

**THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**November 19, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Tom Westbrook, City of Ceres, Chair  
Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County  
Joe Lopez, City of Modesto  
Merry Mayhew, City of Hughson  
Michael Pitcock, City of Waterford  
Ken Irwin, City of Patterson, Co-Chair

**Staff Present:**

Annette Patton, Executive Director  
Dennis Cordova, Operations Manager  
Daniel Solish, Deputy County Counsel

Jewel Warr, - Stanislaus Co. Alt  
Adrienne Rios, Confidential

**Guests and Dignitaries:**

Supervisor Jim DeMartini

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Tom Westbrook.
2. **Roll call:** See above
3. **Public Comment:**

**Nancy Klein** stated staff are doing a good job keeping the kennels clean. Ms. Klein questioned why, Taz, animal ID A492001, was not released to a 501c3 rescue which specializes in hospice care. Rhyno, animal ID A540151, was foster/adopted in April 2020 and left unaltered for five months. She requested the policy on the timeline in which foster/adoptions are brought back to SASA to get spayed/neutered, the statistics on all the dogs who were fostered/adopted since March of 2020, and monthly kennel statistics detailing number of rescue, euthanasia, and owner surrender.

**Michael Christian** discussed his concerns with the process that determined Turbo as vicious. He mentioned email correspondence between Annette Patton and counsel overseeing the proceedings, a 15-minute phone call between Annette and Kelly Bollen, and a letter issued by Ms. Bollen defining Turbo a vicious dog as problematic and lacking transparency. Mr. Christian also questioned the reasoning behind hiring an out of state behaviorist rather than a local behaviorist. He requested SASA develop a formal process when hiring a behaviorist.

**Augusta Farley** expressed concern about a dog which was allegedly dragged out SASA to a transporter's vehicle by staff due to the dog not walking on a leash. Ms. Farley requested public comment brought forth during JPA meetings be addressed, increased responsiveness from SASA's staff to citizen's concerns, and more involvement from the JPA Board to ensure staff address concerns. Ms. Farley would like to revisit the networking and collaboration between the shelter and community members to better meet the needs of both parties.

**Barbara Hedberg** would like to see more collaboration with the shelter and the community. Ms. Hedberg requested a response to her letter sent to Board of Supervisors and referred to SASA JPA Board regarding the Turbo case.

**S. Tomerlin** is concerned about the conditions/environment a dog is living withing Stanislaus County's jurisdiction and requested a wellness check.

**Samantha Lopez** requested information regarding SASA's intake process and reevaluation.

**Nadia Borisova** requested SASA to increase kennel cleaning. The setup in the 500 block is not conducive for the public to view dogs. Ms. Borisova mentioned 8-year-old German Shepperd in kennel 532 was in duress, did not have a blanket, and its kennel was dirty. Concerned with the lack of proper behavioral assessments. Requested a behaviorist assessment program. Recommended SASA reevaluate the color-coding system. Requested access to kennels in the 700's for Rescue volunteers.

**Heather** Concerned with the quality of photos taken of animals in the shelter as quality photos assist in animal adoptions. Requested access to animals housed in the 700's. Would like to donate unlimited number of blankets to the shelter.

**Jane G** expressed concern with perceived lack of transparency regarding dogs who are coded red or status of potential danger and timely medical care provided to animals withing the shelter. Would like to see a program put into place which focuses on animal rehabilitation.

**Laura Younger** Important for all dogs to have yard time each day as it is tied to their overall wellbeing. Concerned that puppies are individually housed in kennels and would like to see them placed together for companionship and comfort.

#### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

- A. Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2020.  
(Modesto/Hughson; 4/0) (*Ceres & Waterford abstained*)

- 5. Correspondence:** The Board acknowledged and accepted a letter from Barbara Hedberg regarding a court case involving a dog named Turbo.

**6. New Business:**

- A. Discussion regarding improvements for SASA's contract processes and delegation of spending authority. The agency is fine tuning the process of procuring contracts, and therefore, sought direction from the Board on spending authority of \$50,000 for the Executive Director. The Board requested contracts over \$50,000 to be placed as consent items on the agenda and any contracts under \$50,000 to be placed in the informational section.

**7. Committee Reports:** None

**8. Informational:**

- A. Operations update: Report was provided prior to the meeting as part of the agenda packet. The Board had no questions or comments.
- B. Executive Director Report: SASA's Business Manager is no longer with the agency, and thus, the reason for not having a budget update.

SASA received the 2020 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Award for the Fosters Save Lives program implemented during the onset of COVID-19.

Farwell and best wishes to Supervisor DeMartini upon his retirement of 16 years of public service.

**9. Member Referrals:** None

**Adjourned Regular Meeting at 10:01 a.m.**

ATTESTED: ADRIENNE RIOS, Clerk  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California