preliminary copies of fundraising brochures printed by the town printing office, using a new PDF version kindly provided by Christopher Bryer. Formatting into a PDF decreased the clarity of the photos included, so Y. Savoy will work with C. Bryer to revise the brochure to improve the photo quality.

Dan Steward indicated that printing cost will be 14 cents per copy. Waterford and East Lyme have approximately 8,000 households each. Discussions around funding printing costs will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. was made by Y. Savoy and was seconded by R. Perkins. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Savoy
Secretary