

**Minutes of the Oconee Co. Animal Control Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

**7:00 pm Oconee Veterans Park**

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Tom Beacorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Susan Wells, Claire Hamilton, Phil Freshley and Janet Calpin. Animal Control Director Catlyn Vickers was also in attendance. Motion made by Calpin to call the meeting to order and was seconded by Freshley.

**2. Approval of Minutes, (10/8/16):**

Motion was made by Wells to accept the minutes as recorded and was seconded by Hamilton. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Director Updates (Case Docket, Budget, etc):**

Vickers reported that the judges have been sending defendants to the shelter to perform community service in lieu of a monetary fine. She stated she is grateful for the help, even though end-of-the-month revenue may be down.

Vickers said she just recently received the new budget forms and she is currently working on them.

Calpin complimented Vickers on the revision of the monthly report document. The data are much clearer now.

**4. Review Progress of the Animal Shelter Feasibility Study**

Vickers clarified the concern that location was not a part of the feasibility study. The main issue is that the county needs a new shelter. Mr. Tevis will present his concepts to the Board of Commissioners on February 28 at 7:00 PM at the Commissioners' Meeting. Vickers encouraged members of the Animal Control Advisory Board to attend this meeting.

Beacorn said that in several places in the study it was stated that it would cost more to renovate the existing facility. He asked if there was a cost break out for this. Vickers stated this was not requested as a part of the current study and that Mr. Tevis may cover this at the BOC meeting later in February.

The square footage of the new facility (9300 sq ft) was not requested by the county, but was based upon projected animal population that Vickers calculated using actual animal population data from 2013 through current figures. The additional space would be used for various venues (animal interaction rooms, conference room, etc.).

Vickers stated that location of the new facility is the important issue. She would like the new facility in a more accessible location--easier access for volunteers and visitors.

Wells asked for clarification on the projected number of animals used for the study. Vickers replied that these numbers included intake, fosters, and adoptions.

Additional discussions were made concerning the total cost of the new facility and on the declining trend in raw intake data (decreasing numbers from 2014 to 2016) vs Tevis' assumption that there will be a linear progression that as human population goes up, animal intake numbers will go up. Vickers stated that the animal intake data are based on Oconee County-sourced animals only, we do not intake animals from other counties. Vickers suggested that a list of questions be sent to her that she would forward to Tevis to answer at the BOC meeting.

Comments were made on expansion of numerous other rooms (conference, animal interaction spaces) may not be as important as the building a facility that stresses improvement in the animal welfare, health, segregation and safety issues, providing adequate storage space, proper drug storage etc.

#### **5. Public Education, Assistance, Fencing, Spaying & Neutering (updates):**

It was agreed by the Board and Vickers that this item should be deleted from the agenda as it was something that was investigated by a former Board member and no further action has been taken since that time.

#### **6. New Business**

Vickers reported that she is working on updating the SOP manual.

Vickers reported that she attended a department heads' retreat with the object to consider future goals. She would like to change the official name from Animal Control to Animal Services.

#### **7. Public Comments**

Several members of the public re-emphasized the need for a new animal shelter, space for functions, for a better location to make the shelter more accessible to the public, the importance of the foster group and the adoption program. Vickers read a letter from a resident, who along with his son volunteer at the shelter. He applauded the shelter activities and expressed the need for a new facility.

#### **8. Closing Comments**

Vickers agreed with the citizens' comments that location of the new facility is important. She mentioned that capital fundraising may ease the burden on the tax payer.

Beacorn asked Jeff Benko the BOC's expectations of the new facility. Benko said he has been working with the new chairman and new commissioners. Several critical issues are facing the BOC besides the new facility. The BOC is looking forward to Mr. Tevis' presentation. Benko said the BOC realize that residents have higher expectations for services in this county.

It was suggested that the county take advantage of UGA as a resource for services, e.g., landscaping.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Wells to adjourn the meeting at 8:53. It was seconded by Hamilton and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the ACAB will be on April 12, 2017 at 7 PM at Veteran's Park, Watkinville

Respectfully submitted by Janet Calpin, February 9, 2017