

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman  
Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman  
Steve Brown  
Charles W. Oddo  
Charles D. Rousseau



## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney  
Tameca P. White, County Clerk  
Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## MINUTES

July 13, 2017

6:30 p.m.

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Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

### Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the July 13, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

### Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Charles Oddo

Commissioner Charles Oddo offered the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Steve Brown moved to accept the agenda as written. Vice Chairman Randy Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items # 2 and #7. Commissioner Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

1. **Approval of Resolution 2017-11 for implementation of Project FA-01 to the Atlanta Regional Commission documenting Fayette County's funding commitment for the 2017 Project Solicitation application for the alignment of State Route 279 and Corinth Road.** A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.
2. **Approval of Resolution 2017-12 for implementation of Project FA-02 to the Atlanta Regional Commission documenting Fayette County's funding commitment for the 2017 Project Solicitation application for multiple resurfacing projects within Fayette County.**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he wanted to raise a point of clarity for the residents. He stated that he wanted the County Administrator or staff to explain what that \$2.5 million of the \$9 million project entails because it looks like the majority of the fund was going to the city and not unincorporated Fayette County. He wanted the citizens to understand why.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon stated that the agenda item was for a Resolution in support of a resurfacing project for county and city roads. He stated that sometimes there was a better chance of receiving favorable consideration for the projects when it was a larger project application, so he reached out to the cities to see if they were interested. He stated that each road would be evaluated individually. He stated that some or all of the roads might get approved or none of the roads might be approved. He stated the same was true for the city.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2017-12 for implementation of Project FA-02 to the Atlanta Regional Commission documenting Fayette County's funding commitment for the 2017 Project Solicitation application for multiple resurfacing projects within Fayette County. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.

3. **Approval of Resolution 2017-13 for implementation of Project FA-03 to the Atlanta Regional Commission documenting Fayette County's funding commitment for the 2017 Project Solicitation application to fund detailed planning studies along Sandy Creek, Tyrone, Palmetto and Banks Road.** A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.
4. **Approval of staff's recommendation to award annual bid #1314-A to Hanson Aggregates and Martin Marietta as primary vendors for gravel services for fiscal year 2018 with a not-to-exceed amount of \$51,262.50 and \$129,800 respectively, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$181,062.50.** A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.
5. **Approval of Water System's request to award Bid #1318-B Water Distribution Parts to five companies that were low bidders on items used for distribution and repair; Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co., Ferguson Enterprises, Fortiline Waterworks, Delta Municipal Supply and HD Supply Waterworks LTD, in an amount not-to-exceed \$216,568.27.** A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 5", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.
6. **Approval of staff's recommendation to award Chemical Bid for twelve (12) months, to Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., American Development Corporation, Chemrite and Polydyne for chemicals used by the Fayette County Water System for water treatment, and authorization for the Chairman to sign any related documents.** A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 6", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.
7. **Approval of staff's recommendation to contract with the Gordian Group (Centennial Contractors Enterprise, Inc.) to renovate the Animal Shelter building in the amount of \$119,598.67 per the approved CIP project #6565F.**

Commissioner Brown stated that he wanted staff to give an overview of this agenda item. He further explained that this agenda item was not an expansion, but an upgrade to the shelter.

Animal Shelter Director Jerry Collins briefed the Board that this project was started prior to him being hired at the shelter. He stated that some of the renovations included fixing rusted doors, installing new siding on the building and to add runs in the back for more air time to the animals.

Building and Grounds Director Carlos Christian stated that staff meet with Mr. Collins and determined what improvements needed to be made to bring the facility up-to-par. He stated that a contractor was brought in to determine what improvements were needed.

Commissioner Brown stated that he wanted everyone to know that it was not a shelter expansion. He continued that the Peachtree City sewer runs through the shelter property. He stated that he would like to include having the Rite Aid next door placed on sewer so that the County could have the drain fields and use the parcels. County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that Mr. Christian was evaluating that. He stated that this approval would be for the base contract and as a reminder, \$126,000 was funded last year and an additional \$50,000 was funded for this year to resolve some of the sewer related issues. He stated that this project was about a four month project.

Chairman Maxwell opened the floor for public comments.

Sharon Waples asked questions about repair to the current runs, the new runs and a smell that she noticed outside at the shelter. The questions were addressed by staff.

Julie Schwab asked questions about the County raising money for the Humane Society through a GoFundMe page. Chairman Maxwell explained that the Humane Society was not a function of the Board of Commissioners.

Samantha Beadle shared that there was a non-profit organization available for people to donate and to benefit the animal shelter.

Cynthia O'Connor requested the break down to refurbish the shelter. Mr. Christian provided a breakdown of the project.

Dana Lezaj asked the Board if they had ever received a request to expand the facility and what, besides the sewer issue, prevents an expansion. She also asked when the facility was built. There was not a consensus on the exact time it was built. She asked if an expansion could ever be consider as part of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Chairman Maxwell explained how the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) worked. She asked what the public could do to formally request the Board to consider expansion. Chairman Maxwell stated that the Board received the emails and phone calls and that there was no other process required.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he would like to see the shelter improvements also include electronic displays and he hoped that the staff would consider that. He stated that he was concerned about the process used and that he would like to see more of these type projects bided out instead of using state contracts. Mr. Rapson stated that staff used Gordian Group to expedite the project as directed by the Board. He stated that staff could go through the procurement process instead of the state contract process, if that was the direction of the Board.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he had the same concern prior to speaking to staff. He stated that he would like to see Purchasing educate potential vendors about the state contract process. Mr. Rapson stated that Gordian Group would be the project manager. He stated that they use the competitive process through the state and also through local vendors, which was the preference.

Commissioner Brown stated that going back to the second mayor of Peachtree City, Ralph Jones, the overriding problem in the city was stray dogs. He stated that the mayor then worked to get the animal shelter. He stated that he worked on the "bee ordinance", the "chicken ordinance" and "dog ordinance" and so he had worked around the gamut on all the animal issues. He encouraged all the different animal groups/advocates to work together to have a consolidated platform to bring to the Board. He stated that the old adage, "the squeaky wheel does get the grease" was true, especially in government and that needed to happen. He stressed that the citizens own the shelter and that their input

was important. He stated that the county was far from a no-kill shelter. He stated that the county had the human capital and intelligence in the community to make things happen, it just needed to be organized. He encouraged those in the audience to contact the Humane Society and become a part of the group that wanted to create positive change.

Commissioner Oddo moved to contract with the Gordian Group (Centennial Contractors Enterprise, Inc.) to renovate the Animal Shelter building in the amount of \$119,598.67 per the approved CIP project #6565F. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 7", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.

**8. Approval of the June 22, 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

9. **Staff update on the proposed GDOT roundabout projects on SR 92 at Antioch Road and Seay Road (GDOT PI 009971 and 009972) and consideration of GDOT's request for Fayette County to enter into a Local Government Lighting Agreement and Landscaping Maintenance Agreement for the projects.**

Staff requested to have this item tabled to continue working with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) regarding this agreement.

Commissioner Brown moved to table the proposed GDOT roundabout projects on SR 92 at Antioch Road and Seay Road (GDOT PI 009971 and 009972) and consideration of GDOT's request for Fayette County to enter into a Local Government Lighting Agreement and Landscaping Maintenance Agreement for the projects to the July 27, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 8", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

10. **Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt Fayette County Policy 280.01; Animal Shelter Management/Euthanasia.**

This portion of the minutes has been provided verbatim as Addendum #1.

Vice Chairman Ognio amended the motion to adopt Fayette County Policy 280.01; Animal Shelter Management/Euthanasia with a modification to remove the words "whenever possible", to change the adoption notice to day six (6) and a ten (10) day notice prior to the end of the thirty day, to stop the progression of the ordinance and to include language, "The Fayette County Animal Shelter is committed to a well-managed facility that considers the preservation of life...". Commissioner Oddo amended the second. The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Brown in opposition. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 10", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

The Board recessed at 10:16 p.m.

The Board returned at 10:29 p.m.

Commissioner Brown did not return to the meeting.

**11. Consideration of County Attorney's recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2017-12 to amend Policy 100.19; Board Appointments.**

Mr. Rapson briefed the Board regarding this item. He stated that the redline edits included the ninety days in advance for the advertising, the addition for the department head to be a part of the selection process, any vacancy or resignation that occur may be filled by the Selection Committee, the agenda item would include all the incumbents and relevant documents and appointing positions with less than half the term would remain. He stated that Commissioner Brown had shared with him that he would like to see that changed from half the term, to less than one year.

Commissioner Oddo moved to adopt Ordinance 2017-12 to amend Policy 100.19; Board Appointments with a change to include "less than one year". Commissioner Rousseau seconded.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that the policy says, "...the Selection Committee to receive the applications". He stated that should indicate that the Clerk receives the applications. He asked for an amendment to remove the words "to receive".

Commissioner Oddo amended the motion and Commissioner Rousseau amended the second.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that it states that the "Commissioner shall have discretion to appoint head of said department as additional member of the Selection Committee". He stated that he would like for the policy to say, "...additional non-voting member" of the Selection Committee. Commissioner Rousseau recommended adding "his or her designee". The Board agreed. Mr. Davenport read the statement as amended: "The Board of Commissioners shall have the discretion to appoint the head of said department or his or her designee as an additional non-voting member of the Selection Committee."

Commissioner Oddo amended the motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-12 to amend Policy 100.19; Board Appointments with a change to include "less than one year", "the Clerk to receive the applications", "The Board of Commissioners shall have the discretion to appoint the head of said department or his or her designee as an additional non-voting member of the Selection Committee", Commissioner Rousseau amended the second. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 11", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

Commissioner Rousseau addressed issues regarding employees applying. The Board agreed that employees were not eligible to serve on the committees and employees who apply should be made aware at that time.

**12. Consideration of a recommendation of the Selection Committee comprised of Chairman Eric Maxwell and Commissioner Charles Rousseau to appoint Walter Ponder to the Board of Assessors for an unexpired term beginning immediately and expiring December 31, 2017.**

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve to appoint Walter Ponder to the Board of Assessors for an unexpired term beginning immediately and expiring December 31, 2017. Chairman Maxwell seconded.

Due to the previous approved Policy 100.19;

Commissioner Rousseau amended the motion to appoint Walter Ponder to the Board of Assessors for an unexpired term beginning immediately and expiring December 31, 2023. Chairman Maxwell amended the second. The motion passed 4-

0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 12", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

- 13. Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman Eric Maxwell and Commissioner Steve Brown, to re-appoint Martin Sas to the Fayette County Transportation Committee to serve a term beginning April 1, 2017 and expiring March 31, 2020.**

Chairman Maxwell moved to re-appoint Martin Sas to the Fayette County Transportation Committee to serve a term beginning April 1, 2017 and expiring March 31, 2020. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 13", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

- 14. Update regarding the procedural posture of the disabled veterans' homestead exemption under House Bill 196 as of July 1, 2017.**

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board regarding this item. He stated that there were multiple times that the Board received a tax refund request from a disabled veteran, but the problem would be that the letter from the VA would have an effective date that was one, two or three years in the past. He stated that the problem was that exemptions are not retroactive unless the statute allows it and there was nothing in the state statute to allow the Board to approve a retroactive request so any request that the Board received that was retroactive was denied. He continued that as part of the legislative package, this Board had a component included to change the disabled veterans' homestead exemption. The General Assembly did make the change and the disabled veterans' homestead exemption will now be handled by a summary decision between the Tax Assessor and the Board and can now be applied retroactively.

Commissioner Oddo stated that Fayette County, the Board, and the County Attorney was responsible for changing this throughout the state.

- 15. Reconsideration of the approval of disposition of tax refunds for disabled veterans' Peter Davis, Jamie Kagels and Ora Williamson in the aggregated total of \$10,918.42 in respond to the recently adopted Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemptions House Bill 196, initiated by the Board of Commissioners.**

Mr. Davenport stated that based on the law as applied July 1 and the circumstances provided in the backup memo, he recommends that the Board approve the request totaling \$10,918.42.

Mrs. Ora Williamson was present.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds for disabled veterans' Peter Davis, Jamie Kagels and Ora Williamson in the aggregated total of \$10,918.42 in respond to the recently adopted Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemptions House Bill 196, initiated by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 14", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.



**16. Recommendation of the County Attorney to deny the disposition of tax refunds for disabled veterans, Ivonne Morrison and Ritesh Ghimire in respond to the recently adopted Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemptions House Bill 196, initiated by the Board of Commissioners.**

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board that in the backup memo there were two other individuals who applied for the disabled veterans' homestead exemption. He stated that the first three was a request to reverse the decision to apply the retroactive application of the law. He stated that the request from Ivonne Morrison and Ritesh Ghimire were brought to the Board so that no one would be overlooked. He stated that their request was for reasons other than retroactive application of the law. The circumstances of the original denials have not changed and he recommended denial of the requests.

Commissioner Oddo moved to deny the disposition of tax refunds for disabled veterans, Ivonne Morrison and Ritesh Ghimire in respond to the recently adopted Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemptions House Bill 196, initiated by the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 15", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

**17. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Jamie and Lisa Inagawa for tax years 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$167.40.**

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Jamie and Lisa Inagawa for tax years 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$167.40. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 16", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

**18. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Roger Casale for tax years 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$1,699.44.**

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Roger Casale for tax years 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$1,699.44. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 17", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

**19. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Pauline Parker for tax years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.**

Commissioner Oddo moved to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Pauline Parker for tax years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 18", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

**20. Consideration of a request to connect to the City of Fayetteville sewer system to serve a proposed residential subdivision located on SR 92 North in Land Lot 157 of the 5th District.**

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board regarding this item. He stated that his firm had some connection to the owners of the property. In 2001 his firm handled the probate of the estate of Mr. Marvin Butler and in 2009 handled the probate of the estate for Pauline Butler. He stated that the firm no longer represents the Butler family for any other issues and they do have other counsel with respect to the potential sale of property. He stated that the basis of the request had to do with a

sewer easement that was entered back in 1987 between the City of Fayetteville and Marvin Butler. He stated that documents presented referenced an "Exhibit A" that should describe the property in question owned by Mr. Butler, but there was no "Exhibit A" attached to the two page easement. He continue to brief the Board. He stated that the land lot line splits the Butler property east of the land lot line and west of the land lot line. He stated that the sewer easement speaks of the legal description attached as "Exhibit A", but it also says, "...in land lot 156". In 1987, land lot 156 was Marvin Butler's property, but was not part of the subject property. He stated that land lot 157 was not covered by the sewer easement. He stated that it was his understanding that the City of Fayetteville was looking to provide sewer to the property to honor the easement which had been determined not part of the subject property. He stated that there was nothing when the project would occur, also there was no indication that the easement was ever accepted by the City of Fayetteville. He stated that the biggest concern was the lack of the legal description that leaves only the 156 land lot which was not part of the subject property.

Commissioner Oddo asked if this was contiguous to the city. Mr. Davenport stated no. Annexation was not a possibility.

Ms. Donna Black was the applicant and she stated that the request was to connect the property to sewer. She stated that this type request had been done before. She stated that they would like to produce a subdivision that was on sewer because that was what people prefer.

Chairman Maxwell asked if she could address the missing "Exhibit A". Ms. Black stated that she was not aware of it.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that the Board should send a letter back to the City of Fayetteville saying that the information was inconsistent with the easement documentation and for that reason the Board could not vote for or against the request.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to have the County Attorney and County Administrator to draft a letter to the City of Fayetteville stating that the information is inconsistent and that the Board needs more clarification. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 19", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Contract Administrator Trina Barwicks spoke regarding concerns about the county's compensation study. She stated that she had not completed a survey for her position as referenced by the UGA representative. She was hired in 2005 and was present for the first compensation study in 2008. She continued that the duties in the job description from the 2008 study compared to the current job description duties had increased greatly. She shared that she spoke with Human Resource Director Lewis Patterson and Mr. Rapson in 2013 and in January 2016. Ms. Barwicks' grievance included concerns about a substantial change in her duties with no compensation in salary.

Commissioner Rousseau called a point of order. He stated that this was moving into a personnel issue. The Board agreed that staff should not have to come before the Board in this manner in order to address this type of concern.

Mr. Davenport stated that for personnel issue there was a process within the employee handbook to follow and this would most likely follow the grievance process.

Chairman Maxwell stated that he did not feel the Board should be making any official action at the time. He stated that Ms. Barwicks had the right to make a presentation. Ms. Barwicks stated that there was no recourse for employees when they do not agree.



Commissioner Rousseau stated that he was not trying to stop her ability to express her concern. He apologized that she had to come to the Board in this manner to address her concerns.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:**

Mr. Rapson briefed the Board on each items A-E. He informed the Board that McIntosh Band was holding an event on July 21 and Lake McIntosh will be closed at 6:00 p.m. He stated that Water System Director Lee Pope reviewed the proposed Peachtree City spillway design and he was ok with the design.

- A. Contract #P916: Auditing Personal Property Accounts for Compliance-Renewal #2
- B. Contract #940-P: Engineer of Record for Public Works: Task Order 21-Redwine Road (Starrs Mill Complex Multi-Use Trail and Tunnel Design- FY2017 SPLOST Project
- C. Contract #949-A: Dust Control Services- Renewal #2
- D. Contract #1307-A: Firefighters Uniform Annual Contract
- E. RFQ #1326-A: Patridge Point Culvert Replacement

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

**Notice of Executive Session:** County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item of threatening litigation and the review of the Executive Session minutes for June 22, 2017.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

##### **Commissioner Oddo:**

Commissioner Oddo thanked everyone for attending. He stated that the Board was doing the best to make the wisest decisions.

##### **Vice Chairman Ognio**

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he would like to thank Georgia Department of Transportation for addressing some concerns regarding intersections on Highway 85 at the south side of the city. He stated that they sent a letter stating that some improvements would be made in that area.

##### **Commissioner Rousseau**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he noticed that the Fire department was not happy with a vendor and that the vendor evaluation form helps the County if anyone was to challenge the County's decision. He stated that it was documented evidence of why the County might not accept the lowest bid at times.

He continued that he stood by his comments that it was important for citizens to be engaged in the process. He stated that the Board views things differently based on the priorities and information before the Board. He stated that his comments earlier in the meeting were not designed to dismiss Commissioner Brown's efforts. He stated that staff will take the "blunt" of the decision of the Board, but he encouraged Mr. Rapson to continue to encourage staff.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at [www.fayettecountyga.gov](http://www.fayettecountyga.gov). This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at [www.livestream.com](http://www.livestream.com).

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Excerpt from Meeting  
scheduled on July 13, 2017

Item No. 10

Consideration of staff's recommendations  
to adopt Fayette County Policy 280.01;  
Animal Shelter Management/Euthanasia

140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Charlene M. Hansard, CCR, CVR-M  
P.O. Box 524  
Tyrone, Georgia 30290  
(678) 283-4519

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: No. 10, I'm going to call now. That's the policy I think most of the folks are here. And let me just say a couple of things before we get started. We'll have a presentation from Jerry in just a second. And I understand, I know this is a -- one that's volatile or emotional may be a better word. And we're here to hear a comment from every person that wants to talk. I'm not going to cut anybody off. One of the Board members may cut another Board member off, but I don't think there's any attempt from a Board member cutting somebody from the public from coming up to the lectern and speaking.

Now, that being said, I don't know how many folks are in here. I don't want to count because the fire marshal says there's 101 legal folks here and they're real close to that. So, you know, we were here last -- two weeks ago until about 12:30 on a 7:00 o'clock meeting, and we'll be here that late tonight if that's -- or later if folks want to keep talking. And we'll continue to listen.

Now, what I found is sometimes on these

1 meetings, it's the same thing sometimes over and  
2 over again. And if that's the case, that's  
3 fine. Once again, I'm not going to cut you off.  
4 You're welcome to come up here and say whatever  
5 you want to say as long as it's not mean.

6 I mean, if you start being threatening,  
7 then we'll have to deal with that. But you can  
8 say things that are controversial. This Board's  
9 not going to react to that as far as saying, no,  
10 you can't talk like that. A threat is something  
11 different.

12 But I just wanted to ask a few things.  
13 Some of y'all know I'm an attorney. I'm not  
14 trying to set you up. I'm just trying to get an  
15 idea and I'm trying to answer some of your  
16 questions so that some of you may say at least I  
17 had -- I was able to participate by raising my  
18 hand and saying that's the reason why I'm in  
19 this meeting.

20 So I've got a series -- I believe I've got  
21 seven questions, and I'll try to do the best I  
22 can. And I'm not trying to prove a point. I'm  
23 just trying to get some information so the rest  
24 of us know this is the reason why you're here,  
25 this is one of the things you wanted us to talk

1 about.

2 I assume that most everybody is in the room  
3 and I'm just going to ask you to give me a show  
4 of hands if you're here because of the animal  
5 issue is No. 10 on the item?

6 (Audience raises hands.)

7 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: All right. I knew  
8 the answer to that one before I even asked it.  
9 And I'm going to ask, who in the room are  
10 against any use of euthanasia at all no matter  
11 what the circumstances? Is there anybody in the  
12 room that's got that view?

13 (Audience raises hands.)

14 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. Is there  
15 anybody that's in favor of the current Board  
16 policy on euthanasia which allows for it after  
17 seven days? That's the current Board policy.  
18 Is there anybody that's in favor of that policy?  
19 That's what this county's been operating on, I  
20 believe, for quite some time.

21 (Audience raises hands.)

22 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Is there anybody  
23 that's against the 30-day policy that's been  
24 proposed that y'all may have read about in the  
25 newspaper?

1 (Audience raises hands.)  
2 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. That doesn't  
3 look unanimous, but it looks like overwhelmingly  
4 that there's more than not. Is there anybody --  
5 This is kind of similar to the number two.  
6 Anybody that acknowledges that euthanasia is not  
7 an accepted practice when dealing with animal  
8 control issues is recognized as one of the --  
9 one of the tools that's used?  
10 (Audience raises hands.)  
11 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. We've got --  
12 We've got folks that have their hands up.  
13 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I don't think  
14 they understood your question.  
15 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. I'll try to  
16 ask the same question again, but I may not be  
17 able to do it. Does anybody disagree that  
18 euthanasia is an accepted or recognized practice  
19 of dealing with animal control issues in various  
20 shelters?  
21 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)  
22 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Disagree.  
23 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Disagree.  
24 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)  
25 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: That's a



1           recognized --

2           (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

3           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. Let me use a

4           different word than recognized. That it's -- I

5           had first used the word tool, not out loud, but

6           I put tool in my notes and then I scratched tool

7           out. And I'm trying to get to the point where

8           -- Is it something that you acknowledge is a --

9           is a tool that animal shelters that are run by

10          the government would use?

11          UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: As a last resort?

12          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Well --

13          (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

14          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: It may be better

15          that I just don't ask the question.

16          UNKNOWN SPEAKER: There you go. Good idea.

17          COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: And you if -- I

18          think if you -- to address this with euthanasia,

19          if you have a dog with diseased, cancer, a dog

20          that's -- that everyone agrees is overly

21          aggressive and cannot be adopted out, then --

22          then I think -- I think most people in this area

23          would -- would recognize that euthanasia is

24          probably something that needs to be implemented.

25          Is that correct?

1 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

2 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Well, I'm just  
3 saying -- We don't need to do a hypothetical.  
4 I'm just saying in the event that you had a dog  
5 that, for whatever reason -- disease, aggressive  
6 beyond the point of adoption or whatever -- that  
7 there is an option where that would come into  
8 play.

9 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: And not be a  
10 common practice.

11 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I didn't say  
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: That's not what  
15 I said.

16 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

17 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Placed as a tool.

18 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Right.

19 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. Let me --  
20 Let me keep going with this. Who are here for a  
21 complete no-kill shelter?

22 (Audience raises hands.)

23 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: And absolutely -- I  
24 understand that no kill is a slippery slope just  
25 the way that it's defined. And I guess there's

1 two definitions that I know of. One would be  
2 absolutely no no kill, and the other would be --  
3 I believe the standard is 90 percent. And so on  
4 the 100 percent no kill, is there anybody that's  
5 in that camp? Is there anybody in the  
6 90 percent camp that if you can keep it close to  
7 90 percent that that's acceptable?

8 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Unadoptable.

9 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Unadoptable, right.

10 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

11 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: And then let me ask  
12 one final question because I'm just want to get  
13 some ideas so that it may, you know, not prevent  
14 you, but it may give you your voice where you at  
15 least have the chance to say something, but this  
16 is the last one. Are the folks here from --  
17 that are not from Fayette County here tonight?  
18 Because I've gotten an email all the way from  
19 California on this.

20 (Audience laughs.)

21 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: No, that's not  
22 funny. That's true.

23 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: There's about  
24 four.

25 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. All right.

1 Jerry, we're going to turn this over to you if  
2 you'll please make your presentation. And let's  
3 do this, Jerry is going to make the  
4 presentation, then I'm going to open the floor  
5 up after he's made his presentation. And if  
6 we've got to take a break because we get tired,  
7 I can guarantee I can sit longer than anybody  
8 else in this room because I've been doing it for  
9 31 years. And if we've got to sit until  
10 12:30 tonight, we will do it. Jerry?

11 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: And if  
12 I could, I'm actually going to do the  
13 presentation because I really felt like Jerry  
14 was going to have enough speaking time this  
15 evening. So let me just preface this to say  
16 that, you know, part of, I think, a lot that's  
17 going on is -- I wouldn't say misinformation  
18 perhaps. There's a little -- There's a lot of  
19 anxiety out there over what does this policy  
20 mean, how is it implemented, what's the process.  
21 And so I'm going to walk through what the intent  
22 of this policy was and how it was drafted and  
23 why it was drafted the way it was drafted.

24 You know, one of the things that is tough  
25 for Jerry and this Board to consider is the fact

1 that, you know, we do animal control. And by  
2 definition, animal control is we control the  
3 animal population as opposed to the Humane  
4 Society which is a different role. And what  
5 we're trying to do as a shelter is move more  
6 towards that no-kill Humane Society role. And  
7 to do that, I have to do that based on the  
8 facility and space limitations we have, cages  
9 that we have, staff that we have.

10 And one of the things that makes it very  
11 unique for us because we've been having a lot of  
12 conversations with all humane societies and all  
13 the agencies and anyone who wanted to talk to us  
14 about no kill, we've been meeting with them. So  
15 this isn't a policy that was drafted in a  
16 vacuum. I believe I was in a room with about 12  
17 of the main leaders of those groups and told  
18 them, "I know you're not going to be 100 percent  
19 happy with our policy, but we've got to put some  
20 type of guidelines in process so that Jerry can  
21 manage the facility."

22 I will tell you that one of the major  
23 functions that we do that is not a consideration  
24 of those other entities is he has another huge  
25 component he has to do as a manager, and that is

1 manage all of unincorporated in Fayette County,  
2 all the different cities. When there's a  
3 police -- You probably don't think about this.  
4 When there's a police officer or sheriff deputy  
5 or a resident that calls and there's a rabid fox  
6 or I got a dangerous dog running in my  
7 neighborhood, his staff is the one that has to  
8 respond to that. If he doesn't respond for it  
9 or he doesn't have staff to respond to it, then,  
10 in essence, what you end up doing is you end up  
11 tying up public safety. A sheriff's deputy then  
12 stops doing what he supposed to be doing, a  
13 police officer stops doing.

14 When I first came here four and a half  
15 years ago, that was really the only complaint I  
16 got from Barry Babb for the next three years is,  
17 "We have a problem because we're wasting a lot  
18 of my resources with my officers waiting for an  
19 Animal Control person to show up." And they  
20 were out of service, you know, sometimes one  
21 hour, I think drastically two hours, three hours  
22 sometimes.

23 And one of the things that Jerry did when  
24 he started in early April is, you know, he did  
25 two major things that drastically took our



1 shelter in a different direction. One of the  
2 things he did was he took and he stratifies the  
3 existing staff so that now were open --

4 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: Seven days a week.

5 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: --  
6 seven days a week. Now, that made very -- that  
7 may surprise you. It surprised me because  
8 typically people are going to, you know, want to  
9 get a dog or adopt a dog, I'm thinking the  
10 weekend's when we typically would do that. We  
11 didn't operate that way, so we changed that  
12 operation to allow those type of things to  
13 happen. Again, that's him taking his staff and,  
14 with a very limited staff up until, I guess, two  
15 weeks ago, your staff was 5.5 people -- five  
16 full-time persons and a part-time person.

17 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: That's correct.

18 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: As part  
19 of this budget, this Board approved converting  
20 one of those part-time people to a full-time  
21 person and actually get him an adoption  
22 coordinator. He's never had an adoption  
23 coordinator before. You know, we talk about  
24 social media which I think obviously works;  
25 right? We have somebody now that can

1       100 percent do that, and we didn't have that  
2       before. We don't have that person yet because  
3       we're interviewing -- I mean we just put a  
4       solicitation on the street.

5             DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: The part-time  
6       person is doing it.

7             COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: You  
8       converted her.

9             DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: I converted her.

10            COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: There  
11       you go. So we do -- So for the first time we  
12       have someone that could actually start  
13       implementing some of the programs that we talked  
14       about for a long topic. And the reason I say  
15       all that is because you need to have the  
16       underlying understanding that we're trying to  
17       balance a animal control entity with a Humane  
18       Society, and what we're ending up with is a  
19       blended-type thing.

20            And that's what this -- that's what this  
21       entire policy was meant to do was how can we use  
22       our existing resources, our existing facility.  
23       I think some of the questions that were asked is  
24       how many cages do we have. We have 26 cages.  
25       When we say we're at 75 percent capacity, we're

1 talking about 20 cages. If you've ever been to  
2 the shelter, you'll understand that all those  
3 cages aren't together, so there's some logistics  
4 with managing even using the 26 cages.

5 So the first thing we do, which is what  
6 this policy is supposed to show you, if you  
7 can -- I don't know if all y'all can see this  
8 where you're at. But the very first thing we do  
9 is we evaluate the animal and determine whether  
10 it's adoptable. Believe it or not, we get  
11 animals in here that are so aggressive we  
12 can't -- it's a danger to our staff, it's a  
13 danger to the animals in the shelter, a danger  
14 to our volunteers.

15 And we've tried to even have some of the  
16 rescue groups get some of those, and even the  
17 rescue groups waived off on those animals. So  
18 there's aggressive animals, there's sick,  
19 there's disease animals, there's animals that  
20 are injured. They all go through that  
21 evaluation process. So the ones I'm going to  
22 focus on are the ones that are adoptable because  
23 that's what we are all here about -- right? --  
24 adopt the animals.

25 And this is just a selfish plug. I'm

1       sorry. But there's dogs back on this table.  
2       Those animals need to be adopted because they're  
3       going to be at risk if this policy's approved  
4       tonight. So if you want a dog, see Jerry. We  
5       can adopt them. We need 11 of them gone. Okay?  
6       It's okay. It's selfish, but that's all right.

7               So the first thing I want to talk about is  
8       we have a five-day impoundment period. This is  
9       a period where we get an animal in and we're  
10      looking for its owner. Every two animals we  
11      get, we reunite the owner with one. We have  
12      about an almost 50 percent rate of success in  
13      that five-day period of getting the owner who  
14      lost his dog to get the dog. You know, you hear  
15      all these -- and I'm sure there's anomalies. I  
16      went on vacation for two weeks and my dog was  
17      there and you adopted. But that's not typically  
18      the case. Typically the case, 99 percent of the  
19      time, those animals are reunited within that  
20      five-day period.

21             As the chairman alluded to, and I think he  
22      said seven days. It was actually six. Our  
23      existing policy that we had said there was a  
24      five-day impoundment period to try to find the  
25      owner, and on the sixth day that animal was

1 eligible to be euthanized. That was the policy  
2 that this county's operated on for two decades  
3 that I'm aware of. When Jerry got here,  
4 actually before you got here when Ronni was  
5 here, we looked at that and said, "Hey, that  
6 doesn't make a lot of sense to me because if  
7 you're trying to adopt animals out, how do you  
8 do that?" I mean, if you didn't see it come in  
9 the intake and you didn't pay attention the  
10 first five days, and quite frankly, the humane  
11 societies and agencies that wanted to foster  
12 those animals and get those animals, they really  
13 didn't have access until the sixth day. So it  
14 just didn't seem fair to us.

15 And so what we did is we put a stopgap  
16 measure in place and we added another 25 days to  
17 work on the adoption cycle. And if you look  
18 down here -- you really can't see it very well.  
19 But believe it or not, this is all supposed to  
20 be green from number 6 --

21 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: 6 to 25.

22 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: -- to  
23 25. But that's that 25 adoption day period. So  
24 where we used to have six days, we've added all  
25 these days here to try to get the animal

1        adopted. If it's adopted beyond the 25th day,  
2        when we start approaching this day over here  
3        which is the dreaded 31st day when it could be  
4        euthanized, we set up a process with the humane  
5        and rescue groups to basically provide them a  
6        notification that this animal is five days from  
7        being euthanized.

8                Because, again, we're trying to -- let's  
9        try to see if we can adopt in the community. If  
10       we can't adopt in the community, then let's get  
11       all the humane society and rescue groups on it  
12       and see whether they can get the animal adopted.

13               Now, what we've done, because that's the  
14       policy we've been kind of living with for the  
15       last three or four months, we met with a lot of  
16       the animal groups and we said, you know, if I  
17       can't explain it to my wife and grandkids why  
18       we'd put a dog down when I've got an empty cage,  
19       that's a tough day for Steve at home. So I will  
20       tell you that didn't make a lot of sense to us.  
21       And so we looked at it from an operational  
22       perspective how many cages could we have animals  
23       in, what capacity could we handle with our  
24       existing staff.

25               Just to kind of give you a flavor of the



1 staff, there's Jerry, there's Donna, four animal  
2 control officers, and an adoption person.  
3 That's what the shelter runs on. So you're  
4 roughly talking about seven people. Now, I  
5 hydroplaned over -- I don't know -- hundreds of  
6 people. Volunteers, our shelter would not  
7 operate without volunteers. I mean, there's  
8 just absolutely no doubt that the volunteers are  
9 the life bread of what keeps that shelter  
10 running.

11 But from a staff perspective, those are the  
12 folks that are operationally on call for any  
13 calls throughout the entire county. And  
14 typically, you have the two people operating the  
15 shelter, two people on call, and then you have  
16 you and Donna that work Monday through Friday,  
17 and then the adoption person. And I think you  
18 stratified their time so that they're overlaid,  
19 and now we've stretched that over seven days.  
20 So we've taken a very -- even though we've given  
21 them, in essence, another one and a half person,  
22 now we stretched that time over seven days  
23 versus five days.

24 So, again, it's a resource issue. So the  
25 question is -- and I know there's a lot of

1 thoughts about, well, 75 percent the number,  
2 could we live with 90 percent? I don't know.  
3 But moving from six days out 30 days seems to me  
4 like that's a huge swing from being a animal  
5 control organization to a -- moving towards a  
6 no-kill-type facility.

7 I will tell you that -- and this is the way  
8 it works because I think some of the things I've  
9 heard from folks is, you know, when the animal  
10 comes in, it's true, that's day one, and they're  
11 on a 30-day cycle. This policy does not put  
12 that animal down on the 31st day unless I've got  
13 more than 20 animals in my shelter. So let me  
14 say that again. If I've got 20 animals, I don't  
15 care whether they've been there 30 days, 60  
16 days, or 90 days. The only time this  
17 euthanization would kick in is if I've got more  
18 than 20 animals in that shelter and if that  
19 animal had been with us for longer than 30 days.  
20 Okay?

21 So let me walk you through what that looks  
22 like. Some of these pictures are going to be --  
23 if you want to ooh or aw, you can because I  
24 think it's appropriate. So here's the mix we  
25 have right now. Twenty-six capacity, we have 29

1 dogs in the shelter today. This is today.  
2 There are nine dogs that would be over that  
3 75 percent capacity. In other words, we have  
4 nine animals beyond the 20 cages, and all of  
5 those animals, as you can see, have been well  
6 past the 30 days.

7 I will highlight the fact that, of the nine  
8 animals that you see there, all of them are pit  
9 bulls with the exception of three. And you're  
10 going to see that that's kind of a reoccurring  
11 theme.

12 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

13 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Pardon?

14 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

15 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Well,  
16 what that means is is that, of the animals that  
17 have been there the longest, we have an  
18 abundance of the pit bull mix. It's just those  
19 are the animals that are there. So --

20 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

21 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Hold  
22 on. Hold on. Hold on. I'll ask -- Let me go  
23 through the presentation and then I'll answer  
24 any questions you've got. I promise.

25 So here's the first one, Newt, 103 days.

1 Newt is a terrific dog, walks him, nice dog. I  
2 don't know why they don't adopt this dog.  
3 Everybody loves this dog. The problem with Newt  
4 is that, when you walk into the back and you're  
5 trying to adopt dogs, this dog's bouncing all  
6 over the cages, bouncing back and forth, back  
7 and forth, which is okay. But if you're trying  
8 to adopt a dog for your family, obviously, at  
9 least for 103 days, folks says that's not the  
10 kind of dog I want to have at home. I can't  
11 tell you why Newt isn't adopted. He's a highly  
12 adoptable dog as far as I'm concerned.

13 Next one is Yodel. Now, that's a pretty  
14 dog. Again, 80 days. The problem with Yodel is  
15 that he's got the same problem as Newt. They're  
16 both kind of spastic. So if you want a spastic  
17 dog, you've got two options.

18 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

19 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Well,  
20 no, I would totally agree with you. Outside the  
21 kennel, nice and calm dog. And I guess maybe  
22 that's something we can do with the adoption  
23 program. We can say, "hey, why don't you take a  
24 dog and take them for a test drive around the  
25 back." Because they're totally different dogs

1           when they are on a leash. I'm not arguing that.

2           Here's the other seven, and you could see  
3           the abundance of those are pit bull, pit bull  
4           mixes -- 78 days, 76, 54, 54, 49, 42, 42. And  
5           then we go to the next category which these are  
6           dogs that have been in our shelter more than 30  
7           days but they are under that 20 cage threshold.  
8           So they would not be -- these dogs aren't at  
9           risk because they're in that 20-day threshold.

10          Does everybody understand that? Because  
11          that's an important concept to get because,  
12          based on the phone calls I've gotten, most  
13          people think we're putting all these dogs down  
14          the 31st day, and that's just simply not what  
15          this policy is.

16          And then you have -- And those are Blossom  
17          and Jackson, and they're also available for  
18          adoption this evening or tomorrow or the next  
19          day. I'll answer your question after I go  
20          through here. And so here's all the other dogs,  
21          18 dogs under 30 days. And you'll see again  
22          there's one, two, three, four, five, six,  
23          seven -- seven pit bull mixes there too.

24          And I think -- honestly, I think the pit  
25          bulls are getting a bad rap honestly. My son

1 got married three months ago, and now they've  
2 moved in with his wife. And so we inherited a  
3 pit bull, and her name is Boo. Sweetest dog  
4 you've ever seen in your life. But she's  
5 surprised every time she hits the end of the  
6 leash. She's like driving around the tank. So,  
7 I'm just saying, you know, pit bulls are for  
8 some people. They're not for others. But I'm  
9 not opposed to having a pit bull. I've got one  
10 at home.

11 Here's an interesting -- And this is where  
12 I want to kind of stay for just a little bit  
13 because we talk about stats. 2016, here's what  
14 happened in 2016. These are the numbers of  
15 animals that ran through our shelter. We  
16 typically run through somewhere between 550,  
17 600, 650 -- you figure about 600 animals.

18 So you can see right here, reclaimed,  
19 that's the highest number, and that's what you  
20 would expect to see, 264 animals or 46 percent  
21 where owners got their animals back. And that's  
22 the first thing we want to do is we want to get  
23 the owners reunited with the animals. Adoptions  
24 are what we adopted in our facility which is  
25 22 percent, 126. That transfer number is what



1       you see the humane societies and these rescue  
2       groups coming into our shelter and getting  
3       animals out of our shelter and actually putting  
4       them in foster care or taking them or finding  
5       them homes.

6               So 73 is what was euthanized in 2016. I'm  
7       not 100 percent accurate whether that number is  
8       higher or lower, and I think Jerry would say  
9       that he would agree as well. But if these  
10      numbers were gold, then no kill -- the save rate  
11      would be 87 percent. You know, we talk about  
12      the 90 percent being the no-kill shelter. We  
13      were pretty much there last year.

14             Now, this year in 2017 year to date, we've  
15      gotten 250 animals. 107 of those, again, you  
16      can see how it tracks, that reclaimed is  
17      tracking pretty much the same 42/46. Adoptions,  
18      81, you can see our adoptions have grown. I  
19      think we've started to push a little bit on  
20      social media. I think the agencies have helped  
21      push that. I think we've gotten that word out.  
22      And then transfers, 45, 18 percent.

23             Of the 17 animals that we euthanized --  
24      because it's important to understand what that  
25      number represents. Because we put a policy in

1 place. We're not going to euthanize anything.  
2 I think is one of the questions that the  
3 Chairman Maxwell asked was, you know, when do  
4 you euthanize. You know, animals that are  
5 extremely aggressive, why, I'd hate to put down  
6 a healthy animal. We can put down a animal  
7 that's either going to hurt itself, hurt another  
8 dog, or hurt a human being. Of the 17 animals  
9 that you see there, three of them were for  
10 medical reasons; right?

11 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: One was done at a  
12 hospital.

13 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: One was  
14 done up at the vet. But of the 17 that were put  
15 down, 16 of them were euthanized at our shelter.

16 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: Right.

17 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: And of  
18 that 16, three of them were medical. And all  
19 the other dogs were aggressive -- aggressive  
20 animals. And the majority of those, 70 percent  
21 of them were pit bulls. And I think they get a  
22 bad rep. You know, whenever you see pit bull,  
23 you always think the same thing, and I think --  
24 they weren't all pit bulls. I think we had a  
25 Rottweiler. And we had --

1                   DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: We had some  
2                   Rottweilers.

3                   COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Right.  
4                   But, again, aggressive animals. And so -- so my  
5                   point is, you know, we are at a 93 percent right  
6                   now. And the issue becomes is is how do we move  
7                   forward with the shelter we currently have. And  
8                   I think what we've tried to do is put a policy  
9                   in place that looks at the limitations we have,  
10                  which is the facility itself, and then looks at  
11                  the staff we have, which is a limitation.

12                  You know, one of the questions -- and I'll  
13                  just go ahead and answer some questions I know  
14                  that probably some folks are going to ask. So  
15                  what would it take us to go to just two or three  
16                  cages? I think that would take us probably two  
17                  additional officers. And of those two  
18                  additional officers -- you know, officer all in,  
19                  benefits and everything, is about 50,000, so  
20                  about \$100,000 we could probably move this to  
21                  where we just have two cages.

22                  But let's talk about what that looks like  
23                  because I think it's important for you to  
24                  understand what that looks like. Because since  
25                  we've been not implementing any restriction on

1 cages, there's been several times we've had 26  
2 animals. There's been a couple of times we've  
3 had up to 32 or 34. I know July 4th weekend we  
4 had 28 animals in the shelter, and then we ended  
5 up getting five that weekend.

6 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: Correct.

7 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: You  
8 know, part of the problem with having a policy  
9 where you euthanize based on capacity is you're  
10 always going to hit that capacity. And the  
11 problem with doing the capacity at full capacity  
12 is you're not talking about euthanizing one or  
13 two animals. You're talking about euthanizing  
14 five or six animals. So I can imagine the furor  
15 we had over the one or two that we had to  
16 euthanize because of aggression.

17 You know, we euthanize six or seven at a  
18 time, and that's what we have to kind of balance  
19 as a staff. We're trying to say what is that  
20 reasonable one we draw in the sand and how do we  
21 approach that. And I think we've -- I think  
22 that's what we've tried to do. So I know  
23 there's a lot of misinformation circling around  
24 social media, and I just wanted to kind of  
25 explain how we went from point A to point B

1 pair. And with that I'll turn it over to Jerry.

2 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: And one of the  
3 issues that I look at at the 75 percent --

4 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON:  
5 Microphone.

6 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: Microphone. How  
7 about that?

8 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: That's better.

9 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: One of the issues  
10 I look at at the 75 percent is that I have  
11 allegedly -- I mean the shelter's built that  
12 way -- there's allegedly seven runs in the back  
13 that are supposed to be for rabies observation,  
14 for intake, and for segregation of sick or  
15 aggressive animals. At present time, I can't  
16 segregate any animals. Right now we've got  
17 every cage or kennel full.

18 And I left at 4:00, and I don't know if  
19 Donna was there getting more when I left. How  
20 many? So we got one more when I left. So we  
21 received three dogs in today, so that takes us  
22 up to 30. We're using crates that people would  
23 crate their dog in, and those animals are  
24 staying in those cages and crates except for  
25 when volunteers come.

1           And like Mr. Rapson said, you know, they  
2           are the lifeblood down there. They put in  
3           numerous hours that they don't get paid for,  
4           except for I think the one time I bought them  
5           breakfast and I got that some shirts. But other  
6           than that, they don't really get a lot of  
7           recognition. But, you know, they can only do so  
8           much.

9           So a dog, typically, I would say a best  
10          case scenario would get two hours a day outside  
11          of a cage. So we're talking an animal stays in  
12          a kennel, a crate, or a cage for 22 to 23 hours  
13          a day. And, you know, as far as the adoption  
14          goes, one of the things that I did thanks to the  
15          Board allowing me to get a -- the adoption  
16          coordinator is I have expanded hours.

17          I feel bad for my adoption coordinator.  
18          She's probably got the cruddiest hours of the  
19          world. She works Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
20          Sunday, and Monday. Thursdays and Fridays she  
21          works from 10:00 to 7:00. Saturdays, Sundays  
22          she works from 8:00 until 5:00. And Mondays she  
23          works 8:00 to 5:00.

24          I also rotated two of my other officers --  
25          the newer officers. One works Tuesday through

1 Saturday, and the other one works Sunday through  
2 Friday to give me staff in there to have two  
3 staff on the weekend to clean. Because on the  
4 weekend I still have just as many animals to  
5 take care for as I do during the week and they  
6 still have to be cared for.

7 The reason I'm asking for the 75 is just to  
8 give staff some ability to, (a), segregate  
9 animals when we get them. I know that people  
10 will say that we can run with two cages or two  
11 crates open or two kennels open, and we can.  
12 But that puts a lot of stress on both the  
13 animals, the staff, and just manpower in  
14 general.

15 Another thing, you know, as far as social  
16 media, we are using the Facebook. I know that  
17 I've heard some comments that we could probably  
18 use it better, and hopefully with Tiffany going  
19 full-time, she will be able to use it better and  
20 put the animals out there much more frequently.  
21 One of the things I do not want to do is put  
22 dogs, when they first come in, up on a social  
23 media site for adoption. Because if an owner  
24 does own a dog, I don't want anybody coming in  
25 saying I would like to have that dog. And when

1       you push somebody away saying you can't have an  
2       animal from the shelter, chances are they're not  
3       going to come back and get one.

4               Basically, you know, I think this policy is  
5       good. I know we're going to -- I've heard a lot  
6       about the 30 days. And, you know, my -- one of  
7       the things when I brought the 30 days up to  
8       Mr. Rapson, one of the things I did that is  
9       because I didn't -- I really did not believe  
10      that six or seven days was adequate time to give  
11      an animal there at the shelter to be adopted if  
12      we were going to adopt it.

13             And, again, it is not a drop dead date.  
14      And, you know, if we get -- if I have 20 runs  
15      and I get five puppies, I can put five puppies  
16      in a larger kennel. That doesn't mean I'm going  
17      to put down five dogs because I've got five  
18      puppies. You know, I want to be able to utilize  
19      the shelter the way it's designed at the present  
20      time with the staff that I have so that I don't  
21      strap the animals. Because I have a feeling  
22      that, you know, for the most part, if a citizen  
23      saw a animal that was in one of our kennels at  
24      their neighbors for that length of time, we  
25      would get a phone call and say, hey, this dog is



1       being abused.

2               Our dogs aren't being abused. I'm not  
3       saying that. They get a lot of love. They get  
4       a lot of care. But, you know, to me I don't  
5       want them to be institutionalized. You know, my  
6       background, I come from law enforcement.  
7       Animals are just like people to some extent.  
8       And you keep them in a caged area long enough,  
9       they feel that's their home and they only get  
10      use to that home.

11             What breaks my heart the most is when I see  
12      an animal when they take it for a walk and you  
13      get to the door and it runs to go into that  
14      kennel. I just feel that it's not right to  
15      them. I'm just here for any other questions you  
16      got.

17             CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Well, let's do  
18      this. We've had a good presentation of both the  
19      county manager and the director. I'm going to  
20      open up the floor for discussion. It's 8:00.  
21      We've been going since 6:30. I think we'll just  
22      keep going a little bit longer before we take a  
23      break.

24             And so let's do this. I know that there's  
25      a lot of folks that want to say something and

1 I've told you I'll recognize you. But if we can  
2 have a little bit of a line so that we're not  
3 waiting for folks to walk up as we're doing it.  
4 But come on up, introduce yourself, and make a  
5 presentation.

6 MS. STEPHANIE COHRAN: I guess, since I got  
7 here first, I will go first. Do you want me to  
8 wait till everybody gets in line?

9 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: No. You're -- No,  
10 no, no. Start.

11 MS. STEPHANIE COHRAN: Okay. I am  
12 Stephanie Cohran. I'm the president of the  
13 Fayette Humane Society. And as most of you  
14 know --

15 MS. SHARON MARCHISELLO: I guess I'll come  
16 up.

17 MS. STEPHANIE COHRAN: Yes, this is Sharon  
18 Marchisello. She is here with us. We have an  
19 official statement that we would like to read.  
20 All of you Commissioners have been provided with  
21 this. But for everybody in the room, we want to  
22 make sure that y'all know how we feel as the  
23 Humane Society. And then at the end, after I  
24 read our statement, I would like to see a show  
25 of hands to see how many are here to support our

1 vision.

2 The Fayette Humane Society agrees that the  
3 Fayette County Animal Shelter should have a  
4 euthanasia policy in place in order to remain  
5 transparent to the public and take out some of  
6 the guesswork and the emotion when the tough  
7 decisions are necessary. We realize that the  
8 county shelter has very limited capacity and is  
9 trying to do the best it can with the staff and  
10 the budget that it has. However, we feel it is  
11 disproportionate to the Fayette County's  
12 population.

13 We also have serious concerns about some of  
14 the elements of the proposed policy. First,  
15 although we understand some space must be set  
16 aside for emergencies, quarantine, etc., we  
17 disagree with the definition at full capacity at  
18 75 percent. We can support -- We cannot support  
19 killing healthy animals -- adoptable animals in  
20 order to keep 25 percent of the shelter's dog  
21 runs empty. Staff has indicated that keeping  
22 two cages empty, which Jerry mentioned a while  
23 ago, has been adequate for most situations in  
24 the past.

25 Intake numbers warrant managing the shelter

1 at 92 to 100 percent capacity. And as  
2 renovations to the -- And as for most situations  
3 in the past, intake numbers -- sorry. And as  
4 taxpayers this is how we would like to see our  
5 money spent. In the last year, 150,000 was  
6 budgeted for renovations to building the  
7 shelter -- to redoing the shelter. But so far  
8 we've only seen cosmetic improvements. We have  
9 not seen very many holding capacity for the  
10 animals increase even though efforts have been  
11 made to step up the response to complaints about  
12 free-roaming animals which results in increased  
13 intake.

14 Determination of which animals to kill  
15 strictly by length of stay, while it's black and  
16 white, is not the best method. Assessment about  
17 health, behavior, and adoptability needs to be  
18 ongoing and documented. Thirty days is rarely  
19 enough time for an animal to find a new home.  
20 In fact, when you subtract the five-day holding  
21 period in which the animal is not advertised as  
22 available, the adoption window is really only 25  
23 days.

24 Most animals coming into our Fayette Humane  
25 Society rescue system are with us for longer

1       than 30 days. We understand the concerns about  
2       a shelter animal becoming institutionalized if  
3       held too long, but we believe that there are  
4       enrichment programs, regular exercise, outings,  
5       sleepovers, as well as creating a foster  
6       network, which I know that has not been  
7       discussed about here tonight, could help  
8       alleviate the issue.

9               We would also like to see the policy state  
10       that, if the shelter is not full, animals  
11       exceeding the length of stay would not be  
12       killed, and that has been mentioned tonight that  
13       they were not being in danger. We applaud the  
14       shelter for recently extending the adoption  
15       hours and loosening some of the adoption  
16       restrictions, and we believe that that will help  
17       increase the live release rate.

18              One of our suggestions to increase the live  
19       release rate and reduce the need for euthanasia  
20       is that all animals should be posted on the  
21       public national website within 24 hours of  
22       intake. We use rescuegroups.org which posts not  
23       only to our own website, but to Petfinder, Adopt  
24       a Pet, etc. all in one transaction.

25              As the shelter approaches its capacity and

1 the risk of euthanasia is imminent, marketing  
2 efforts such as social media, outreach to rescue  
3 groups, adoption incentives need to be  
4 accelerated. And I know we have made very good  
5 strides in that regards.

6 While we appreciate the shelter reaching  
7 out to the rescue groups when an adoptable  
8 animal is at risk of being killed, five days is  
9 rarely adequate time to make room for another  
10 animal in our limited networks. If all animals  
11 are posted to the national sites upon intake,  
12 rescue groups will be more aware of the animals  
13 that are being brought into the shelter.  
14 Ideally, we would like to see the notice to the  
15 rescue groups go out as soon as the five-day  
16 hold is over, not waiting until five days before  
17 they are scheduled to go down.

18 But we would like -- That's ultimately what  
19 we would like, but we would be willing -- well,  
20 we would -- but we would want it to be no more  
21 than ten days prior to the potential kill date.  
22 So at least -- we're asking for -- we would like  
23 for it to be at when they come off the five-day  
24 hold, but we think it's not too much to ask to  
25 at least give us ten days versus the initial

1 five days.

2 Finally, we would like to point out that  
3 the national trend of animal shelters is going  
4 towards no kill, and there is no reason why we  
5 in Fayette County cannot aim towards that goal.  
6 We've talked about that here tonight, and our  
7 live release rate does show that we're  
8 getting -- we're making strides.

9 My numbers were a little different.  
10 There's some figures that were a little  
11 different online. I think that there was a  
12 listing on the figures that I had coming from  
13 Animal Control that there were some surrendered  
14 animals, and I don't really know what that  
15 means. That was not in your presentation, but  
16 it was on your intake sheets, the actual  
17 documented numbers. I don't know what that  
18 means, but we're still at 83 percent even  
19 including those numbers.

20 The last part of mine is there -- there's  
21 no reason why we -- the Fayette County Animal  
22 Control as limited intake shelter could not  
23 achieve this goal. Because a shelter is defined  
24 as no kill with a live release rate of  
25 90 percent or better. But for Animal Control to

1 reach this goal, it needs the help of the entire  
2 community, and we have a bunch of you here  
3 tonight. So we're pleading to you to help  
4 support this goal so that we can focus more on  
5 spay and neuter, education, and responsible pet  
6 ownership. And we, at the Fayette Humane  
7 Society, are committed to that goal and working  
8 with Animal Control to do so. Now --

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. STEPHANIE COHRAN: -- with a show of  
11 hands, do a lot of you feel the same way as we  
12 just presented?

13 (Audience raises hands.)

14 MS. STEPHANIE COHRAN: Okay. And that's  
15 what -- that's the position that the Humane  
16 Society would like to -- takes and we're  
17 dedicated to working with Jerry, Animal Control,  
18 and the commissioners to do whatever we need to  
19 do in the county to do what's best for the  
20 animals.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: Hello, Commissioners.

23 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Good evening.

24 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: Thank you so much for  
25 allowing us to talk about this healthy topic,



1           this important topic.

2           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Let me interrupt  
3           you real quick.

4           MS. LEAH THOMPSON: Yes.

5           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Just tell us your  
6           name so we --

7           MS. LEAH THOMPSON: I'm sorry.

8           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: -- get it on the  
9           record and then --

10          MS. LEAH THOMPSON: Absolutely.

11          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: -- and leave your  
12          piece of paper on there so that we've got a  
13          record of it.

14          MS. LEAH THOMPSON: I'm Leah Thompson. I'm  
15          a business owner, a taxpayer, and a voter. And  
16          today I am representing the Fayette County No  
17          Kill Coalition. This is Pierre. This is  
18          Casper. And I would like to add this is Casper  
19          with shelter volunteer, Shannon.

20          March the 29th, 2017, started like most  
21          every other day for Casper and Pierre. The  
22          shelter employees clean their kennels while they  
23          patiently waited for the shelter volunteers to  
24          come and walk them. Casper was selective about  
25          who he trusted but was partial to a particular

1 shelter employee and a shelter volunteer. His  
2 entire body would wiggle to greet them when they  
3 approached his kennel.

4 Pierre was a puppy full of life and loved  
5 the special attention that he got from the  
6 volunteers. One of the volunteers even taught  
7 him how to sit and wait patiently for a treat.  
8 At some point in the day, the decision was made  
9 to take Casper and Pierre out of their shelter  
10 made homes where they had been cared for and  
11 loved since their arrival and to lead them down  
12 the hall to the room where they were given an  
13 injection that would end their lives.

14 Casper meant so much to one of the shelter  
15 employees that she made sure that he did not die  
16 without her by his side so that the last person  
17 he saw would be one that he loved and trusted.  
18 Asking if Casper and Pierre should have been  
19 killed is the wrong question. The answer is  
20 that they were, and there's nothing we can do  
21 about that. The question to be asked is how can  
22 we all come together and make sure this choice  
23 does not have to be made again.

24 This is not about Casper and Pierre. This  
25 is about an ideology and understanding that has

1 to come from the top. Euthanasia can be  
2 necessary in sheltering, but it should never be  
3 used as a form of shelter population control.  
4 Euthanasia policies that impose time limits and  
5 capacity limitations are archaic and inhumane.  
6 This is not a --

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: This is not a time to  
9 blame or to point fingers. It's a time for  
10 action and to come together and put into place  
11 proven practices that lower intake numbers such  
12 as target spay and neuter and community outreach  
13 programs to educate and support. There are  
14 grants that would allow these practices to be  
15 put in place without any cost to the County.  
16 Let me say that again, gentlemen, without any  
17 cost to the County.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: A few years ago, the  
20 Georgia Department of Agriculture issued over  
21 \$200,000 in grants to assist with spay and  
22 neuter of Georgia's companion animals. In  
23 November of last year, PetSmart Charities  
24 granted over 2.2 million to 113 animal  
25 organizations throughout the United States and

1 Canada. In Georgia three organizations were the  
2 recipients. The money is there and waiting for  
3 the shelter to apply.

4 It is incomprehensible that animals are  
5 allowed to leave our shelter without being  
6 spayed and neutered.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: According to the ASPCA,  
9 animal control impoundment and sheltering  
10 expenses cost taxpayers about \$3 a person every  
11 single year. These costs could be reduced by  
12 lowering intake rates through spay and neuter  
13 grant programs. When you have a mindset that  
14 focuses on rounding up animals with no clear  
15 solution to find them homes, you create a  
16 vicious cycle of intake and euthanasia  
17 especially with the policy that contains time  
18 and space limitations. There are better ways.

19 I believe in this county and the people in  
20 it. I believe in our elected officials to do  
21 the right thing by the people and the animals in  
22 need in our community. There is hope, there is  
23 support, and there is a need for change of mind  
24 and of heart. I don't believe in identifying  
25 problems without providing solutions.

1           There is a booklet entitled "Dollars and  
2           Cents of No Kill in Animal Control." In this  
3           booklet, it outlines why the no-kill philosophy  
4           means more money and community support and how  
5           this movement has changed communities for the  
6           better. I have made a copy for each of you.  
7           The booklet discusses many ways in which moving  
8           toward no kill is an economic benefit.

9           Although costs vary somewhat, impounding,  
10          caring for, and ultimately killing an animal and  
11          disposing of his or her body costs approximately  
12          \$106 -- \$66 for impoundment, and \$40 per killing  
13          and disposal. This process is entirely revenue  
14          negative to the county in contrast to the  
15          no-kill approach which transfers cost to private  
16          philanthropy, brings in adoption revenue and  
17          other user fees, and supports local businesses  
18          including veterinarians, pet supply stores,  
19          groomers, trainers, and boarding facilities. It  
20          makes more economic sense to adopt out animals,  
21          transfer these animals to private nonprofit  
22          rescue organizations, and increase the number of  
23          stray animals reclaimed by their families.  
24          These are all revenue positive activities. It  
25          is a win-win.

1           There is a saying in sheltering, and it  
2           says, "If you move toward no kill, they will  
3           come" -- more volunteers, more money, and more  
4           healthy animals. No kill is not about a  
5           percentage. It's a commitment to finding a home  
6           for all adoptable and healthy animals. A policy  
7           with time and space limitations does nothing to  
8           further this cause. The truth is important as  
9           it builds trust and it can affect change.

10           The truth is someone failed Casper and  
11           Pierre long before they got to the shelter. The  
12           truth is there's a problem in our county, one of  
13           the most affluent counties in the state, with  
14           our shelter. The truth is this problem has  
15           proven solutions, and it's our responsibility to  
16           look at these solutions and work together to  
17           implement them. The truth is this is what  
18           sheltering should look like. I want to end on a  
19           happy note.

20           (Applause.)

21           MS. LEAH THOMPSON: I want to introduce you  
22           to Stitch. This is Stitch. This is Stitch  
23           here. I'll show you in just a minute. This is  
24           Stitch. This is his new family. Stitch was  
25           adopted out of being --

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. LEAH THOMPSON: Come on up. I want to  
3 tell you, though, a little bit about -- these  
4 are millennials. These are who are adopting our  
5 animals, and they don't like this -- they like  
6 no kill. But I want to tell you, Stitch was at  
7 the shelter for over 100 days, and the shelter  
8 has been full several times since then.

9 If this policy had been implemented, Stitch  
10 would not be in a warm bed with this wonderful  
11 family. This is why I implore you, please vote  
12 no to this policy. Thank you so much for your  
13 time and patience.

14 (Applause.)

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Real quick, I just want  
16 to say I love Stitch. I can't imagine my life  
17 without him now, so.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. MARCIA HENDERSHOT: That's a hard act  
20 to follow. My name is Marcia Hendershot. I  
21 live in Peachtree City. I am a Fayette Humane  
22 Society volunteer. But everything I have to say  
23 is not to be construed as a statement from the  
24 Fayette Humane Society. This is Marcia talking.

25 And I had notes that I was going to follow,

1 and I'm bagging my notes because so many things  
2 have already been discussed that I was going to  
3 mention. But I'll tell you, the one thing that  
4 stands out -- well, backing up. I was in a  
5 meeting. I was one of the animal advocates.  
6 Commissioner Brown facilitated a meeting with  
7 Steve Rapson and Jerry Collins and those of us  
8 in the animal advocacy group. You would think a  
9 meeting like that might be contentious. It was  
10 not. We did not agree on everything, but we  
11 left I think friends. And I look forward to  
12 working with them again.

13 But the one thing that was very clear, and  
14 Steve, you mentioned this just tonight, they are  
15 animal control. We are animal advocates, and  
16 the animal control is kind of run like a  
17 business. You know, you've got to watch your  
18 bottom line. And we heard Jerry talking about  
19 limited staff. We, as animal advocates, we're  
20 more concerned with, well, now we've got the  
21 pet, what do we do with it, how do we treat it.

22 And the thing that is running through my  
23 head over and over tonight is there are people  
24 here who have expressed an interest in helping  
25 out. Friends of Fayette County, thank you. I



1 didn't even know you existed. Or friends of --  
2 what was it? Friends of Fayette County Animal  
3 Shelter. Did not know they existed.

4 I think there's a gap in people's  
5 willingness to help out and how they can do it.  
6 Steve, you alluded to, well, if you're  
7 interested, contact Fayette Humane Society. I'm  
8 not sure what we do with that information if we  
9 got it. I think we need a more structured  
10 vehicle to get animal advocates together.

11 Steve, I told you the other day on the  
12 phone I would it mention the AB word, but I'm  
13 going to -- advisory board. I don't know if --  
14 what's the solution? I'm struggling here  
15 tonight trying to figure out the solution.  
16 Jerry, you need resources as far as more staff,  
17 more money. So is this a budget thing? Should  
18 we be showing -- are there budget meetings that  
19 we should be showing up now at to give input?  
20 And if we did want to strive for this advisory  
21 board, that's one of the things that we  
22 mentioned in the ordinance as we reviewed.

23 That whole meeting -- The purpose of it was  
24 to review proposed changes to the animal control  
25 ordinance. Is there another way to get that

1 advisory board established besides through that  
2 ordinance? So I stand here before you more with  
3 questions rather than solutions or comments.

4 Steve and Jerry, they will follow your  
5 directives. That much I got from the meeting.  
6 They do their job. They know their directives.  
7 They're going to carry them out. I think they  
8 need more resources. So my question to you is  
9 how can we help them which would ultimately help  
10 us. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. NANCY AIKINS: Hi, I'm Nancy Aikins. I  
13 live in Fayette County, and a lot of the things  
14 that I was going to bring up were already  
15 discussed. I do have one question. The  
16 statistics you showed us were all on dogs. What  
17 about other animals in the shelter? Why weren't  
18 they included in that presentation?

19 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: I have those  
20 statistics. I can provide those to you.  
21 There's actually a goat and I think a bird and a  
22 horse.

23 MS. NANCY AIKINS: Well, I imagine that  
24 there are a lot of cats too.

25 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: There are. There

1 are.

2 MS. NANCY AIKINS: Okay. I'd like to see  
3 those, and I'd like to support the others that  
4 said we need more and for all the reasons that  
5 were discussed. Thank you, Sirs.

6 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. JEANIE MAHONEY: Thank you for this  
9 opportunity to address the Board. And Jeanie  
10 Mahoney. I'm a Peachtree City resident. I'm  
11 here tonight as a taxpayer and representing dog  
12 rescue Hounds in Pounds.

13 I, too, had a very lengthy piece to talk  
14 about. But Fayette Humane Society and the No  
15 Kill Coalition has done a great job of  
16 expressing Hounds in Pounds view and my view of  
17 what's happening. A couple things I am going to  
18 talk about. I'm a little thrown because I had  
19 this really nice prepared speech.

20 I'm going to make a statement. I think  
21 Eric will -- what you were trying to ask in your  
22 question. It's evident, based on the number of  
23 people here tonight, that euthanasia is not an  
24 acceptable method to address shelter and county  
25 animal population issues. I think that's what

1           you were trying to ask with the questions.

2           (Applause.)

3           MS. JEANIE MAHONEY: United States shelter  
4 statistics indicate that it takes four times  
5 longer for a healthy, less adoptable pet to be  
6 adopted. Less adoptable pets can include senior  
7 pets, black pets, pit bull-type dogs, pets that  
8 are different or blind or deaf. Thirty days is  
9 not an adequate time for them to get adopted.

10          (Applause.)

11          MS. JEANIE MAHONEY: We look to you to  
12 support developing a shelter that reflects one  
13 of the county's organizational values of  
14 excellence in all endeavors. I think we all  
15 agree that we're not excellent today. But I  
16 think, by working together with your support and  
17 the support of the community, we can get there.

18          One item in your policy which the Fayette  
19 Humane Society touched on, for a small rescue  
20 like Hounds in Pounds, say to us you have five  
21 days to help us save this animal's life, that is  
22 not enough time, especially if you have weekends  
23 and holidays in that five days. We need to be  
24 involved much earlier in the process to help  
25 find animals homes especially those less

1 adoptable animals.

2 Thank you for permitting me to have a voice  
3 for our county's animals, and I really look  
4 forward to working with some of you. I will  
5 reach out, like I said, I don't know if Fayette  
6 Humane's the right group. But from an advisory  
7 board, I know we would be interested in having a  
8 voice on that. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CINDI O'CONOR: Hi, Cindi O'Conor  
11 again, unincorporated Fayette County and I live  
12 near Stars Mill Pond. Mine is mostly on the  
13 proposed policy. I read the policy earlier, and  
14 I thought it was very vague. And although I  
15 know that I've been to the shelter and they  
16 really care about the animals and they do the  
17 very best they can, I think that the policy for  
18 going future should be better outlined and have  
19 better checks and balances.

20 So what I was thinking was, under the  
21 evaluations part of the policy, who makes the  
22 evaluations of the medical condition and whether  
23 the treatment is reasonable and what are their  
24 qualifications? And if it's a designee, which  
25 it says it can be in the policy, what are their

1 qualifications and what are their training? I  
2 mean, how do we know that they even know what  
3 they're doing? Do they know how to insert an IV  
4 into an animal to do the euthanasia? Is it  
5 humane the way they do it?

6 What type of euthanasia do we use? Do we  
7 only use the medication or do they go out there  
8 and shoot them? Do you shoot a horse in the  
9 head? I mean, what do you do to kill the  
10 animal? So I think that should be outlined in  
11 the policy itself.

12 Who determines that the animal poses a  
13 danger? I think there should be a better  
14 definition, more parameters of how they define  
15 whether the animal poses a danger or not. And  
16 there was one part that says the condition that  
17 escalates, it may not be something that they  
18 would be euthanized for before, but if they have  
19 a separate condition that might escalate them  
20 being, they might get euthanized for that. So  
21 what is that all about? What does that mean  
22 exactly?

23 Is it because they have cancer and so  
24 you're going to euthanize them because they have  
25 cancer? I really didn't understand that. I

1 didn't think that was very clear at all in the  
2 policy.

3 Directors or designee determine about  
4 adoptability, how do you know? I mean, because  
5 I have a cat that I took up there, and the cat  
6 is the sweetest thing in the whole world, but it  
7 does not like to be held. So if you pick up  
8 that cat, it's going to scratch you and it's  
9 going to fight like heck to get down. So is  
10 that cat not adoptable because of that?

11 Because none of my cats like to be held. I  
12 don't think any cat likes to be held personally.  
13 But, you know, some will tolerate it. And I  
14 know that we didn't even talk about cats at the  
15 facility, and I'm wondering what percentage of  
16 the cats are actually killed.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. CINDI O'CONOR: And then in part number  
19 3 where they talk about notifying of rescues,  
20 there was no date or time parameter given. I  
21 think -- how many days will you give  
22 notification to the rescue organizations to  
23 respond to the determination before the animal  
24 is euthanized? How soon after admission will  
25 the appropriate rescue organizations be

1 notified? I think that should all be spelled  
2 out in the policy itself so that there's no  
3 question going forward.

4 Because I've been to some of the other area  
5 shelters where I adopted my dog, and it is  
6 horrible. It's horrifying the way some of the  
7 other county's facilities are run. And I know  
8 that ours is not run that way now, but I don't  
9 want this going forward to be an open thing that  
10 can be done. I'd rather it be -- you know, if  
11 you're going to make a policy now, and I do  
12 think we need a policy since you say that the  
13 other one was seven days, I think there should  
14 be a policy. But I think this one needs to be  
15 more defined than what we have.

16 Due to the space limitations, will there be  
17 documentation of the level of capacity and the  
18 type of animal and the date of euthanize? Are  
19 you going to make documentations of that? Is  
20 that going to be available to the public if we  
21 wanted to find out who you did euthanize and why  
22 they were euthanized and who okayed it and who  
23 did that or who performed the euthanization?

24 Will there be any photo documentation of  
25 any injuries to the animal that you think the



1 animal should be euthanized for? I mean, is  
2 there going to be somebody -- is that Marion  
3 that's taking care of this or is it just at will  
4 according to what the people think there?

5 Will the area where the euthanasia takes  
6 place, is it maintained in a manner to offer  
7 respect to the animals? Is it kept clean and  
8 unthreatening or is it dirt, mess like one of  
9 the other ones I saw, not in Fayette County but  
10 in another county? I want to -- I think that  
11 should be outlined that it should be kept clean  
12 and relatively sterile and decent looking and  
13 not, you know, a dirty back room that you take  
14 them to and give them a shot or whatever you do.

15 Are the designees certified or trained in  
16 euthanasia or are any of you certified and  
17 trained in euthanasia? I know there is a  
18 training course that they have, and I was just  
19 wondering if any of ours are actually trained to  
20 do this. It says in there that there's --  
21 you're going to try to do things according to  
22 the HSUS standards whenever possible,  
23 pre-sedation whenever possible. Why is it just  
24 whenever possible? I don't understand why it  
25 wouldn't be possible, so I think that should be

1       better outlined.

2               And what type of sedation do you use? Are  
3       you only using tranquilizers or medications, I  
4       mean, immobilization? What type of euthanasia  
5       and sedation are you using before you actually  
6       euthanize an animal?

7               And I think we should vote no on this  
8       policy, but I do think we need a policy in place  
9       and I think the idea of having a policy is  
10      great. And I know that they have been trying to  
11      run the shelter as best they can and they try  
12      their very best to make it -- kill as few as  
13      possible. But I think we do need a policy that  
14      is laid out and determined and has more checks  
15      and balances and more open to the public. Thank  
16      you very much.

17              (Applause.)

18              MR. PHILIP DOOLITTLE: Hi, my name is  
19      Philip Doolittle. I'm a resident of Woolsey,  
20      and the only rescue I belong to is my Doolittle  
21      household rescue. I didn't prepare a speech.

22              I did want to start out by saying thank you  
23      to Jerry and company. I have had the  
24      displeasure of euthanizing a few of my animals  
25      over the years, and quite frankly, the idea of

1       having to do 70 a year horrifies me. So, thank  
2       you, brother. You do a job that's very, very  
3       difficult to do.

4               As far as the numbers that Jerry's put  
5       forth today and Mr. Rapson's put forth today, I  
6       think they are reasonable given what he has to  
7       work with. My problem is what he has to work  
8       with.

9               (Applause.)

10              MR. PHILIP DOOLITTLE: I cannot criticize  
11       him for saying that five runs or two runs or ten  
12       runs are enough. I'm not in his shoes. I don't  
13       do his job every day, and I have to entrust that  
14       he's balancing what he has and the needs of the  
15       animals there. So I appreciate your efforts  
16       there as well.

17              But the finger -- And I'm not going to lie.  
18       Three days ago I was prepared to come here and  
19       rant and rave at our shelter and at our county.  
20       It's us, guys. It's the five of you, it's me,  
21       it's my wife. The conversation should be,  
22       Director Jerry, is 75 percent enough? And I  
23       would like to hear his response be, "I have no  
24       idea. I've never gotten close. I have 50 runs,  
25       and we've done 35."

1           And I realize you can't waste public  
2           resources. But at the same time, if we're  
3           funding pedestrian bridges and renovations to  
4           the fountains and new cart paths, in our recent  
5           SPLOST, there's a lot of niceties for our  
6           community. We can all debate whether it should  
7           have been spent on the fountain or if it should  
8           have been spent on the bridge, but I have a  
9           really, really hard time killing an animal over  
10          funding. Thank you.

11           (Applause.)

12          MR. TERRY MARTIN: Good evening.  
13          Commissioners, earlier you -- normally in a  
14          meeting, y'all have a group you recognize. I'm  
15          Terry Martin, and I've been asked by the  
16          volunteers to speak on their behalf tonight.  
17          But -- So you do have a group here you can  
18          recognize. So if you've come to the Fayette  
19          County Animal Shelter and walked dogs, would you  
20          stand up.

21           (Applause.)

22          MR. TERRY MARTIN: Gentlemen, I've got to  
23          tell you it's difficult to speak about this  
24          subject because, you know, there's hot button  
25          issues. Twenty years in public school education

1 as administrator, you know you never mess with  
2 the band parents, you never messed with the  
3 gifted program, you never mess with special ed.  
4 There's just certain things you don't mess with.  
5 So a hot button issue you stayed away from. For  
6 you guys, congratulations, this is your hot  
7 button issue at the moment.

8 I retired a while back, and I wanted to do  
9 something for the community and wanted to be  
10 still a contributing person after spending 30  
11 years in public education. And still having a  
12 few brain cells connected, I decided that I  
13 wanted to go help dogs, totally a little bit  
14 different. And so I went over to the animal  
15 shelter and I began to volunteer about 40 hours  
16 a month.

17 And I met these wonderful people. And they  
18 love these animals. They want to help. And so  
19 when they come here, they're not bitching,  
20 griping, moaning, groaning, and complaining.  
21 They actually have concerns and things. I  
22 remember walking into the shelter the first  
23 time. This is way before Jerry came along  
24 because I'm so glad he did come along. But this  
25 place has had four or five folks run it in the

1 last four or five years. It has truly been the  
2 stepchild -- the little redheaded stepchild  
3 which nobody wants to do. It is the squeaky  
4 wheels that's never squeaked.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. TERRY MARTIN: Now, I grew up in  
7 Fayette County, and, Charles, I graduated with  
8 Warren way back in 1975. And this building was  
9 built --

10 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: I'm sorry about  
11 that.

12 MR. TERRY MARTIN: I know. He's a heck of  
13 a guy. So I've been around a while. And  
14 Twisted Taco was Travis Hardware, and I went to  
15 school cross the street. So I've seen the  
16 county grow from 12,000 to what it is now, so  
17 I've been around the block with many of you  
18 guys.

19 And it's difficult when you've got a lot of  
20 emotion here. And one of the things, if you saw  
21 all the messages that went back and forth with  
22 these folks, and I just couldn't even keep up  
23 with them as I was reading through them. And  
24 I'm retired. I don't know how these folks went  
25 to work today. I'm not sure a lot of work got

1           done with some of these folks today.

2           But they were going back and forth. And  
3           one of the things they said, guys, we can't get  
4           emotional about it, but it's hard not to because  
5           we love these folks. I can tell you I walked  
6           Stitch there 30 or 40 times in the times he was  
7           there.

8           (Applause.)

9           MR. TERRY MARTIN: You know, the number of  
10          dogs that are adopted after that 100-day period  
11          is amazing. I've got a little guy named Kilo  
12          who was in a house fire that I adopted from  
13          Hounds in Pounds. They couldn't find anybody to  
14          because he was an ugly old dog. But, man, what  
15          a great dog, and I love him to death. He's just  
16          perfect for my family.

17          But if you adopted a dog in here that's  
18          been -- that was in this shelter more than 80 or  
19          90 days, raise your hand if you've got one.

20          (Audience raises hands.)

21          MR. TERRY MARTIN: And those dogs are now  
22          contributing members to a family. They're an  
23          important part of it. You know, I'm not here to  
24          tell you like we used to do back in Cleveland  
25          because I'm one of you. I've been here a long

1 time, but it's time for some change. It  
2 obviously is.

3 The stepchild -- And I know that we need to  
4 do these renovations to the building. Jerry's  
5 been talking about them for a while, and God  
6 bless Jerry because he does have a terrible job.  
7 And I do pray for you, brother, because it is.

8 But the staff over there, you finally got a  
9 director. And the staff (indiscernible) was  
10 terrible. The culture and climate was terrible  
11 because it's been through so many people. Now,  
12 a lot of you guys weren't even elected or even  
13 around them.

14 But let me tell you, it's finally getting a  
15 little better. And Jerry's doing the very best  
16 he can, but it's time to fork over some serious  
17 cash. It's one of those things the building's  
18 falling down.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. TERRY MARTIN: You know, it was built  
21 in 1983, and we didn't even have probably 50,000  
22 people here then. And you walk in there, and  
23 God only knows that sewage problem's terrible.  
24 It's been stinking. You could drive by on 74  
25 and smell it last summer. It was terrible.



1           The curbing, you know, you guys send -- I  
2       don't know who's the head of maintenance or  
3       whatever. But you guys sent out last year  
4       somebody to do some curbing and parking lot  
5       changes and stuff. And then you've got old  
6       concrete and crap and mud washing down the  
7       sidewalk. Once again, it's the redheaded  
8       stepchild. We couldn't even do that right,  
9       couldn't put -- throw a little bit of grass seed  
10      out there and a little bit of straw or  
11      something.

12           There was a dog washing thing set up by  
13      Ronni when she was there. I thought it was  
14      great. We're going to give these stinky dogs a  
15      bath every now and then, and I was going to jump  
16      right in there with both feet, and a lot of  
17      these volunteers were. And it wasn't a dozen  
18      dogs got washed in the little nozzle broke.  
19      Well, it still been broken. Why? Why? The  
20      redheaded stepchild.

21           We have no strategic plan whatsoever for  
22      the facility. Why in God's name does any  
23      government entity today -- and trust me, after  
24      30 years of public school education, you'd  
25      better have a strategic plan or you're going to

1 be in the superintendent or assistant  
2 superintendent's office pretty darn quick. We  
3 need a strategic plan. Where are we going?  
4 Twelve months from now, where are we going to  
5 be? Three years from now, where are we going to  
6 be? Five years from now, where are we going to  
7 be? We're at the point now to where something's  
8 got to be done.

9 And the policy of 75 percent, all this is  
10 difficult, and I'm glad your County  
11 Administrator has kind of, I think, really  
12 quelled some of these folks' emotion about that,  
13 and, you know, when it gets to 31 days, is this  
14 guy -- this little puppy that we spent so much  
15 time walking and trying to spend some time  
16 adopting, if you had any idea how much time  
17 these folks spent on social media, it'll almost  
18 drive you crazy. But I love it because I love  
19 the dogs.

20 These folks are constantly posting. I'm up  
21 there with -- and I'm not great technically  
22 illiterate, but, you know, I'm up there taking  
23 little pictures with these dogs and putting them  
24 on my Facebook page. You know, I'm an oldster.  
25 But you do it, and that's what these folks are

1       doing.

2               They've got a vested interest. They're not  
3 talking a good game. They're not saying --  
4 coming up here doing the bitching, griping  
5 thing. They're actually invested, and they're  
6 there all the time. As Jerry can tell you, I  
7 don't know how in the world he would run that  
8 shelter without these folks. They're there on  
9 rainy days, cold days. It doesn't matter.

10              I spent about 50 bucks a month buying  
11 little treats for them and little collars for  
12 them and little things to go in there runs for  
13 them. That's what all these people do. Not  
14 just me, but all of them. They got a vested  
15 interest in it, and all these people here do as  
16 well.

17              We need a facility that matches the needs  
18 of the citizens. It's up to you. It's your  
19 responsibility to do that, and that's what we  
20 hope that you'll do.

21              The volunteers would like to ask you these  
22 recommendations. We like to put it out there  
23 that we put a 90-day moratorium on euthanization  
24 except for illness and dangerous aggression. If  
25 crates need to be purchased, some large ones or

1       whatever, a couple to get by with -- because  
2       according to Leah, and I trust her because she  
3       knows this inside and out from the Humane  
4       Society, to buy a couple extra little crates to  
5       go out there at the shelter to make it through  
6       this tough time. Because July, August are tough  
7       months, and then it kind of goes down.

8               Because as Jerry will tell you, this is  
9       really -- this last few weeks is the only time  
10      it's got just ugly. And excuse the expression,  
11      it's got a little butt ugly. It's tough. But  
12      it's a societal problem, but we've all inherited  
13      it -- you and us. Because we want to be a part  
14      of that.

15             We asked for an advocacy committee to be  
16      established with four members at minimum to  
17      develop recommendations for the county  
18      commission -- a commissioner, a shelter worker,  
19      a volunteer, and someone from the Humane  
20      Society, also that a strategic plan be developed  
21      for this facility very quickly as possible.

22             (Applause.)

23             MR. TERRY MARTIN: Finally, as my son -- I  
24      recruited him today to go and to help me walk.  
25      He's in town. So I made him go help me walk

1 dogs today. We were out there talking, and this  
2 is the way I would like to close it with you.  
3 If someone were brought to Fayette County and  
4 said you're going to go visit a facility and  
5 you're going to judge this county according to  
6 that facility and it happened to be the Fayette  
7 County Animal Shelter -- gentlemen, this is my  
8 hometown.

9 I was born right over here, played a little  
10 football here, basketball, and everything. But  
11 I would be absolutely damned embarrassed that  
12 this is the best that this affluent county, my  
13 hometown, could do. We're better than this. We  
14 truly, truly are. And I challenge you to work  
15 with us.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. TERRY MARTIN: We want to work with  
18 Jerry. We want to work with you. We'll do  
19 whatever it takes. Hell, I'm retired now. I  
20 got plenty of time and so does all these other  
21 folks. We'll do whatever we need to do to make  
22 this right so that, when that person does come  
23 to visit the animal shelter, they're going to  
24 say, "My God, why are we like them." How is it  
25 that Clayton County and Coweta County can be so

1       damn much better than us? Thank you.

2               (Applause.)

3               MS. KIM WARD: Hi, my name is Kim Ward, and  
4 I apologize for my shaky voice, but I had no  
5 intention of speaking when I came to this. This  
6 is the first thing like this I've ever been to,  
7 but it's really hearing everybody talk that  
8 inspired me to come up and talk. I actually  
9 live in Coweta County, but I am a licensed  
10 veterinary technician and a practice manager at  
11 a veterinary hospital here in Peachtree City.

12              And I just want to say I'm also a proud  
13 owner of an adopted pit bull mix from a shelter.  
14 And I realize -- I realize this isn't a pit bull  
15 issue, but I'm only bringing it up because it  
16 was brought up from you guys based on the  
17 numbers that we had up here. And I was  
18 really -- I just want to throw out some numbers  
19 for you.

20              You can only determine a dog's breed or  
21 appearance, DNA only makes up about 2 percent of  
22 that. So you can't determine a dog's behavior  
23 based on how it looks. And unfortunately, these  
24 dogs that wind up in these shelters, a lot of  
25 them are what are considered pit bulls, and I

1       put that in quotations.

2               So I just was really inspired by what  
3       everyone said about just the outpouring from the  
4       audience about Stitch's story. And I think the  
5       thing that I have -- that spoke to me the most  
6       was the fact that, if you look at Stitch, the  
7       only difference that he has in his picture  
8       compared to the dogs that were put up there that  
9       don't have homes is that he has a family behind  
10      him. But if we could show Stitch's picture --  
11      do you have that poster board of Stitch?

12              So that is what would -- is what's  
13      considered a pit bull, and aggressive breed. So  
14      nine times out of ten, that's not necessarily  
15      the case, and it's really just based on media  
16      stories that perpetuate the problem. But the  
17      American Veterinary Medical Association does not  
18      support breed-specific legislation for this very  
19      reason, because scientific studies have shown  
20      that you cannot determine a dog's behavior based  
21      on its breed alone.

22              I'd also just really quickly like to give a  
23      shout out to Fayette Humane Society, because  
24      it's because of the Facebook post that I even  
25      knew this was happening tonight. Again, I had

1 no intention of speaking. And then the other  
2 thing I'd like to tell is I would like to get in  
3 contact with Friends of the Fayette County  
4 Animal Shelter -- I hope I said that right --  
5 because there's a wonderful organization called  
6 Animal Farm Foundation that is located out of  
7 New York state, and they provide free marketing  
8 materials, educational resources for nonprofit  
9 organizations.

10 Before I took this job and moved here a few  
11 years ago, I had worked at the vet school at  
12 Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, and I  
13 ran -- kind of was the coordinator with the  
14 shelter at Lee County to get those dogs to come  
15 over to the vet school where students would, you  
16 know, spay and neuter them, and then we'd put  
17 them back out at the shelter for them to be  
18 adopted. And it was through them -- I told them  
19 about Animal Farm Foundation, and we got so many  
20 marketing materials that were educational, that  
21 kind of dispels some of the myths about this  
22 breed.

23 And I hope that we can all come together to  
24 help these dogs. Because, again, the only  
25 difference between Stitch and was it -- is it



1 Nemo?

2 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Newt.

3 MS. KIM WARD: Newt, is that he has a  
4 family. That's really the only difference. So  
5 that's all.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. MARY BETH DAVIS: Good evening. My  
8 name is Mary Beth Davis, and I'm a Fayette  
9 County resident. I had a prepared speech,  
10 things that I wanted to mention. A lot of those  
11 have been answered or addressed, so I don't want  
12 to repeat them. My main focus at this point is  
13 the funding. If you look -- I looked at the  
14 2017 budget that was posted online. Out of the  
15 animal control budget -- it's 398,000 --  
16 personnel expenses is 337,000 which is 85  
17 percent of the budget. 1.5 percent goes to  
18 capital improvements as far as what's on that  
19 budget and 59,000 goes to operational expenses.  
20 And I'm making that assumption that it is not  
21 facilities and equipment, utilities and water.  
22 That's an assumption.

23 The animal control budget, when I looked at  
24 2017 for the county, is only .5 percent of the  
25 entire county budget. That's nothing. Point

1       5 percent in this county as affluent as it is,  
2       and I just don't understand why we can't do  
3       something besides that.

4             The only other thing that I did was I  
5       looked at some of the other stats that were  
6       online. And the only thing I could see for the  
7       county animal control was data -- actual data  
8       for 2011. I don't understand that. And based  
9       upon the numbers for adoptions and animals in  
10      2016, which I don't have, according to this,  
11      2011, animals impounded was 2632 animals.

12            That's not what I saw up here for 2016. It  
13      was 500 and something. This is saying animals  
14      adopted was only 605. It's also saying that  
15      vicious animals were 29 and animals quarantined  
16      or tested was 153. What happened to the rest of  
17      these animals? I know we said that 50 percent  
18      of them go back to their owners. But based upon  
19      that, if you have 2632 impounded, 50 percent of  
20      those go back which is 1316 -- 1,316 and you  
21      only had 605 adopted, what happened to the rest  
22      of them?

23            CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Jerry, is that  
24      cats? Is that what's the difference in the  
25      numbers?

1 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: Is that 2011  
2 stats?

3 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: She say that's  
4 2011. That's a significant difference.

5 MS. MARY BETH DAVIS: No. The only thing I  
6 could find online was 2011.

7 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: I'm not confident  
8 in any of those numbers.

9 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: I can  
10 tell you the 600 numbers we have for dogs, the  
11 573, we've actually went back and looked at  
12 those and actually went to the system. One of  
13 the things that -- I'm not sure what they were  
14 counting. I can tell you that cats isn't  
15 driving you to 2600. We don't have 2000 cats,  
16 so I have no idea what that is.

17 MS. MARY BETH DAVIS: Well, I had problems  
18 with that. Anyway, so as it is said, we need  
19 more funding definitely. All the other subjects  
20 and issues, euthanasia, I agree with a lot of  
21 them. There's no point repeating them. But we  
22 need to find a way to get more funding and give  
23 it to them and we need capital improvement  
24 money.

25 Oh, I did have one other question. Sorry.

1 According to this in 2011, it says revenue  
2 collected for adoptions and reclaimed fees.  
3 Does that go back into the general fund or is  
4 that money that the animal control can use to  
5 enhance their facilities, their education, the  
6 building? What happens to that money? Does it  
7 go back to the general fund and then get  
8 redistributed to them or does it just get spread  
9 out throughout other county issues?

10 DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: I'm going to  
11 answer all those -- I've got a whole list of  
12 questions I'm going to answer.

13 MS. MARY BETH DAVIS: Okay. Good. Thank  
14 you. I appreciate the opportunity.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. VICTORIA O'HEARN: My name is Victoria  
17 O'Hearn. My family owns a business in  
18 Fayetteville and have been avid supporters of  
19 the Fayetteville shelter, but we are residents  
20 of Pike County. Kind of the perks of almost  
21 going last is everyone has talked so much.

22 My personal experience was the first  
23 experience with Fayette County, it was in  
24 October, November. So staff has changed since  
25 then and improvements have been made. But we

1 found a dog running and he was scared. He was a  
2 stray dog. We brought him to the Fayette County  
3 Animal Shelter after he spent a weekend with us  
4 because he was closed. And we were horrified by  
5 his treatment there, and it wasn't specifically  
6 by the staff. It was the decisions and the  
7 policies that were in place.

8 We were told that at the end of five days  
9 that he would basically be killed because they  
10 felt he was aggressive. One person made that  
11 call. He was taken to the back. And when we  
12 turned around because my fiancé, who is a Marine  
13 Corps veteran, was moved to tears he was so  
14 upset by this dog's treatment. A Marine was so  
15 upset at the -- I don't know how to say it -- I  
16 guess the condition.

17 And he walked back there and he escorted  
18 himself back to the holding cell where this dog  
19 was terrified. And he was barking, and he was  
20 labeled as aggressive.

21 I can tell you right now that dog tonight  
22 is cuddling with his four-year-old daughter. He  
23 loves to watch TV. He loves to watch cat  
24 videos, and he loves bird videos. He watched "A  
25 Dog's Purpose" with me and barked when the

1 German Shepherd went underneath the water. He  
2 was very upset by it. He talks. He has  
3 conversations. He knows how to rollover. And  
4 he wouldn't have gotten that.

5 You know, and granted that 30 days is much  
6 better than being killed at the end of five  
7 days. But I guess my point is is that something  
8 needs to change, and I don't think this 30-day  
9 policy is going to be the answer. Instead of  
10 putting a time limit on a dog's life, let's put  
11 a time limit on making the changes the shelter  
12 needs.

13 MR. CHRIS WAPLES: Good evening. My name  
14 is Chris Waples. I'm from Peachtree City. I'm  
15 one of the volunteers at the shelter that helps  
16 walk the dogs. My wife and I both volunteer.  
17 The one thing that I will say, we've already  
18 beat up the 75 percent capacity issue. But I  
19 both heard Steve and Jerry, and Jerry's done a  
20 great job. He's really in a hard spot. He was  
21 hired as animal control, and he's trying to walk  
22 that fine line between shelter and animal  
23 control. And I know he really cares. He really  
24 does.

25 But, you know, we were talking about, you

1 know, as one of the problems, as we approach  
2 full capacity, how hard it is on not only the  
3 dogs, the facilities, the staff. And I keep  
4 hearing, you know, that the solution to this is  
5 destroying animals in order to help this problem  
6 and make it easier when really what we need to  
7 be talking about is giving them the funding, the  
8 facilities, the support that they need to make  
9 their life easier and to have these dogs around.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CHRIS WAPLES: The other things that I  
12 noticed in this new policy are the loopholes.  
13 When we talk about things like euthanization has  
14 to be performed in accordance with HSUS  
15 standards whenever possible. I mean, that's a  
16 no-brainer. That's an easy fix. Yes, it needs  
17 to always be done in accordance with HSUS  
18 standards.

19 The other thing is is when we talk about  
20 aggressive animals. I don't know that we really  
21 have a policy down there to address what is an  
22 aggressive animal. You know, are we going to  
23 judge it when it first comes in when the animal  
24 is scared, it's malnourished, it may be ill? Is  
25 that going to be our first impression or are we

1 going to give this animal a chance? We need  
2 some sort of checklist that we can use over  
3 several days and be evaluated that is a standard  
4 with all people and we can know really what  
5 these animals truly are.

6 Because as I volunteer, I mean, all of a  
7 sudden I've turned around and a dog that I've  
8 been walking that is just the sweetest animal,  
9 you know, come to find out they deem it  
10 aggressive. If it really was, it would have  
11 been nice to know before I went and walked the  
12 dog. But I just want to make sure that we're  
13 all on the same page when we talk about what is  
14 an aggressive animal and one that shouldn't be  
15 adopted. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. SHANNON O'CONNOR-LARSON: Hello. My  
18 name is Shannon O'Connor-Larson. I live on 37  
19 Old Highway 85, and I'm here to talk about  
20 defenseless animals. Animals, why would we want  
21 to kill them? They're fluffy, adorable. They  
22 don't mean to harm you. You see, I have three  
23 cats in my house. One's adopted from a  
24 different shelter. The other two, one is my  
25 sister's and one is mine. The black and white



1 tuxedo is mine. His name is Raden, and Louis is  
2 the other one. They are very precious.

3 I do not get why people want to hurt them.  
4 Can anybody tell me why? Anyone? Does anyone  
5 know? Why are these animals being hurt? Why?  
6 They do nothing. I think I've made my own  
7 point.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. ANN WITTENBERG: Hi, I'm Ann  
10 Wittenberg, and I live at 197 Lincoln Road in  
11 Tyrone. And I hadn't planned on coming up here  
12 and speaking, but -- but I have just a couple of  
13 things to say because I know it's getting late.  
14 It's probably pass people's bedtime. But first  
15 of all, the 119,000 or whatever, that just seems  
16 to me like a Band-Aid on a building that's just  
17 dilapidated and embarrassing.

18 You know, I used to go out there to just  
19 see the dogs, and it was just -- I know  
20 everybody's doing -- the volunteers are  
21 wonderful, and you're doing a good job. But  
22 it's almost a moral issue. I mean, next to your  
23 children and family, who do you love the most?  
24 You love your animals. I mean, everybody in  
25 here probably would say that.

1           And, you know, I know pit bull's have been  
2           an issue here. And I've got to tell you, I have  
3           a miniature Dachshund that will eat you up.  
4           Seriously he bites my daughter every time she  
5           comes over, and he was a rescue, skinny little  
6           thing. Got him out of Atlanta, you know. And I  
7           know he belonged to somebody because he was four  
8           years old.

9           But something has to be done. Don't just  
10          put a Band-Aid on that building. You know, I  
11          mean, goodness gracious, we have the biggest  
12          darn studio -- one of the biggest in the United  
13          States, if not the biggest, out there. They're  
14          spending bundles of money. I mean, let's be  
15          proud of our animal shelter, I mean, and help  
16          them do the things that need to be done and take  
17          that label off pit bulls. I don't even have  
18          one, but a lot of my family members do and they  
19          love them. And that's it.

20                (Applause.)

21          MS. SANDY SHUBERT: My name is Sandy  
22          Shubert, and I live in the city of Fayetteville.  
23          I hesitate to put my address on this little card  
24          because we're kind of over the limit of the dogs  
25          that we should have.

1 (Laughter.)  
2 MS. SANDY SHUBERT: We're the -- My husband  
3 and I are the owner of three rescue --  
4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Ma'am, sometimes it's  
5 just better not to say anything.  
6 MS. SANDY SHUBERT: I'll cross it out.  
7 We're the owner of three rescue Jack Russell's,  
8 and one is completely deaf. She's very old, and  
9 the others are younger.  
10 I'm here tonight to advocate for education  
11 for every person that's here tonight. I shutter  
12 to think how many more are out in the community.  
13 These people that are here tonight are  
14 responsible dog owners and pet owners, but how  
15 many are out in the county who are not. They  
16 refuse to vaccinate their dogs. You know,  
17 rabies is the law, but they don't do that.  
18 You know, they don't follow the leash laws.  
19 They don't medicate their dogs for flea and  
20 ticks or heartworm which is so much worse. And  
21 I think that, you know, like with the volunteer  
22 groups, the education is there. But I think  
23 there needs to be a much wider program that can  
24 be, you know, I don't know, started with the  
25 people here tonight, with your panel, the

1 newspaper, social media, of course, but to get  
2 out the education for what the cost to own a  
3 animal, and it's not cheap.

4         You know, a lot of people think you just go  
5 to the pound and you pay -- I don't even know  
6 what a pound and I call them shelters. And is  
7 not derogatory, but it's a pound. It's not a  
8 home for dogs to live in. How much it costs to  
9 get a dog out, and I'm sure they're told that  
10 the dog has to be spayed and neutered. But that  
11 is probably, you know, with the lack of staff  
12 they have, there's not enough people to follow  
13 up on that. And has a dog been spayed or  
14 neutered you know, nobody knows. And a lot of  
15 people just don't follow through with that, and  
16 those people are irresponsible dog owners in my  
17 opinion.

18         I also have a question. Several years  
19 ago -- And I've been living in Fayette County.  
20 I lived in Henry County. The rec center here  
21 had a dog training program, and you didn't have  
22 to have -- you know, you could have whatever  
23 dog, big dogs, little dogs. And that went on  
24 for, like, maybe a couple of years, and then it  
25 disappeared. And I was kind of disappointed

1 because I wanted to bring more dogs back. And I  
2 don't know what happened with that, but I think  
3 that that was a very good program.

4 It was amazing to me to see how people  
5 treated their dogs and what they -- you know,  
6 how they -- how the dogs responded to that and  
7 what people did learn from that. I don't know.  
8 It was a six-week course, but it was really --  
9 and at the end of it, if your dog was a good  
10 behavior one, you could go through a little test  
11 and be a -- you know, a good citizen dog. And I  
12 think that that's a big plus.

13 I also want to know if dog breeders who  
14 bring their dogs for business in Fayette County,  
15 if they have to register for anything in this  
16 county. You know, they do it as a business I'm  
17 just -- I don't know if that's -- does anybody  
18 know? I don't know.

19 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: They'll  
20 answer that question for you.

21 MS. SANDY SHUBERT: And if they're  
22 registered or not -- well, registered, I guess  
23 you're going to keep track of them -- are they  
24 limited to the number of litters that they're  
25 allowed to produce -- their dogs to produce a

1 year or whatever, if somebody's keeping track of  
2 those numbers?

3 The gentleman who is in charge of the  
4 shelter, you know, his last statements were very  
5 emotional. And if -- I know that probably  
6 everybody that's in this room has been to the  
7 shelter and has possibly looked the dogs in the  
8 eye. I've only been to a dog -- I've not been  
9 to the Fayette County shelter. I've been to one  
10 in another county and not Clayton County or one  
11 of the ones that has a real souped up place now.

12 But I think the gentleman wanted me to  
13 adopt a different dog, the one that I went there  
14 to look at. And I kind of went behind the  
15 scenes, which I don't think they probably really  
16 let you do, all the pens or crates that they're  
17 in. And if you do that and if you see the fear,  
18 you can smell the fear. You can see the fear in  
19 their eyes. You know that -- that it is not a  
20 place that they want to be.

21 And being in a cage 23 hours a day is no  
22 life for any animal. And I think that, you  
23 know, the shelter expansion is probably not  
24 going to be enough. Maybe whenever you -- and  
25 this is maybe -- whenever you get the sewer

1 laterals fixed, there'll be a place for them to  
2 run. But dogs need to get out and run and have  
3 their exercise. That's probably why those pit  
4 bulls aren't getting adopted. They're jumping.  
5 You know, Jack Russell's are the same way.  
6 They're jumping and they're bouncing off. They  
7 need to have some exercise and they need to run  
8 off that energy. So good luck. I hope we can  
9 do that in this county.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SARAH BLOOMFIELD: I did not intend to  
12 speak today, but I felt like -- My name is Sarah  
13 Bloomfield, and my connection with the shelter  
14 is, about five years ago, I began by walking the  
15 dogs in the shelter and would go -- I tried to  
16 go every week. And I would go, and there would  
17 be dogs missing that were euthanized, and I  
18 thought I have to do something more.

19 So it's overwhelming, you know, to have the  
20 responsibility of getting to know the dogs and  
21 feeling like you want to do something and be  
22 part of keeping them alive as they deserve to  
23 be, giving them their second chance. So I  
24 started networking the dogs with the rescues  
25 through Facebook. The shelter was very

1 cooperative, maybe not initially. I got the old  
2 guys, the heartworm positive guys and the pit  
3 bulls was who I was allowed to network. But it  
4 grew from there as I think they learned to trust  
5 me.

6 And this is the stack of a sample of the  
7 dogs that I networked when the shelter was full.  
8 Not all of them went through rescue but the  
9 shelter was full. They were at risk, and I was  
10 networking them to save their lives. And you  
11 pull one out with a rescue and you save another  
12 one's spot.

13 I do not think the 30 days is an  
14 improvement. Everybody keeps saying it's an  
15 improvement. But the mindset is different.  
16 Because before it was a six day, seven day stray  
17 hold. If they had to euthanize, they did. But  
18 I'm telling you, this guy shared a run twice.  
19 They weren't looking to euthanize. He was an  
20 old guy found on the side of the road with a bag  
21 of dog food, very overweight, and a bowl, Hoss.  
22 He currently is a Colorado Rockies fan, and he  
23 was transported there through rescue. So he  
24 shared a run twice, so they were not looking to  
25 euthanize after six days.



1           And I fear that this policy is going to be  
2           an allowance to do it at a certain period of  
3           time, and that's wrong. To have empty runs is  
4           wrong.

5           (Applause.)

6           MS. SARAH BLOOMFIELD: This is Prince.  
7           Owner -- this was owner reclaimed, 60 days. You  
8           think he looks adoptable? He's old. This is  
9           what you call -- what's labeled unadoptable.  
10          His family found him after 60 days.

11          Raymond, he was also unadoptable. Look at  
12          this guy. He needs -- what are they called? --  
13          (inaudible), whatever that beer is. Everybody  
14          loves Raymond. He was a beautiful dog.

15          Hazel, 32 days she was adopted. So would  
16          she have made it? I don't know. Sixty days,  
17          PJ. This is PJ now. So I just have a pile of  
18          them. They're black dogs. They're pit bull  
19          dogs. They're dogs that have some health  
20          problems. They're dogs that may be don't get  
21          along.

22          This is a pit mix. Addie, 80 plus days but  
23          she made it. You know why she made it? Because  
24          we made the policy to try and make it work, to  
25          shift the dogs where you had to. Six open runs

1 out of 20, that's crazy. Because you know what,  
2 how many are up front? Eighteen are up front --  
3 three in the puppy room, the rest are in the  
4 back. The public never sees them. They're not  
5 networked. People can't come in to adopt.

6 Those runs are not all visible runs. So I  
7 just think it would be irresponsible. I think  
8 it would be inhumane to euthanize dogs when  
9 there's other options for space.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SARAH BLOOMFIELD: I'm sorry I'm  
12 terrible at speaking, but, I mean, I brought  
13 these for you. There's 60 days. There's -- I  
14 mean, it's just -- I could go on and on. These  
15 dogs need time to get out. And yeah, they get  
16 cage crazy sometimes, but they need time to  
17 decompress. You know, take them out, give them  
18 more exercise options.

19 What Shannon's doing with the reading, I  
20 know you said it was good for the kids' reading  
21 skills, but it's also great socialization for  
22 the dogs. I mean, how wonderful is it for them  
23 to have a child, you know, to have that  
24 interaction. It makes adoptions more  
25 successful. So I think if you put things like

1       that in place, you're going to increase your  
2       adoption numbers without increasing your  
3       euthanization numbers.

4               And I respect the fact that it is a hard  
5       job. I've worked with those people up there.  
6       They keep that place clean. They love the dogs.  
7       They pet the dogs. I mean, they're -- I mean,  
8       it is -- those people care about the dogs, and I  
9       think that it's time we all care about the dogs,  
10      and we put in place policies that make sense.  
11      Thirty days and out does not make sense. That's  
12      it.

13              (Applause.)

14              MS. CATHY BONNER: Good evening. My name  
15      is Cathy Bonner, and I moved to Fayetteville in  
16      '86. And I remember in the late '80s, early  
17      '90s, with my third boxer, going down to the  
18      shelter and doing pet portraits and raising  
19      money for the shelter. And every year we went,  
20      and the pictures basically looked the same every  
21      year with the same dog, but we did it because we  
22      wanted to help and support.

23              Thirty days, I trained him myself as my  
24      service dog to help me with my specific needs  
25      that I need each day. Thirty days, they're not

1 going to be acclimated in the area. They're not  
2 going to have any attachment. They're not going  
3 to feel -- you know, they've already been  
4 abandoned or been left. And then you're going  
5 to go ahead and just kill them 30 days later  
6 without any kind of help with training and  
7 trying to get the -- you know, their personality  
8 back.

9         You know, I've seen a dog on a boxer site  
10 where they surrendered these two dogs and they  
11 had to drag them to the shelter with the owner  
12 standing there and the dogs didn't want to go.  
13 And I could just imagine being placed somewhere  
14 and then only being there for 30 days and then  
15 being put down because my personality didn't  
16 show.

17         We had mentioned this tonight, you know,  
18 about their in their pens, they're jumping  
19 around. Boxers are typical of that. And, you  
20 know, as a disabled person, that scares the  
21 daylights out of me to have my dog jump up on  
22 me. So when I go -- He's almost 11. You know,  
23 the time is coming. When I go to look for  
24 another adult dog and, if I see another one  
25 jumping around, of course, I'm going to pass up

1       that dog. So they need time. You know, they  
2       don't need to be there lifers.

3               And also another thing I see tonight is a  
4       lot of these pit bulls are there. Now, I know  
5       there's a lot of specific breed foster groups.  
6       Where's the pit bull foster group that should be  
7       pulling these dogs out and finding them foster  
8       homes and trying to place them rather than just  
9       putting them down? People with foster pit  
10      rescue groups, they know the breed.

11             Boxers are another bully-type breed.  
12      They're stubborn. You have to manage them in a  
13      certain way. They can become dangerous. But  
14      like with any other dog, any other dog can be  
15      dangerous. You know, a Chihuahua can be  
16      dangerous, you know, if you train it a certain  
17      way.

18             So, you know, that is my reasoning on the  
19      30 days. It's just not enough time, like people  
20      have mentioned. And, you know, that would give  
21      enough time to train them to get their  
22      personalities out. And then the people that  
23      work there can say, well, I've known this dog  
24      for five, six weeks and this dog likes to play  
25      with, you know, other dogs or this dog, look at

1       how this dog likes to sleep, you know, near  
2       other dogs. Or they can find their personality  
3       a little bit.

4               I know even when we go out, you know, it  
5       takes him 20, 30 minutes to sort of get  
6       acclimated, to sort of chill out a little bit  
7       because he's in a different surrounding even  
8       though he's been trained. I can just imagine  
9       these untrained dogs, how they feel being left  
10      there and especially owner surrenders. That's  
11      the other -- You know, those are the tougher  
12      cases. Those are the real, you know, hard  
13      cases.

14             And I've been here over 30 years and love  
15      Fayette County and, you know, great education,  
16      great system. Why can't we have a great animal  
17      shelter? Thank you.

18             (Applause.)

19             MS. JULIE SCHWAB: Hi, Julie Schwab. I was  
20      up here before. I've developed a case of the  
21      nerves since I was up here earlier. I do have a  
22      dog that is -- she's five years old. No, I'm  
23      sorry. She's 5 pounds, 14 and a half years old.  
24      I adopted her. She was part of a puppy mill.  
25      She was very abused. She bites. I've been to a

1 doctor several times because of the way she's  
2 bitten me.

3 If I was to turn that dog back in, she  
4 would have been euthanized. I've talked to him  
5 about her today. My dog is dying. She has  
6 brain lesions. She has tremors. The vet is  
7 working with me now. We're working on different  
8 medications.

9 I spent a lot of money on my dog because I  
10 love her. When I want to give up, my husband  
11 encourages me to keep going. My husband and my  
12 son are kind of afraid of her because she's  
13 quick to bite. But I have to remember, this  
14 little girl went through a lot in her short life  
15 that, whoever this breeder was, had her. They  
16 brought her to a vet with a dead puppy hanging  
17 out of her and they just left her.

18 But if she was to be taken to a shelter,  
19 somebody would have euthanized her because they  
20 would have said she's aggressive, she wasn't  
21 worth saving. Nobody would have taken the time  
22 to sit with this little thing and loved her and  
23 found out that she loves to get by your neck.  
24 When she cuddles you, she sounds like a newborn  
25 baby. She is -- She can give the best love, but

1       you better watch because she will get you.

2               But, you know -- And it's going to break my  
3 heart when a lose her because I know the day is  
4 coming soon. But there needs to be some kind of  
5 committee, not just a couple of people, who  
6 decides when these dogs need to be put down.  
7 Because the way they react when you first see  
8 them is not truly who they are. You have to  
9 spend time. You have to take them away from the  
10 circumstances they are in. You got to take them  
11 into a room where they feel comfortable, where  
12 they don't feel scared.

13              Because when people come to my door, let me  
14 tell you, they are scared to death of that  
15 little dog. I mean, she'll bite you,  
16 guaranteed. But once she gets to know you,  
17 you're in trouble because she's going to kiss  
18 you to death.

19              But, I mean, they need -- where they're at  
20 now they're so scared they need a room to go in  
21 when they meet their future person to see them  
22 pick. They need a room to relax in, someplace  
23 they can go to show who their true characters  
24 are. They just need a one-on-one place that  
25 they can go and truly show this person that



1 wants to adopt them, hey, this is who I really  
2 am and let them get to know them one on one.

3 But they need a chance at life. So I ask  
4 you, please, give these animals a chance because  
5 I know my little girl would not have had this  
6 chance if I had not -- I did not know what she  
7 was like when I got her. But I don't regret a  
8 day that I have had her. She's my heart. Thank  
9 you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. JOY BRIM: Hi, my name is Joy Brim. I  
12 live in Fayette County. And I just wanted to,  
13 you know, say a few things. Our first dog that  
14 we got 11 years ago was from a no-kill shelter.  
15 She was spayed before we got her at eight weeks  
16 old. So the control of the animals having to  
17 come back into the system and going out of the  
18 system was controlled because she was taken care  
19 of ahead of time.

20 We paid a little bit more because we pay  
21 for that service. Some of it was funded through  
22 other activities and through nonprofits. But we  
23 were able to get her and be able to take her  
24 home and be good and know that she was going to  
25 be okay and that everything was all right.

1           Our other dog we just got is from -- Cookie  
2           from the shelter. She is a wonderful dog. She  
3           had had a litter of puppies before they had  
4           picked her up and brought her to them. My kids  
5           both do that read-to-the-dog program which is an  
6           amazing program.

7           My daughter wouldn't -- was afraid of dogs  
8           for the longest time, and she would not go near  
9           them. It's because of that program that she  
10          became more comfortable with dogs. Even with  
11          our other dog at home, she was only okay with  
12          that dog.

13          So that program needs to be funded. It  
14          needs to be expanded. It needs to be helped.  
15          Spaying and neutering, the education in the  
16          school systems and to the community is very  
17          important so that we don't keep getting these  
18          same dogs back in.

19          I know when we picked her up they're  
20          putting the chips in. I would assume, if the  
21          dogs are coming back, you're going to know, with  
22          the chip, if we're getting repeats. But then if  
23          they have puppies because their owner was not  
24          responsible, now you've got the puppies coming  
25          back in. So we have to slow that drip of, yes,

1 we're sending them out but coming back. We need  
2 to really work on that.

3 And I will tell you, too, from the school  
4 systems, my son, because of that reading  
5 program, for his birthday he did not want gifts.  
6 He wanted money donated to the shelter and he  
7 wanted stuff for the dogs to be donated. And I  
8 think we just need to encourage that more with  
9 the kids in the community, and I think all of  
10 that together will come and help the shelter,  
11 giving them the facility that they need and, you  
12 know, the money that they need to do it the  
13 right way will get us to a point where we don't  
14 have to say there's a time limit or there's a  
15 resource woman, and we can actually do what's  
16 right for the dogs and for the community with  
17 the proper funding. But I know he does a great  
18 job, and I really appreciate him. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. ABRIEL ROSE: I'm Abriel and I live in  
21 Peachtree City. And she kind of stole my  
22 thunder here. I've been waiting all night, and  
23 then she had the same thought, so I'll be brief.  
24 We do have -- We have had a beloved Foster.  
25 Foster was the name of our cattle dog, and he

1 was in the shelter for 120 days before we  
2 adopted him, and he was the best dog in the  
3 whole world.

4 But the reason I came up was because we  
5 haven't -- we've heard a couple mentions about  
6 the spay and neuter policy. I am not sure that  
7 I understand why the animals leave the shelter.  
8 I know that there's costs involved. But at  
9 Coweta County Animal Control, if you adopt an  
10 animal, you come back three or four days later  
11 and they have been fixed before they leave the  
12 shelter. If you go to the Humane Society, they  
13 don't let animals go home with people before  
14 they're fixed. Because people don't follow  
15 through on that task, and we know that.

16 We've had animals that were micro chipped  
17 back to Fayette County Animal Shelter come into  
18 rescue groups pregnant because they were somehow  
19 lost and never fixed. And now, instead of one  
20 cat, there's one cat that still is in rescue  
21 looking for home plus four additional babies.

22 And so, to me, I know that it's going to be  
23 a long process getting this new shelter in  
24 place, and it sounds very promising that  
25 everybody's going to work together to do that.

1 But I hope that we can be a little bit faster  
2 maybe about changing that policy and finding a  
3 way to have the animals fixed before they go  
4 home with their new families so that we don't  
5 worry about them creating more animals.

6 Also, I would like to see the statistics  
7 for the cats because we've talked so much about  
8 the dogs, and we never have seen those  
9 statistics on the cat. And that's a main part  
10 of that shelter, and I wonder how that feeds in  
11 to that euthanasia percentage. Thank you very  
12 much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. ANASTASIA DERZHAY: Hello, I'm  
15 Anastasia Derzhay. So Stitch has a best friend,  
16 and her name is Lilo. And she was also at her  
17 100 days and was supposed to be -- over 100 days  
18 and was supposed to be euthanized on Monday --  
19 this past Monday. And I already have a pit bull  
20 and I live in a tiny one-bedroom apartment in  
21 Atlanta. My parents live in Fayetteville.  
22 That's why I know about the shelter and why I  
23 was involved. And I came and I rescued Lilo and  
24 I am fostering her.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. ANASTASIA DERZHAY: And she's just the  
2 best dog ever. I'm very happy for everything  
3 that you do. Much respect and kudos and I want  
4 that goat.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I don't know if you could  
6 put him in that apartment.

7 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

8 MS. ANASTASIA DERZHAY: Oh, wow. But with  
9 this 30-day policy, I would never have her, and  
10 I just don't think it should be passed. And I  
11 understand it's a struggle seeing them in the  
12 kennel all day, 23 hours a day. It's awful, but  
13 I just know we can progress. We're all here.  
14 We all care. We can do more and foster more of  
15 the pit bulls. And I'm still crying. I don't  
16 know why. So thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. PHILIP DOOLITTLE: Hi, Philip Doolittle  
19 from Woolsey again. I apologize for coming to  
20 the mike a second time, but I did have a  
21 question I wanted to get on your list,  
22 Mr. Rapson, so that when you speak you can  
23 answer it. From what I understand from what  
24 I've heard tonight, the current policy allows  
25 the discretion to euthanize an animal after

1       seven days. The new policy would extend that to  
2       30 days. And -- But from what I'm seeing from  
3       the head nods, this policy actually constrains  
4       our shelter more than it is currently.

5               That was not my understanding coming into  
6       the meeting. I thought we were moving the other  
7       direction. So if, when you guys get a minute,  
8       if you could talk about the specifics of where  
9       we are today, what this proposal does to adjust  
10      that, and if you already have the discretion to  
11      operate in that latitude, why do we have a need  
12      for a statutory limitation? Thank you.

13             (Applause.)

14             MS. LAURA LINE: Good evening. I'm Laura  
15      Line and I live in Fayetteville. Just a couple  
16      of observations and then perhaps suggestions.  
17      For on down the road, you talked about, you  
18      know, what are we going to look like in 12  
19      months, what are we going to look like in three  
20      years. I'm kind of ashamed of myself because I  
21      got involved with the rescue and ended up going  
22      down to Butts County to work in their animal  
23      shelter quite a bit with the feeling that, well,  
24      Fayette County's very affluent and they probably  
25      have a lot of people and a lot of money and

1       those animals are well taken care of.

2               And from what I understand from what I've  
3       heard tonight, that hasn't always been the case.  
4       But I do want to say that, Steve, since you've  
5       started, I've seen a lot of improvement as far  
6       as the social media Facebook page. I see a lot  
7       more postings, a lot of positives. Whoever's  
8       doing that, I thank you very much because that  
9       helps me to see what's going on, and I think  
10      that's a step in the right direction.

11             A couple of things that perhaps questions,  
12      perhaps suggestions, I had the opportunity to go  
13      to Carroll County Animal Shelter about nine, ten  
14      months ago with the organization that I work  
15      with. And they have an awesome animal shelter.  
16      And when I spoke with the director there, she  
17      said that they didn't used to have one like  
18      that, that they got several grants, they  
19      canvassed the streets with the public to get tax  
20      incentives, all sorts of things.

21             She works with a lot of rescue groups, a  
22      lot of different national organizations to help  
23      with funding and supplies and such. I'm  
24      wondering if perhaps someone can go and speak  
25      with her about what all they did to find these



1 kinds of -- what's the word I'm looking for?

2 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Resources.

3 MS. LAURA LINE: Thank you. I'm a little  
4 bit nervous. Resources that are out there.  
5 Also, what I noticed at both Carroll County and  
6 also in Butts County is they used inmates as  
7 people to come and clean. And those that  
8 weren't afraid of the dogs, to walk the dogs, to  
9 play with the dogs. That might be, if we don't  
10 do that already, something that can be looked  
11 into.

12 They had -- In Carroll County they had a  
13 full-time sheriff that was housed there. That  
14 was his post, and several inmates that were  
15 there on a daily basis. The inmates, in fact,  
16 were the ones that helped me get the dog in my  
17 car that I had to rescue from there. And they  
18 were very nice. And I'm sure, you know, that  
19 could be tapped into.

20 And also when the lady came up with the  
21 service dog, I have seen programs in other  
22 counties where inmates were actually trained to  
23 train service dogs for people. And I know that  
24 the big push, and rightfully so, is to help a  
25 lot of our veterans that come back to us with

1 PTSD, provide them with service dogs that are  
2 trainable. Perhaps this is something on down  
3 the road that Fayette County could look into to  
4 possibly -- you know, the inmates live with the  
5 dog, they train them. And then when they're  
6 ready, they work with the veteran, and our  
7 veteran is well taken care of.

8 So -- And as a closing note, I have two  
9 rescues. One is a pit mix who is sweet and  
10 lovable. And the minute you approach him, he  
11 rolls over on his back for a belly rub and would  
12 never hurt a fly. And then I have a little min  
13 pin mix whose name is Cody. But his nickname  
14 little shit because he is such a handful. In  
15 fact, when my grandchildren come over, because  
16 I've had several fosters come through my home,  
17 my little granddaughter will say -- they call me  
18 gaga -- "Gaga, when are we going to find a new  
19 home for Cody?" Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. SHARON WAPLES: Hi, again. Sharon  
22 Waples, Peachtree City. I waited until the end  
23 to make sure that things I wanted to say weren't  
24 covered. I'll be really brief. I know it's  
25 been a long night for everybody.

1           First of all, again, Jerry, thank you.  
2           Thank your staff for what you do. I know you  
3           really care about those animals. I know your  
4           staff really cares about those animals. Donna,  
5           Susan was here. Tiffany's outstanding. You've  
6           got Chris. You've got Carol and Victoria -- no,  
7           Lance. Lance. Okay. Sorry. I wanted to make  
8           sure I covered everybody. And they really do  
9           care, and we appreciate that.

10           I would like to say that we need to find  
11           more risky resources. You've got volunteers  
12           here. We're willing to drive the dogs. You  
13           tell me that dog needs to go to Mississippi,  
14           I'll get in my car and I'll drive that dog to  
15           Mississippi if that dog needs to go to  
16           Mississippi. We will do that for those dogs.  
17           We really well.

18           But one of the other things is we need to  
19           get them out and into the community more. Just  
20           a few weeks ago there was movie night at The  
21           Avenue and it benefited the Friends of the  
22           Fayette County Animal Shelter. So Jerry allowed  
23           us to take three of the dogs once we had them  
24           spayed and neutered because we don't want more  
25           little dogs just in case running around. And we

1       took -- The volunteers took Delilah, they took  
2       Stanley, and they took Toby. And I believe  
3       within two weeks all three of those dogs were  
4       adopted. You get them out and get them into the  
5       community, let the community see. These are  
6       pets. They're not inmates. They're pets.

7             And anyway, thank you for your time, and,  
8       again, thank you guys at the shelter too. And  
9       thank you to everyone here that cares for being  
10      here tonight. Thank you.

11            (Applause.)

12            CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: It's 9:30 and I see  
13      nobody else in the line. I don't want to go  
14      past anybody. If there's anybody else that  
15      wants to address us, come on up, ma'am.

16            (Indiscernible comment from audience.)

17            UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just want to  
18      make this comment --

19            COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: You need to --

20            UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- everything  
21      that was said goes for cats too. Us cat people  
22      are shy.

23            COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: The cat people  
24      are shy and they'll bite you too.

25            CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Thank you. But if

1       there's anybody also that wants to address us  
2       before we bring the discussion back up to the  
3       Board, I want to give you your opportunity. I  
4       do appreciate it, and I know these other fellows  
5       up here appreciate that y'all come here today.  
6       I'll bring the discussion back up to the Board.  
7       Anybody want to talk about this?

8               COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Did you  
9       want me to go ahead and cover the answers that I  
10      have?

11              CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Yeah, why don't we  
12      do that. We'll go ahead and ask Jerry and Steve  
13      if you can try to address the various questions.  
14      I know there were a lot of questions, and I hope  
15      you took some notes.

16              COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: I have  
17      a few.

18              CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: And I know that no  
19      matter how much you talk you're going to miss  
20      somebody's question and you don't intend to miss  
21      their questions.

22              COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: I don't  
23      think I am, but we'll find out.

24              CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Well, we're going  
25      to find out.

1 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: There  
2 was a lot of duplication. Let me just talk  
3 about some of the things that I know we're  
4 working on. The foster network, that's  
5 something that's been tasked to the adoption  
6 coordinator. I know that's one of the things  
7 that Jerry's working on.

8 You know, one of the things that I have him  
9 do, when we talk about reaching out to the  
10 Humane Society and to the agencies, that's a  
11 much more larger group than just two folks.  
12 That's more like eight or nine. And I told him  
13 a thousand times I don't care if you've got 8000  
14 e-mails you want to send to someone, we'll  
15 provide those notifications as we go about this  
16 process.

17 As far as the five-day notice, increasing  
18 it to ten days. I think one of the amendments,  
19 if y'all were to look at the policy and amend  
20 it, one of the things I would recommend based on  
21 what I've heard tonight is, you know, we have no  
22 problem notifying on day six when the animals  
23 are adoptable and then notifying again on ten  
24 days prior to the end of the 30 days. That's  
25 two notifications. That's setting it up in an

1 e-mail.

2 One of the things I've tasked Jerry with  
3 doing is finding a system that's not as archaic,  
4 and right now he's trying to keep up primarily  
5 with a lot of this on dry eraser boards and  
6 those type of things. We need a program that  
7 actually, when you enter the animal into the  
8 program, all those notifications become  
9 automatic. And then all you have to do is  
10 maintain a database. That's one of the things  
11 he's tasked with finding.

12 Advisory board, that's purely a Board  
13 decision. That something y'all would have to  
14 weigh to find out if you want to move forward  
15 with doing that are not. I can tell you that  
16 whether there's an advisory board or not, the  
17 people that will be involved in this process  
18 moving forward are the same people that would be  
19 on an advisory board. One of the things that  
20 Jerry was tasked with on day one was forming  
21 those relationships and have those discussions.

22 Me and Jerry have met with Commissioner  
23 Brown. I think we spent five and a half hours  
24 with all those folks, and I've had four or five  
25 different meetings with them. I don't see any

1 of that changing moving forward.

2 We can get that cat statistics. I'll make  
3 sure we get those and post those. The cat  
4 lovers, we realize you're in the room. I know  
5 you're quiet. Cats are easier to deal with I  
6 guess.

7 As far as the evaluation of the medical  
8 qualifications, our veteran [sic] does that, so  
9 we've got a professional doing that. That's not  
10 us looking at it figuring out whether we think  
11 it's sick or we weak. That's actually a medical  
12 professional.

13 As far as the euthanization itself, it  
14 requires two people. They both are certified.  
15 I've got no problem changing the language. You  
16 know, quite frankly, we took some boilerplate  
17 language. I think must follow those is exactly  
18 what we'd be doing anyway. I have no problem  
19 making that modification.

20 I think a strategic plan for a facility is  
21 something that we would have to get from the  
22 Board's initiative, but we do those all the  
23 time. That's one of the things that we would  
24 probably be looking at as well.

25 I cannot reiterate pit bull education



1       any more than you will probably have. You know,  
2       ultimately, social media and I think the press  
3       and what you see on TV and what you hear about,  
4       you know, you always hear about the worst case,  
5       those type of things. I will tell you that I  
6       have a pit bull mix at home. His name is Boo,  
7       and he looks terrifying, and he is the -- he'll  
8       be the last thing that jumps on the truck when  
9       they steal everything in the house.

10       As far as animal control revenue which is  
11       one of the issues you brought up, I agree with a  
12       lot of what she said, the \$398,000 is the  
13       operating budget they currently have. I will  
14       tell you that's about 20 percent higher than  
15       what it was on June 30th because, again, we  
16       added that full-time person and a half-time  
17       person. The \$59,000 does include the utility  
18       costs, so there's not a whole lot of fluff in  
19       those budgets. I will tell you that's fairly  
20       consistent for any department we have, and it's  
21       one of the reasons why we keep rolling back your  
22       taxes. That was just a plug. I'm sorry.

23       I will tell you animal control, the revenue  
24       itself we got in this year, we got roughly about  
25       \$14,000 in. That's how much revenue we

1 generate. So you're looking at a \$400,000  
2 operating expense for the staff and the  
3 operations of the facility reoccurring, and you  
4 got about 14,000 coming in. I will tell you  
5 Jerry's been pretty good about getting  
6 additional grant-type revenue. We do have --  
7 you know, if you want to give to the Friends of  
8 Fayette, I think that's fine. If you want to  
9 give to me, that's fine too. We'll give you the  
10 same donation letter. I don't care where the  
11 money comes from. Roughly about \$16,000 is what  
12 we got in this past year.

13 The Marine Corps vet who's crying, I'm a  
14 Marine Corp vet. That really tore me up. I  
15 think other than the little girl who talked --  
16 she made a really good point, and you did make a  
17 really good point, and it was a good poster by  
18 the way.

19 The dog training program, that's something  
20 that was done with recreation -- those were done  
21 by recreational instructors. If someone wants  
22 to initiate that program, we'll be more than  
23 happy to find a place to facilitate that. We  
24 did that at Kiwanis Parks. I remember we used  
25 to do it for like ten or 15 years, but, you

1 know, eventually when the instructor leaves,  
2 then those type of things slow up there. But I  
3 think there's a need for that. I'd like to be  
4 able to find a dog instructor that we could use.

5 One of the things and I'm kind of going all  
6 the way to the back now, but in regards to  
7 getting the animals out in the community, I  
8 think that's critical. Jerry has -- It's almost  
9 been a huge paradigm shift. I had to use that  
10 word because my wife will be proud that I used  
11 it by the way. But there's been a huge shift in  
12 regards to the approach we use. You know, we  
13 can talk social media, we can post on Facebook,  
14 we can, you know, certainly send it to the  
15 groups and they sent it to folks. But getting  
16 these animals out in the community because that  
17 animal is going to behave differently when it's  
18 in that situation as opposed to trying to look  
19 at an animal with another 20 animals bouncing  
20 off the cages. And so that's one of the things  
21 that Jerry is focused on, making those  
22 initiatives.

23 One of the things we've talked about doing  
24 and we've got to get the attorney involved, is  
25 doing some liability waivers so that our

1 volunteers can maybe take them home a night and,  
2 you know, do those types of things. It makes  
3 everybody nervous, but that's how you get the  
4 dogs out in the community. So will be talking  
5 about that later.

6 Dog breeders have to be registered. Yes,  
7 they're registered. In regards to whether they  
8 limit the litters, we really have no idea. Once  
9 they're registered, unless there's a problem or  
10 complaint, we really don't get involved with  
11 that.

12 I will tell you that if you want to come  
13 and see a dog in our facility and we've got 29  
14 animals, we will give you access to see all 29  
15 of those animals. I don't care whether they're  
16 in the front runs or the back runs. If you tell  
17 us you want to look at an animal and it's in the  
18 back, we escort you in the back. The only thing  
19 we have there is -- you know, there's some  
20 security concerns leaving the front runs as  
21 opposed to going in the back runs. But we've  
22 got -- You know, again, if we have two people  
23 there, one of those folks will walk back and  
24 escort the people back there.

25 I think Philip came back up. I think his

1 question was we had discretion at seven days,  
2 what happens now we're at 30 days. I think we  
3 have the same discretion. I think one of the  
4 things Jerry mentioned is the fact that if  
5 we're -- if we have 20 animals and they're in  
6 the cages and we get a litter of six, we're  
7 going to put them in cage No. 21. We're not  
8 going to put six animals down.

9 I mean, the whole point of a policy is to  
10 have a general guideline for how you typically  
11 handle these type of situations. Every time he  
12 makes a judgment call that's different than that  
13 policy, then people want us to move that policy  
14 a little bit more. And so what we're trying to  
15 do is establish that firm point in the sand,  
16 which is why everybody's here. But, you know,  
17 we're not going to stop exercising sense and  
18 judgment as well. If we've got 20 dogs in there  
19 and we get four dogs and we put a notice out to  
20 the rescue groups and they say, hey, we'll pick  
21 up three tomorrow, we're not going to be putting  
22 four dogs down because they can't get there the  
23 next day. We're going to be exercising some  
24 judgment.

25 Carroll County, I wish there were grants.

1 You know, I keep hearing that there's  
2 opportunities for us to get the spay and  
3 neutering. If we can get the spay and  
4 neutering, we can start doing that tomorrow.  
5 You know, I've heard that for three or four  
6 months and nobody's given me the contact  
7 information or how to go about doing that. We  
8 will do that tomorrow once we get that  
9 information.

10 I also will tell you that, when you look at  
11 Clayton County, Clayton County funded their 100  
12 new cages with SPLOST funding. What you may not  
13 know about Carroll County is there are actually  
14 two shelters and they both have 100 beds.  
15 You're talking about 200 cages; right?

16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You sent Carroll.

17 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: I'm  
18 sorry. Clayton. And so -- And they kind of  
19 have the same issues. They just have it on a  
20 much larger scale than we do. You know, our  
21 society, especially in Fayette County, you know,  
22 they like to call Peachtree City the bubble.  
23 We're like the big bubble. You know, pit bulls  
24 have the stigma, and I think education is  
25 critical to changing that. Because if -- if we

1       could change that stigma and the pit bulls could  
2       get adopted out of the facility, we wouldn't be  
3       sitting here having a discussion tonight about  
4       capacity or any other issues because we would be  
5       way below the numbers we're talking about. Did  
6       I miss anything, Jerry?

7               DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: The spay and  
8       neuter, our policy is, if you live in Fayette  
9       County, you can adopt. But you have 30 days to  
10      have it spayed or neutered and get the rabies  
11      shot, and we will follow up with that. If you  
12      don't, then you get a citation and you could go  
13      to court. If you live outside of Fayette County  
14      and you adopt an animal from our shelter, it  
15      will not leave that shelter until it's spayed or  
16      neutered. You know, sometimes --

17             UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Your mike is off.

18             COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Your  
19      mike's is off. What is with you and  
20      microphones? I'll kind of repeat. The policy  
21      for spay and neutering in Fayette County is, if  
22      you come and get an animal, you have to spray or  
23      neuter it in 30 days. If you don't, you can be  
24      cited. I will tell you, you are cited. We do  
25      have marshals that go and cite these people.

1       They do do it at the state court, and we do take  
2       these individuals to court.

3             If you live outside of Fayette County, we  
4       require that animal to be sprayed and neutered  
5       before leaving the facility. And primarily  
6       that's because Fayette County residents don't  
7       want to wait three days. I wish it was  
8       something more than that. But, you know, when  
9       they come and get -- when you see an animal you  
10      want to adopt and your kids are there, "I want  
11      the animal," it's kind of tough to tell them  
12      come back on Thursday. So I think one of the  
13      things that could resolve a lot of that is if  
14      they all were sprayed and neutered if we had a  
15      program. So I'm perfectly fine with doing that.  
16      At that point it just becomes a funding issue.  
17      Whether that would be a grant, whether that  
18      would be a donation from a veterinarian, any of  
19      those scenarios work for us.

20            UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I say one  
21      thing, Steve? Tilly was recently adopted out  
22      and her -- she has a wonderful new home. But  
23      the man that adopted her had and unneutered male  
24      at home and she was unfixed. So that is why  
25      this is such a huge problem is because this guy



1 was trying to get Tilly fixed, but he couldn't  
2 because she was in heat. She went home with the  
3 dog that was unneutered and he kept texting,  
4 what do I do, you know, they kept going after  
5 each other. And so luckily Fayette Humane  
6 reached out and was going to spay Tilly and  
7 neuter his male dog. But that's why it's so  
8 important for these dogs to be spayed and  
9 neutered before they leave.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: So  
12 Chairmen, what I heard was the Humane Society is  
13 going to spray and neuter them all. We're good  
14 to go.

15 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Spay.

16 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: Spay  
17 and neuter. Sorry. I think that's all the  
18 questions that I had.

19 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: All right. You  
20 guys have any questions for the staff, any  
21 discussion up here?

22 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: I have one  
23 question, I mean, just generally to you fellows  
24 here. Do you have any problem with changing the  
25 five-day notice to ten-day notice, voting on

1           that?

2           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I wrote -- Given  
3           the conversation that actually started,  
4           Mr. Rapson's already said it, on day six,  
5           Dennis, I think if you can change the ordinance  
6           to show that they'll be notice on day six to the  
7           various groups and then ten days before the 30th  
8           day, so on the 20th day.

9           COUNTY ATTORNEY DENNIS DAVENPORT: That's  
10          correct.

11          DIRECTOR JERRY COLLINS: 21st.

12          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: 21st day, 20th day.  
13          And then to take out, Dennis, the words  
14          "whenever possible" that's in paragraph eight.

15          COUNTY ATTORNEY DENNIS DAVENPORT: Yeah.

16          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I didn't inspect  
17          your ordinance that much, but as we were going  
18          through this I made a couple notes, but you're  
19          the attorney.

20          COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR STEVE RAPSON: We  
21          weren't trying to have any discretion in that,  
22          so you can add the word "shall" or "must" or  
23          whatever makes you feel --

24          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Yeah. Any other  
25          questions, Chuck?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: I would --  
2 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: No, I'm fine.

3 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Go ahead, Randy.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: I would just  
5 like to thank all the volunteers that do  
6 volunteer. I think it's very admirable and I  
7 think it -- you know, without the volunteers it  
8 would be that much harder on Jerry. I'd like to  
9 thank all the organizations that try to promote  
10 getting these dogs adopted and fostered,  
11 whatever, to keep them -- the turnover going. I  
12 think it's an important thing.

13 I think Jerry here does a great job at the  
14 animal shelter. I don't know why he thinks he  
15 can handle it at 75 percent. If it was me, I'd  
16 shoot for 50 percent so I'd have more  
17 flexibility, but that's his -- that's his  
18 choice. And -- But I do think this policy is  
19 better than the one that's in place currently.  
20 And I think that we are moving forward.

21 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: I think that I  
23 would -- seen and read the proposed ordinance  
24 that is in -- has been in the works and not in  
25 favor of moving forward with an ordinance. I

1 think we need to give the policy a chance to  
2 take effect and work through it. I liked to  
3 move that we approve this policy with the  
4 modifications of removing "whenever possible"  
5 changed to the notice on day six and a ten-day  
6 notice at the end and that we stop progression  
7 of the ordinance.

8 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I've got a motion  
10 and a second. Now, I'll ask, are any  
11 conversation or any discussion I hear.

12 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Related to  
13 the -- I forgot who brought up the inmate  
14 training of the dogs, but we are -- I am working  
15 on that with somebody. We just -- We're looking  
16 for people who are competent to train the  
17 trainers. So if you know anybody, let me know  
18 that because we need four people and we're  
19 desperately -- we need at least two more people  
20 who can train the inmates to train the dogs. So  
21 keep that out there, please, and if you know of  
22 anybody, please let me know. And they need to  
23 be competent in that area.

24 You know, we've seen a lot of positive  
25 movement. The budget reflects some of that.

1 We've actually put more money into it. We're  
2 putting more money into the building. We've put  
3 more money into the staff.

4 You know, Jerry -- nobody envies Jerry's  
5 position being dropped in the spot of director  
6 of the program when he was dropped in. I mean,  
7 that's an unenviable position to be in, and I  
8 think everybody gets that. Jerry, you know I've  
9 told you the same thing.

10 One of the reasons why I tried to gather  
11 some of the animal advocacy groups was to keep  
12 Jerry from getting bombed on his first week on  
13 the job with a lot of complaints from different  
14 areas and trying to get the people to coalesce  
15 and come up with a considerate set of plans.  
16 You know, funding is important and that was  
17 brought up many, many times in terms of shelter  
18 expansion and whatnot.

19 But I will tell you it's just as important  
20 to make sure that you have your foundational  
21 documents, your ordinances, and your policies in  
22 the proper place. You can have the Taj Mahal of  
23 animal shelters, and if you don't have the right  
24 ordinances or policies, especially related to  
25 animal cruelty and other things that are going

1 on in the community, then, you know, you're only  
2 doing half the job still. So that is one reason  
3 why we've been working on that.

4 I was a little bit shocked at the motions  
5 said to stop working on the ordinance  
6 improvements because all of the humane society  
7 and animal advocacy people including our staff,  
8 we agreed on 90 percent of the changes. So I  
9 don't know why that should be stopped. I'm kind  
10 of taken aback by that.

11 This policy is what I would just considered  
12 to be a Band-Aid. And, you know, it's not a  
13 complex problem. The problems are easy to  
14 understand. I think everybody in the room  
15 understands what the problems are. The issues  
16 are pretty clearly defined, and the answers are  
17 pretty readily available to anybody who can  
18 think about it beyond about ten minutes.

19 One thing that we need and I really do  
20 think we need this is that animal shelter  
21 advisory board. I've heard tonight alone the  
22 Humane Society say we need it. I've heard the  
23 volunteers who work at the park say we need it.  
24 I've heard the -- several animal advocacy groups  
25 representatives say we need it. I think it's

1 pretty clear we need it. And, you know, the  
2 only way you get the public to buy in is when  
3 you include the public in the process, and that  
4 is the best way.

5 We do that with a library where the Library  
6 Board. We do it with the recreation commission,  
7 with all our recreation programs. We do that on  
8 a number of things, the Board of Health.  
9 Everybody -- We include citizens in a advisory  
10 capacity to the city. It's not an evil thing.  
11 It's worked great for us in the past, and I  
12 think it's something that we should do with this  
13 program especially. And especially when you  
14 need to get people and animals into the public,  
15 you need to get more public awareness, well, it  
16 makes sense to bring the public in and allow  
17 them to be part of that process.

18 I think 75 percent is too low. I'm not  
19 going to vote for it. I would do 85 percent and  
20 just say let's try like hell to make it work.  
21 And if it doesn't, then let's bring it back and  
22 see what we can do.

23 (Applause.)

24 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I agree with the  
25 Humane Society's position paper 100 percent.

1 You have my total approval on what you've stated  
2 your position is and I agree with you  
3 wholeheartedly on your position. And, you know,  
4 the ordinances were going to be on the next  
5 Board agenda. So if this passes, I'm really,  
6 really sorry to say that, because it was  
7 included as part of the ordinance, that all of  
8 the ordinance changes that we have been working  
9 on are now in the waste bin.

10 And I have spent hours and hours and hours  
11 with people -- e-mail, phone, personal meetings,  
12 you know, discussions, writing and rewriting,  
13 consulting with attorneys of these animal -- and  
14 let me tell you, the ordinances were drafted by  
15 an attorney that was paid for in total by the  
16 animal advocacy groups. We did not pay for it.  
17 They got their own attorney so that we wouldn't  
18 have to spend our own money and they put all  
19 that together. And we worked it and reworked it  
20 and it's been through the county attorney on a  
21 couple of occasions.

22 And I am just really, really downhearted  
23 that it's going to be killed if this motion  
24 passes, all that work. That really hurts me.  
25 And I think there's no reason for it, especially



1 when 90 percent of the changes no one had any  
2 qualms with. So there's a lot of things that go  
3 on that you don't understand and you just try to  
4 work through them.

5 But I've got a year and a half left and,  
6 man, I'm counting the days. I can't -- I can't  
7 take stuff like this anymore where you work on  
8 something and work on it and you try to do it  
9 for all the right reasons and then they -- you  
10 don't even let it get on it agenda. That just  
11 breaks my heart.

12 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Anybody else got  
13 anything else to say?

14 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: I do,  
15 Mr. Chair, thank you kindly.

16 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Go ahead.

17 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chair. I appreciate very much the comments  
19 that were made tonight particularly, again, I  
20 echo that the volunteers, your invaluable  
21 service at the shelter does help mitigate some  
22 of these issues in terms of transitioning for  
23 the animals. I had a suggestion also and a  
24 change in the policy statement. I like my  
25 colleagues to consider, "The Fayette County

1 Animal Shelter is committed to a well-managed  
2 facility that considers the preservation of  
3 life" and then go on from there, again, "The  
4 Fayette County Animal Shelter is committed to a  
5 well-managed facility that considers the  
6 preservation of life." I would like for you all  
7 to consider that.

8 Also, let me take this opportunity,  
9 Mr. Chair and my colleagues, to say to this  
10 packed room this evening, this is why it is so  
11 important for you all to participate in the  
12 budget process. You missed it by about 60 days  
13 because no one cared enough -- and I use that  
14 loosely -- to come out and begin the process  
15 early on of advocating for dollars, resources,  
16 staff, all of those things that go through that  
17 budget. We don't see anybody. And then when a  
18 hot button issue takes up, then all of a sudden  
19 we want to know where our priority is.

20 It rests with you about 60 days late.  
21 That's an admonishment. It really is because we  
22 do everything in our power to educate the  
23 community, put out the notices. What we do up  
24 here impacts this community with dollars,  
25 resources, all of these things that you

1 mentioned with the Mental Health Board, with the  
2 Library Board, with the Parks and Recreation  
3 Board. All of that is in the budget, and we've  
4 adopted a budget now. And we could have used  
5 your input at that particular time that's a --  
6 what? -- three-month cycle, two-month cycle that  
7 we've gone through and we've missed it.

8 So I encourage you is my point to pay  
9 attention to the budget and what we do up here,  
10 not just on hot button issues. Because  
11 everything we do affects this community as a  
12 whole. It really does. So with that I'd like  
13 for you to consider that language change there.

14 The other issue that I struggle with  
15 philosophically is this. So many of you in the  
16 e-mails that you wrote to us and in the stories  
17 you shared this evening talked about being able  
18 to rescue or adopt an animal after 100 days, 90  
19 days. That means the discretion of our staff  
20 works. They don't put every animal down when  
21 they can, and this is a policy position to give  
22 them further guidelines in which to operate in.  
23 That's all this is.

24 They will still have the discretion.  
25 They're the professionals that we hire to

1 perform a task on our community's behalf. And  
2 so when you talk about those extra days beyond  
3 30 that were able -- people were able to adopt  
4 animals, that still will be there. We didn't  
5 lose anything. So I'm in support --

6 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

7 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: I'm in  
8 support of the ordinance change and giving staff  
9 additional guidelines and assistance on how to  
10 operate this facility. If we want to see it  
11 grow, its capacity, its service delivery  
12 strategy, then we need to start talking that an  
13 our CIP and our other budgetary outlays in years  
14 to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
15 colleagues.

16 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Rousseau.

18 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Mr. Chairman.  
19 I'm just going to take exception with your  
20 comments, Commissioner Rousseau, because to  
21 saying no one cared, I just think it's way out  
22 of bounds. Because I've been working with a  
23 group of leaders in the advocacy --

24 (Applause.)

25 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: -- since late

1           January -- since late January.

2           COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Well, where  
3           was the budget request?

4           COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: No, no. We've  
5           been trying to do some substantive changes.

6           COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Where was  
7           the budget request?

8           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay now --

9           COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: We're doing some  
10          substantive changes, but when you vote today on  
11          this thing, you are going to kill every one of  
12          those effective changes that no one cared or  
13          bothered to work on since January.

14          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: I didn't  
15          get a budget request.

16          COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: It doesn't  
17          matter. You're going to --

18          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: It does.

19          COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: -- negate the  
20          ordinance.

21          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. This is  
22          the --

23          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: It matters.

24          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: -- the way we're  
25          going to --

1 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: But let me --  
2 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Hang on. Hang on.  
3 Hang on, Steve. I'm going to give you  
4 100 percent of the floor. You get to talk.  
5 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Thank you.  
6 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: You don't get  
7 interrupted.  
8 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Thank you.  
9 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Charles, I'll give  
10 you another opportunity to talk. He's --  
11 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Well,  
12 look --  
13 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Right now he's got  
14 the floor.  
15 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Okay.  
16 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Let him talk. I'm  
17 not getting on either one of you. It's just,  
18 we've got a lot of folks in here. I've only got  
19 two ears so I'm getting one --  
20 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I appreciate it.  
21 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Thank you.  
22 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: You got the floor,  
23 Steve.  
24 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: We had a group  
25 of panel advocacy leaders working to create a

1 better environment for the animal shelter and  
2 trying to work on ways to prevent more animal  
3 cruelty in the community and work on ways to  
4 improve adoption rates. They've been working on  
5 that since the end of January. I have  
6 personally been working with them. I've brought  
7 in staff. Staff has been working with them, and  
8 we have been working diligently. So to say no  
9 one cared, wow, that really bothers me.

10 Now, the other thing is, the advisory board  
11 you are going to kill effectively with your vote  
12 today is free. It doesn't cost a dime. You  
13 don't have to put advisory. It doesn't cost  
14 anybody any money, and it would do a heck of a  
15 lot of good. But you're going to kill it today  
16 when you vote in favor of this motion because it  
17 was added in there that all of the work we have  
18 done since the end of January goes down the  
19 tubes because we're going to negate it even  
20 being on an agenda, which I think is awesome  
21 because, you know, you're telling everybody out  
22 there that we don't even care enough about the  
23 ordinances related to animal concerns, that we  
24 will not even put it -- we will not even allow  
25 it on an agenda so that they can come and speak

1 to those changes and so that it can have its day  
2 in the public forum and that we can vote it up  
3 or down in front of a live audience and then  
4 take it from there. We're not even going to  
5 have that opportunity. You're going to kill it  
6 in a second clause in a motion today and not  
7 even let it get on the next agenda for the next  
8 Board meeting. And, you know, that's terrible.

9 But, now look, when we talk about  
10 discretion about the policy, look, he's got  
11 discretion. We're not following the policy.  
12 Why have a policy if we're going to do the  
13 discretion and not follow it?

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I mean, you  
16 know, the speed limit is 25, drive however fast  
17 you want. We don't care. You know, we're just  
18 setting a speed limit. That's what we're doing.

19 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: You can't argue  
20 without that logic.

21 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: But the problem  
22 is -- I mean, God, you know, I'm a first  
23 amendment advocate. I'm a transparency in  
24 government advocate. I believe in listening to  
25 constituents, and sometimes I don't always agree



1 with the constituents. But when I think they  
2 have a bona fide good idea, I will bring it to  
3 the floor.

4 And that's what I did when Fayette Humane  
5 and all these animal advocacy groups approached  
6 me. I said, I will run this thing through, I  
7 will spend the time on it, I will help you get  
8 it through. And you're not even going to let us  
9 get it to an agenda, because you're going to  
10 vote in favor of this thing with a clause in it  
11 to kill all the work that we've been doing. And  
12 that just breaks my heart.

13 I mean, we have let people down. We've  
14 thrown the process in the trash can. And we  
15 should have the guts, if we don't want an animal  
16 advisory board or animal shelter advisory board  
17 or we don't like animal changes that affect  
18 animal cruelty in the county, then we should  
19 voted it up or down in front of this audience.  
20 We shouldn't kill it in the back stream so  
21 nobody can ever see it. That's just the wrong  
22 way to do it, and that's all I have. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Thank you,  
25 Commissioner Brown. Mr. Rousseau?

1           COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Yes. Let  
2 me defend your exception. Was there a request  
3 made during the retreat budget at any time for  
4 additional funding for animal shelter?

5           UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: The only --  
6 we put 50,000 in for the additional renovations  
7 and then the staff positions for the --

8           COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: That's for  
9 regular CIP and upkeep.

10          UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's  
11 correct.

12          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Correct.  
13 Was there a request made to expand or do  
14 anything other for the animal shelter during the  
15 budget process?

16          UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, other  
17 than to start adding --

18          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: No. All  
19 right. Thank you. The answer's no. That's  
20 clear.

21          COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Doesn't make any  
22 sense.

23          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Discretion  
24 -- The discretion piece I need to make that very  
25 clear to my colleague. The discretion piece

1       that I used is when it's not at capacity he will  
2       use his discretion as a professional. Use his  
3       discretion to work with all the advocacy groups  
4       that are out there to ensure that the well-being  
5       of these animals are taken care of. That's my  
6       lens. That's my prism that I see it through.

7               This is the danger when you talk about the  
8       other piece that is yet to come. This is the  
9       danger of piecemealing policy. We got approval  
10      of the CIP dollars tonight, we have this  
11      ordinance tonight, and we have yet something  
12      else to come. That's not looking at matters in  
13      a comprehensive fashion. It's piecemealing and  
14      it's dangerous which is what we see tonight.

15             So I would say, in the future if we've got  
16      issues of this nature during the pre-agenda  
17      item, we note something is languishing in the  
18      background, we should put them together as a  
19      package for us to look at these kinds of issues  
20      in a comprehensive fashion instead of this  
21      piece, that piece, and then another piece. And  
22      then also -- That's all have, Mr. Chair. Thank  
23      you.

24             CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Anything else,  
25      Mr. Brown?

1           COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I  
2 will say the ordinance changes that we have been  
3 working on is a comprehensive review of every  
4 line of code that Fayette County has. The  
5 reason this is on the agenda tonight is because  
6 Commissioner Steve Brown complained in an e-mail  
7 to everyone of you and to staff that we're  
8 changing policy on the fly in the animal shelter  
9 and we're not supposed to be doing that. And  
10 that's why this got on the agenda today. I  
11 didn't ask for it to be on the agenda  
12 specifically today, but I complained because  
13 there were some things being done that shouldn't  
14 have been being done.

15           And that's the way it was because we were  
16 getting very discretionary with how we were  
17 doing things and I wanted things done by the  
18 book, and we needed to have that in place. But  
19 to say that what we were doing is not a  
20 comprehensive review, I would invite you to go  
21 ask the staff for a copy of that because you  
22 will see it is the entire series of code related  
23 to animal control. It is the most comprehensive  
24 review of the animal control ordinance in the  
25 history of the animal control ordinance prior to

1 writing it originally. So what you're saying is  
2 wrong.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: I think  
5 we're getting in a back-and-forth, and I'll just  
6 end with this. If it was comprehensive and not  
7 piecemeal, we wouldn't be looking at this  
8 tonight. It would be in that package for the  
9 things that are yet to come.

10 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: That's a policy.  
11 Policies are not in the ordinance.

12 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: You say  
13 comprehensive, my friend.

14 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay, guys.

15 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Every ordinance.

16 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay, look, we've  
17 been playing tennis and I'll let you keep  
18 playing tennis, but you're not going to talk  
19 over each other. Charles, you said that was  
20 going to be the end of what you were going to  
21 say. Is there anything else you want to say?

22 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: No, I  
23 didn't relinquish the floor, Mr. Chairman, no, I  
24 did not.

25 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. It's still

1           your mike.

2           COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: No, I do  
3 now. I relinquish. Thank you, Mr. Chair and my  
4 colleagues, for entertaining my comments.

5           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. Mr. Brown?

6           COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I'm done. Let's  
7 go.

8           CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Well --

9           COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I got nothing  
10 else to say. I know where this is going.

11          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. Well, thank  
12 you. Go ahead, Randy.

13          VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: I would like to  
14 change my --

15          CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: You're going to  
16 amend your --

17          VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: -- amend my  
18 motion to accept the wording that Commissioner  
19 Rousseau recommended and the policy is -- and I  
20 don't have it exactly -- well-managed --

21          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: It was --  
22 yeah. Animal shelter is committed to a  
23 well-managed facility that considers the  
24 preservation of life.

25          COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: I'll amend my

1 second.

2 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Okay. I've got an  
3 amended motion and amended second. And I have  
4 not said anything. I'm going to just say a  
5 couple of words. I view this as not the end of  
6 the road. I view this as the beginning of the  
7 road.

8 There have been a number of suggestions  
9 that have been made tonight by both the folks in  
10 the audience as well as Mr. Brown. They include  
11 the increase of the CIP. That's -- And I talked  
12 about this in item 7. That's not a snap of the  
13 fingers. We can -- That's not the way this  
14 Board works or any government body works. I  
15 would encourage y'all to talk to each one of the  
16 individual commissioners. You're probably going  
17 to be disappointed in a minute. I understand  
18 that. But I look at this as the beginning of  
19 the road and not the end of the road.

20 This is one small aspect, that I view, of  
21 the Humane Society and the Fayette County Animal  
22 Control working together and all the other  
23 groups. I don't mean to slight anybody or leave  
24 anybody out, but everybody working together. I  
25 put here in my notes I hope the agencies will

1 get together and work together and make contact  
2 with Jerry's office and work with Jerry's office  
3 and help us address this problem.

4 It's not the commissioners, it's not Jerry,  
5 it's not Steve Rapson that created the  
6 overpopulation of some of these animals. That  
7 does not -- There's not a person in this room I  
8 think that would admit that they were part of  
9 the problem. And we are addressing part of the  
10 problem, but we're not the cause of the problem.  
11 Somebody else has got these dogs -- and I'm not  
12 trying to anger anybody or say anything like  
13 that.

14 The inmate, if we can do something like  
15 that, let's investigate it, if it's a viable  
16 option. Now, we don't have a close jail with  
17 out animal shelter where it's at right now.  
18 Somebody would have to transport. There are  
19 issues with each one of those whenever you move  
20 an inmate from one place to the next or you take  
21 a dog from one place to the next that's going to  
22 come up. You can't make that decision tonight.  
23 We'd like to hear from the Sheriff's Department  
24 if we were talking about, you know, that in  
25 particular.



1           The grants, we heard about grants tonight.  
2       Jerry, I encourage you. Steve, I encourage you.  
3       We've got a grant writer that's on staff that  
4       helps us with these things, and that -- I think  
5       he'll be given that. That's not me asking it.  
6       They're already going to do it. So all those  
7       things I think ought to be taken -- and I do  
8       think this is a first step and not a last step,  
9       although I know how it may be perceived as the  
10      last step.

11           Now, I've had a little bit of a chance to  
12      say something. If somebody else up here wants  
13      to say something, you're certainly welcome to do  
14      it. But it's now close to -- a little past  
15      10:00 o'clock, and there's other things to do.  
16      But we wanted this thing fully vetted. We  
17      wanted, you know, everybody to have a full  
18      opportunity to talk about it. And I'm sorry  
19      that we got a little bit emotional up here, but  
20      this is -- I told y'all. I've dealt with this  
21      three times up here at this lectern. I dealt  
22      with it as a judge. It is one of the most  
23      difficult things I think that this commission  
24      does is deal with animal control because it is a  
25      very emotional issue. And I appreciate y'all,

1 really, of how you've conducted yourself because  
2 the last two times, which was not this  
3 commission, it was the prior commission, it was  
4 horrible. It was absolutely horrible, and y'all  
5 have been much more gracious, much more gracious  
6 than what I've had to deal with in the past of  
7 just absolutely, you know, not listening, can't  
8 hear, and stuff like that. And I appreciate the  
9 decorum that you came in this room with.

10 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: I do have just  
11 a couple of comments. I won't keep you long,  
12 but I've been sitting pretty much patiently  
13 listening as well. There's no question that  
14 this is extremely passionate. I'm not denying  
15 it and I don't disagree with a lot of what was  
16 said. The problem is for the five of us to  
17 figure out how we approach it, what we do, how  
18 we proceed.

19 To me this is a good first -- at least the  
20 first step. It's much better than the policy we  
21 have now. Discretion to me is vital. We cannot  
22 govern by the letter of the law. That's proven  
23 every day. So when you have good people that  
24 can use discretion, that's what you're looking  
25 for. You're looking for a good policy, a good

1 law, and people who know how to manage it. We  
2 have that.

3 The policy is a vast improvement over what  
4 we had. Going forward this, I think, is the  
5 direction to go. I don't want anybody to think  
6 that any of us up here are heartless. I know  
7 myself for one --

8 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

9 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: -- myself for  
10 one have had several animals. Some I've had to  
11 put down. Some we've --

12 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

13 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: Some we've  
14 rescued. Yes, I have. Some we've rescued. All  
15 of ours have been spayed and neutered. We  
16 have -- The newest addition to the family is  
17 going to be spayed -- is going to be spayed. We  
18 are trying to be responsible. As the chairman  
19 said, the real culprit is not us, it's not you,  
20 it's a people who don't -- aren't responsible  
21 owners to begin with.

22 There's a lot of groups out here that I've  
23 seen that are working -- some didn't even know  
24 that the other groups existed. It will be  
25 wonderful if they get together. Nothing is

1 stopping any of these groups from getting  
2 together, looking at the situation, and bringing  
3 suggestions to the County. We're not  
4 (indiscernible).

5 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

6 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: I appreciate  
7 everybody's comments this evening, and I'm  
8 making the best decision I think I can make  
9 going forward. I'm trying to explain why I'm  
10 going to vote the way I'm voting. So thank you.  
11 I do appreciate everybody's comments.  
12 Mr. Chairman, that's all I have to say.

13 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Thank you. Go  
14 ahead, Steve.

15 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: I'm astounded.  
16 I'm astounded that I've got a colleague that  
17 says now we need to get everybody together and  
18 talk about this when we been working on this  
19 damn thing since January with all these groups.  
20 I mean, I've just -- I cannot believe you would  
21 say that.

22 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: Excuse me --

23 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Now we need to  
24 get everybody together and you kill it and you  
25 seconded it. That just kills me, Chuck.

1 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: One comment.

2 Can I get --

3 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: God, now we need  
4 to get everybody together. Scrap, the hell with  
5 all of y'all from January, you don't count.

6 Let's start all over again, and we'll find some  
7 people who agree with what we want to do and  
8 then we'll do it.

9 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: All of us here  
10 tonight, Mr. Brown. Every one of us tonight  
11 trying to convince this Board how we feel, but  
12 we're not important. We don't care. We don't  
13 come to the budget meetings. We don't do all  
14 the stuff. We are taxpaying citizens of Fayette  
15 County and we're missing (indiscernible) and  
16 walking dogs and taking care of cats. And this  
17 is not a good first step. It needs to be better  
18 than this. This is absolutely awful, and it  
19 puts a very bad stain and look on Fayette  
20 County.

21 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's inexcusable  
22 how our commissioners (indiscernible).

23 (Applause.)

24 (Indiscernible comments from audience.)

25 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: All right. I've

1 done my best because you can't -- you can't hear  
2 when there's multiple people talking. I gave  
3 you the opportunity -- No, ma'am, I'm not going  
4 to argue with you. I'm not going to argue with  
5 you. I gave everybody an opportunity to speak.

6 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's shameful.

7 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I understand you  
8 disagree. And so --

9 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I know I'm not  
10 supposed to be here.

11 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: No, we're done.  
12 We're done. And so I'm going to call for a  
13 vote. I'm sorry that you're upset.

14 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, you're not.  
15 You will be (indiscernible).

16 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I will -- I've  
17 already been through that once before. And so  
18 I'm going to call for the vote. There's a  
19 motion on the floor that amended -- that was  
20 amended that had certain language. All those in  
21 favor of that motion please indicate by saying  
22 aye.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN RANDY OGNIO: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ODDO: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER CHARLES ROUSSEAU: Aye.  
2 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: All those opposed?  
3 COMMISSIONER STEVE BROWN: Nay.  
4 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: And the way we do  
5 that here is put Commissioner Brown is the  
6 negative vote. Is there any further business on  
7 this topic?  
8 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Shame on you.  
9 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you,  
10 Commissioner Brown.  
11 UNNAMED AUDIENCE MEMBER: We're not going  
12 away, and you will be hearing from all of us.  
13 CHAIRMAN ERIC MAXWELL: I think what we'll  
14 do is we're going to take a five-minute break.  
15 It's 10:15. So we'll take a five-minute break  
16 and then we'll be back in five minutes.  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA    )

COUNTY OF FAYETTE    )

I, CHARLENE M. HANSARD, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for Fayette County, State of Georgia, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages were transcribed by me via speech recognition and reduced to print by me personally or under my direct supervision and is a true, complete and correct transcript of the aforesaid proceedings as prepared by me.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties; that I am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel for any of said parties; nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the action.

This certification is expressly withdrawn and denied upon the disassembly or photocopying of the foregoing transcript, unless said disassembly or photocopying is done by the undersigned certified court reporter and original signature and seal is attached thereto.

This the 4th day of September, 2017.

Charlene M. Hansard

CHARLENE M. HANSARD, CCR, CVR-M  
Certificate No. B-2341



**Chairman Maxwell**

Chairman Maxwell thanked Mr. Rapson and Mr. Collins for dealing with the issue and meeting with people. He stated that he did not take Commissioner Rousseau's comments the way that he think that Commissioner Brown did. He agreed that the Board had just gone through the budget process without a comment about the animal shelter and that the Board needed the citizens to bring forward issues. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Rapson responding to all the emails that were received.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**One Item of Threatening Litigation and Review of the June 22, 2017 Executive Session Minutes:** Commissioner Rousseau moved to go into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 11:47 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 12:04 a.m.

**Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit:** Vice Chairman Ognio moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Oddo seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 20", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

**Approval of the June 22, 2017 Executive Session Minutes:** Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the June 22, 2017 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to adjourn the July 13, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Brown was absent.

The July 13, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

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Tameca P. White, County Clerk

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Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

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Tameca P. White, County Clerk