

# Minutes of Animal Control Facility Study Ad Hoc Committee Special Meeting

## 1. Call to Order:

The Animal Control Facility Study Ad Hoc Committee held their meeting at the Waterford Town Hall on **August 31, 2015** at 5:36 PM. Co-Chairperson Yvette Savoy called the meeting to order.

### In attendance were:

Yvette Savoy  
Robin Perkins  
Chief Brett Mahoney  
ACO Robert Yuchniuk

### Absent Members:

Also in attendance were Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward, Town Attorney Rob Avena and committee alumni Toni Bingham of East Lyme.

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## 2. Public Comment:

Joyce Meehan of Waterford submitted the following written comments/questions:

1. Current funds in acct? How much has been spent to date? 2. What are these funds going to be used for? Will funds be co-mingled? 3. Is there an agreement with state/DOC? When can we see it? 4. How much is shelter going to cost? How much each town portion? 5. Who is paying for site work survey study etc? Will all work be bid out? 6. Does state own all the land? In earlier FOI there was a portion of land that was privately owned it would require a use variance? Will state buy this land? 7. Commitments in writing from towns involved that they are committed to venture. Do you have them? When were they sent? Has East Lyme approved? 8. Who is going to oversee funds when Ad Hoc is disbanded? 9. When will new MOU be drawn up and with what towns? 10. Who is going to answer these questions and will they be posted and answered on ad hoc minutes? 11. Will Waterford bid out of DOC bid out? 12. Will this be bonded by state, Waterford, who? 13. How much will East Lyme pay? % 14. Recently requested a FOI and ad hoc and animal shelter. I was sent some things. Has this been completed as per my FOI request?

Kerri Kenyon, owner of Mystic business, Black Dog, commented that 10% of daily events go to the new ACF building fund, as well as, any monies raised from fundraisers and if she doesn't like what she hears at tonight's meeting, those donations from her business will end.

## 3. Approval of Minutes:

Yvette Savoy motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015. Robin Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report:**

Yvette Savoy reported that the new ACF building fund balance is \$202,618.20 as of July 31, 2015.

**5. Old Business:**

**A. Assessment of Proposed New ACF Sites:**

Chief Brett Mahoney distributed a memo dated August 24, 2015, that was previously emailed to Dan Steward and Yvette Savoy. Summarizing, the memo outlined the recent efforts in identifying potential sites for a new regional animal control facility. Correspondences from Waterford's Director of Planning, Dennis Goderre, in April/May 2015 concluded that there were no appropriate sites within Waterford that met town criteria.

Correspondences in June 2015 with East Lyme First Selectman and Planning and Zoning, indicated that their town also could not identify an appropriate site. Similarly, Montville Mayor Ronald McDaniel stated that suggested sites were all rejected and "With the new ACO responsibilities including ALL domestic animals, a partnership with the Department of Corrections seems even more logical where we can maybe utilize both prison sites for their programs with one central location for dogs."

Chief Mahoney concluded with his recommendation to move forward with the regional animal control facility at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Facility in Montville.

Yvette Savoy shared information from the documentary "Dogs on the Inside", which is currently streaming on Netflix. The film consists of interviews with inmates, prison administration and dog behavior and training experts who are involved in an inmate dog fostering/training program at a prison in Massachusetts. Dogs benefit from round the clock loving care and positive training techniques that inmates are taught, which helps with any behavioral issues and greatly increases their adoptability chances. Inmates learn patience, compassion and to trust, and see improvements in their communication with people too. No violent offenders or those convicted of animal abuse are chosen for the program. This inmate/dog fostering program, like so many across the country, produce impressive results for both dogs and inmates.

No further discussion ensued.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Motion to Vote on Committee Approval of a New ACF Site**

Yvette Savoy made a motion to select property at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Facility in Montville, CT as the Animal Control Facility Study Ad Hoc Committee's endorsed site for our new regional animal control facility. Robin Perkins seconded the motion. Chief Brett Mahoney voted in favor, ACO Robert Yuchniuk was opposed. Final tally was 3 in favor to 1 opposed, so the motion was passed.

Committee alumni, Toni Bingham of East Lyme was asked by Chief Mahoney if she was in favor of the site selection, and she said yes.

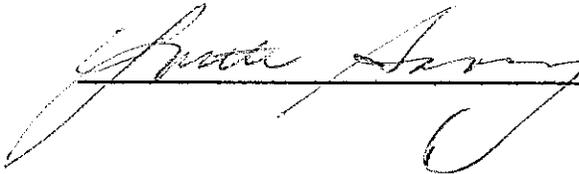
Waterford First Selectman, Dan Steward commented that now approvals would be needed from appropriate town boards and committees of the 3 towns involved in this proposed regional project, those being Waterford, East Lyme and Montville. All will be public meetings, and those meetings are the appropriate venues for most of Joyce Meehan's questions. Discussions with representatives of agencies of the State of CT would also be needed.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Yvette Savoy at 5:57 PM. The motion was seconded by Robin Perkins. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvette Savoy, Waterford East Lyme Animal Control Ad-Hoc Committee Co-Chairperson

 9-3-15