

St. Clair County Animal Services

Minutes for Meeting

Conference Room: 6:00 P.M.

January 26th, 2026

Members Present: Robert Trentman
Scott Greenwald, Asst. Chairman
Mike O'Donnell
Lonnie Mosley
G.W. Scott, Jr.
Robert Wilhelm
Harry Hollingsworth

Others Present: Robert Allen, County Board Member
Phil Henning, County Board Member
Lexi Cortez, Belleville News Democrat
Mark Kern, County Board Chairman
John Coers, County Board Member
Matt Smallheer, County Board Member
Ann Barnum, HR
Dawn Blackwell, Animal Services
Greg Norkus, Probation Department
Debra Moore, County Administrator
Chris Allen, State's Attorney

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Trentman.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call and a quorum declared present.

Public Comment:

Mr. Trentman: Public comment time. Please keep your comments or questions to about 2 minutes and if you have anything direct them towards this chair. Anybody have anything to say? Alright moving on.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mosley to approve the minutes from December 15th, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Scott

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Ashley Report

Mr. Trentman: Report from Ashley Jett, our AC Director.

Ashley: So, for the month of December, we had a pretty slow month. We did bring in 60 animals total in the month of December, we had a lot of outcomes for the month of December, so 86 animals actually left, which was slow but not slow. It ended up at 84.3% live release rate, just with the way that the numbers panned out. We handled, we had 27 adoptions in the month of December, which was great. The adoption center listed in the back of your packet, you'll see all the little smiley faces that got to go home. We ended up at the overall for the year at 91% live release rate, so ultimately our goal is 90% and above. We managed and maintained that, so that was obviously what we were looking for. We are continuing to handle lots of bite cases, owner requested euthanasias, things of that nature for our community. We handled 57 bite cases in the month of December which doesn't seem like a lot, but it is a lot when we have 1 warden. We are training another one of our animal care assistants; he took our 2nd animal control officer position, so we do have a 2nd animal control officer doing his ride-alongs, his trainings, and he is going to start his animal control training next week. We just had a couple- trying to fill in the blanks with people - working employees. With that being said, we're filling positions, we have 2 new people on the radar to hire so we should be at capacity again here real soon. As far as everything else goes, we're just everyday taking in stride. It's busy, the weather is not being really nice right now so we're handling a lot of humane cares and seeing a lot of things. I tried to make sure we can still go out on a daily basis, actually handling a hoarding situation right now with a lady in Belleville, who has 30+ dogs. On top of terrible weather, it's also a hoarding situation which doesn't work well with our kennels. Our animal control new building meeting got canceled today just due to weather, working inside obviously not working outside and then we'll resume normal meetings next week. Everything is still on track with the new building, still hoping for a late June/July entry, and making sure that everything is good there.

Mr. Trentman: How'd your fundraiser go?

Ashley: It went very well. We made just shy of about \$15,000. It was great.

Mr. Trentman: You had some dogs down there, didn't ya?

Ashley: We did.

Mr. Trentman: Any leads on any perspective?

Ashley: A couple but nothing crazy. But it was good for us to get our dogs out there and make sure that we are making a presence out there. Making sure that we're getting out and about. We will be at the Tye-Dyed Iguana in a couple weeks with Matt and his event, so we're excited about that. Then we have a slumber party coming up in April, then we have glo-bingo in May. Big things and just trying to get our names out there and do all the fun things. That is all I have for as far as numbers.

Mr. Trentman: Dawn, do you have anything to add?

Dawn: We had a pretty good December as a whole. Problems with PetFinder as it was down as a whole, and we had the Bissel promotion going on. Not as much traffic as we normally get, but we were still able to get a lot of dogs into homes. The fundraiser went really well like she said, felt like it was a different kind of exposure for us, and it was a nice gesture for them to you know fundraise for us because, (inaudible). I'm just always looking at like which dogs we take, let's take these different ones, and every single dog did amazing. They all just- I couldn't be happier with the way everybody did. Looking forward to doing more events like that, and like she said with the Tye-Dyed Iguana coming up and going from there and when this weather breaks, we have some other opportunities out there too.

Mr. Trentman: If there's nothing else. I need a motion.

MOTION: by Mr. Scott to approve Ashley's report. Second by Mr. Greenwald.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Trentman: Any other business to come forward? I'd like to add that a friend of mine donated some money for straw, and we took the second load down to Gateway Pet Guardians Friday. The ESTL public works department ran the whole show, their guys came down and gave the straw away, and I sat back and watched them. I just delivered the straw. We dispersed about 60 bails and put the rest in storage and as they need more I will go get some more. Does this committee have anything else?

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell. Second by Mr. Willhelm.

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Motion carried.