

LATE DISTRIBUTION
Date 12:22 pm, Apr 08, 2011

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project
Gabriele Frei

to:
bosone, bostwo, bosfour, bosfive
04/07/2011 04:46 PM

Cc:
Suzanne Allen de Sanchez, Karen Feathers
Hide Details
From: Gabriele Frei <gabrielefrei@yahoo.com>

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
12:19 pm, Apr 08, 2011

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Cc: Suzanne Allen de Sanchez <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, Karen Feathers <" bosthree"@edcgov.us>

- John Knight, District 1
- Ray Nutting, District 2
- Jack Sweeney, District 3
- Ron Briggs, District 4
- Norma Santiago, District 5

Dear Supervisors,

As a tax payer of El Dorado County and volunteer for Animal Services (my fifth year of fostering kittens), I urge you to keep the funds allocated for the new permanent Shelter and subsequently build that Shelter; EDC needs a permanent Animal Shelter.

I totally stand behind Animal Services and do not want to see the department shrunk in any way. No other agency does what they do. There is no other organization in the entire County that could take over the essential and vital role Animal Services plays.

Sincerely,
Gabriele Frei
4201 Jewel Way
Placerville

>^..^<

Fuzzy



Shelter Coalition
<asc.edc@gmail.com>

04/07/2011 12:07 PM

To edc.cob@edcgov.us

cc brenda.bailey@edcgov.us

bcc

Subject April 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Public
Comment

1 attachment



BOSLtr-April 7_2011.pdf

The Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County would like to provide the attached letter as input for the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting regarding Animal Services, April 11, 2011.

Thank you.

--

Barb Lee

Shelter Coalition

www.newshelternow.org

asc.edc@gmail.com

ANIMAL SHELTER COALITION FOR EL DORADO COUNTY

April 7, 2011

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: April 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Animal Services

Members of the Board,

On behalf of the hundreds of supporters of the Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County, I urge you to consider the following as you review, again, Animal Services functions and the long overdue permanent Western Slope Animal Shelter project.

First, In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction – the site improvements. That was the right decision. While we've seen no progress yet on Phase 1, we are hopeful that commitment will be carried out soon. The need for the permanent shelter has not diminished. There is no other shelter on the West Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. Shelter operations remain in an undersized, worn out rental building, four years after moving to this stop gap location. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years, your current lease will expire in 2013, and even if the building did not have clear shortcomings, the temporary shelter simply cannot remain in that location long term.

Secondly, we know that the need to shelter animals in custody arises in great part from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers as they enforce a variety of State Codes and local ordinances. They respond to thousands of calls each year, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints. Many of these calls result in animals in the custody of the Animal Services Division including mandatory stray/hold animals, potentially dangerous dogs, animals in protective custody pending court cases, and animals that must be quarantined.

Third, the Animal Services Division receives thousands of hours of volunteer support each year. We believe that should be recognized and valued. We also ask you to recognize that: 1) in order for these volunteers and the multiple non-profit animal welfare organizations to make their contributions to this County service, an adequate, appropriately sized and designed permanent shelter needs to be in place; and 2) the Division's field services, enforcement, and mandatory sheltering activities are appropriately carried out by trained Animal Services Officers and shelter employees.

Page 2 - April 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Following this latest review of the Animal Services Division, we trust there will be a better understanding of the essential public safety services provided and the resulting need to shelter animals in custody, driven by those field services activities. Finally, as the need for the permanent shelter clearly remains, we hope to see progress soon on Phase 1 construction, as directed by the Board in July 2010, and we urge the Board of Supervisors to retain the project funds for their intended purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, for
Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County



jim shook
<jim.shook@sbcglobal.net>
04/06/2011 08:51 PM

To edc.cob@edcgov.us, edc.cob@edcgov.us
cc
bcc
Subject Foe the new Animal Shelter

To Our Board of Supervisors;

Lets give the People and Animals of El Dorado County the new Animal Shelter we all deserve. Lets do something that is badly needed, that is a huge county improvement and is something that we have already planned for! Please don't go backwards. Stand up for these Animals. Many of us, even those who don't write or call, are very concerned about this outcome. Thanks a lot, Jim and Jean Shook, Shingle Springs.



jim shook
<jim.shook@sbcglobal.net>
04/06/2011 08:57 PM

To edc.cob@edcgov.us
cc
bcc
Subject For the new Animal Shelter

Hi - Sorry my first note said "Foe" the new Animal Shelter - I meant "For" of course. If you could delete the first copy I would appreciate it ... Thank You ! Take care, Jim

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: jim shook <jim.shook@sbcglobal.net>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us; edc.cob@edcgov.us
Sent: Wed, April 6, 2011 8:51:08 PM
Subject: For the new Animal Shelter

To Our Board of Supervisors;

Lets give the People and Animals of El Dorado County the new Animal Shelter we all deserve. Lets do something that is badly needed, that is a huge county improvement and is something that we have already planned for! Please don't go backwards. Stand up for these Animals. Many of us, even those who don't write or call, are very concerned about this outcome. Thanks a lot, Jim and Jean Shook, Shingle Springs.



Special Meeting Monday April 11
The BOSONE to: Cynthia C Johnson
Sent by: Loretta M Featherston

04/07/2011 02:45 PM



Carol Menke-Clark to: bosone

04/05/2011 07:32 PM

Hello,

I am writing to ask for your support for the new and needed Animal Control Center. I have lived in ElDorado County for nearly 36 years and am an adopter of older dogs in need of homes. I have met some wonderful animals and people in my visits to the shelter and we desperately need to find all of them a new home.

Thank You,

Carol Menke-Clark
Kyburz

— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM —



Save the Animal Shelter!

Marcella Fox to: bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive

04/06/2011 09:51 AM

Support our much need animal shelter please! Drop the train project if you need to instead. HAVE A HEART and DO WH-

Marcella Fox
40 year resident of El Dorado County

— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM —



Animal Shelter Project

Doris Wilson to: Doris Wilson

04/06/2011 11:10 AM

I am writing to show my support of the Western Slope Animal Shelter project. As a taxpayer in this county, we need to retain the shelter project funds for the use that they we set aside for. Your decision in July 2010 should be upheld and Phase 1 of the construction should be completed as promised. Now is not the time to raid the funds for this much needed project.

Sincerely,
Doris Wilson
2365 Ranch Rd
Placerville, CA
95667

— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM —

April 11 Workshop on Animal Services department

Mary Lou Giles to: bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive

04/06/2011 05:02 PM

Dear Supervisors Knight, Nutting, Sweeney, Briggs, and Santiago,
I see that you're about to have your third workshop on Animal Services. I won't be able to attend, but I do want to speak up on this topic.

Regarding Animal Services:

- The total budget for AS is about \$2 million. Fees charged cover about 50% of that budget, leaving a total cost to the county of \$1 million. Compare this to the approximately \$40 million cost of the Sheriff's Department. In my opinion, you've spent far too much time "studying" a relatively low cost department with very little fat to trim. One wonders if there is some hidden agenda.
- The duties of Animal Services are largely mandated by law. I have in front of me a list which cites examples from the Penal Code, the Civil Code, the Food/Ag Code, the Health/Safety Code, and at least four County ordinances. One wonders why anyone would question the need to perform mandated services.
- Sheltering quarantined, abused, and abandoned animals is not just "nice to do". It is a basic and important public service, a county responsibility, and an appropriate use of public resources. One wonders why any reasonable person would question the need to provide this service.
- Animal Services shelters about 3,000 animals annually. There is no nonprofit in this county that is in a position to take on this responsibility. This point has been made over and over! One wonders why this notion keeps surfacing despite its obvious impracticality.

Regarding the Animal Shelter Project:

- The BOS recognized some time ago that there would be a need for a permanent, central facility for Animal Services, and, wisely, set aside the money to build such a facility. The need is now urgent, as the lease on the current two locations is coming to an end.
- The county has already purchased property, done an environmental assessment, and paid for a design. The county has also incurred an obligation to build an access road regardless of whether it builds on the property or not.

- We are now experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years.
- Using project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap is fiscally irresponsible. The gap will resurface within a year, and there will still be no Animal Shelter, and no hope of ever building one. The most objective and fiscally savvy folks in the county--two successive CAO's--have supported using the project funds as intended, and have warned of the folly of raiding them to put a band aid on the budget. One wonders why this is so hard for some folks to understand. It's not rocket science.
- Last summer, after a very thorough review of the project, and much discussion and debate, the BOS voted 3 to 2 (Thank you Supervisors Knight, Briggs and Santiago!) to move forward with the Animal Shelter project. One wonders why there is any discussion at all at this point.

Regarding the hidden agenda:

It's not about the budget. It's about pandering to a small but vocal and persistent group of anti-government extremists. My message to them: You have a right to your opinions. You have a right to be heard, and you have been--over and over! Your arguments have been refuted by fact and reason--over and over. Now sit down, be quiet, and let the rest of us do the best we can to build and maintain a civil and humane society. My message to the BOS: Please get on with implementing the decision you've already made to build a much needed Animal Shelter with the funds that have been set aside expressly for this purpose. Please let the hard working Animal Services staff do their very necessary work without further harassment.

In conclusion, I realize that the County has serious budget issues to contend with, and there are difficult decisions to make about the best use of slim resources. However abandoning any of the county government's responsibilities is not an option. I expect my government to be a government. And I, for one, am willing to pay my fair share to ensure that it can be.

Very truly yours,

Mary Lou Giles

Cameron Park

--- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM ---

Animal Shelter

Michael Kenison to: bosthree, bostwo, John Knight, Norma Santiago, Ron Briggs

04/06/2011 09:58 PM

I support the following three suggestions,

- 1) retain shelter project funds to complete the much needed permanent Western Slope Shelter;
- 2) recognize that the need to temporarily shelter animals is driven by the mandated activities carried out by Animal Services

Officers – these essential services result in animals in their custody; and 3) complete Phase 1 construction as approved by the Board last July.

Mike Kenison

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

Reaffirm Shelter Decision and Protect Vital Animal Services

Michael Damer to: bosone

04/07/2011 07:34 AM

Dear Supervisor Knight:

I am writing you to encourage your support of board's previous decision to provide our community with a permanent animal shelter. Likewise, I encourage your support of Animal Services, which performs a vital and necessary function for our county, its residents and animals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Damer

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

Please retain funds for the Western Slope Shelter Project

Lynnee Boyes to: bosone

04/07/2011 08:52 AM

Supervisor Knight,

I am writing to ask you to retain the Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds to complete the permanent shelter. In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction. I agree with that decision and am hopeful it will be completed soon. There is no other shelter on the Western Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years. Taking these project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap will not solve the ongoing budget shortfall but will create another problem - the need for a permanent El Dorado County Animal Shelter on the Western Slope.

Please retain the project funds for the project and proceed as promised on Phase 1. Thank you for your hard work for our wonderful county and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Lynnee Boyes
El Dorado County

— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM —

Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Greg Harris to: bob (edh supervisor) knight

04/07/2011 09:05 AM

Cc: Greg Harris

NOTE - THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS INCLUDED AS AN ATTACHMENT IN EVENT THAT IS A BETTER RECORD.

Supervisor Knight
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Dear Supervisor Knight:

I urge you to retain Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose – to complete the permanent shelter. Further, I urge you to recognize that the need to provide shelter for animals in custody arises, mostly, from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers. The public calls upon them to respond each year to thousands of calls, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints, among many others. In some cases, these calls result in an animal coming into the custody of the Animal Services Division, including potentially dangerous dogs, animals involved in court cases, strays taken in for mandated hold periods, or animals that must be quarantined.

Animal Services receives a great deal of volunteer support for sheltering duties that can be provided by volunteers, not to mention all the foster families housing and caring for animals at their homes, to provide care that's not possible at the County's facility. But the division's field services activities are appropriately performed by trained Animal Services Officers, authorized to enforce a variety of County ordinances and State Codes. And enforcement of those codes and ordinances results, at times, in animals in custody. This is a County responsibility and an appropriate use of public resources.

In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction – the site improvements, while retaining the remaining funds.

That was the right decision. While we've seen no progress yet on Phase 1, we are hopeful that commitment will be carried out soon. The need for the permanent shelter has not diminished. There is no other shelter on the West Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years. Taking the project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap does not solve the ongoing budget shortfall but does create another problem – the permanent shelter will continue to be needed and if project dollars are taken, there is no prospect of saving them again.

Please retain the project funds for the project, proceed as promised on Phase 1, and recognize the essential public safety functions carried out by the Animal Services Division. While volunteers play an important role animal care, fostering, and public outreach, regional animal services cannot be carried out by volunteers. They need to be carried out by professionals and the County government. The permanent shelter will allow this to happen properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gregory Harris

Gregory Harris
Owner and Principal Designer
EDEN DESIGNS - Landscape Planners
916.201.0747
Contractor's Lic. 947067



Supervisor Knight Animal Shelter 4.7.11 .docx

— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM —

Animal Shelter Emails

The BOSTWO to: The BOSONE, The BOSTHREE, The BOSFOUR, The BOSFIVE

04/07/2011 09:58 AM

Sent by: Kitty J. Miller

Cc: Cynthia C Johnson, Suzanne Allen de Sanchez

In an effort to help Cindy and not bombard her with duplicate Animal Shelter emails, I would suggest only one of us forward them to her. If one of you is already doing this please let the rest of us know. I will not forward any until I hear from all districts.

Supervisor Knight
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Dear Supervisor Knight:

I urge you to retain Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose – to complete the permanent shelter. Further, I urge you to recognize that the need to provide shelter for animals in custody arises, mostly, from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers. The public calls upon them to respond each year to thousands of calls, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints, among many others. In some cases, these calls result in an animal coming into the custody of the Animal Services Division, including potentially dangerous dogs, animals involved in court cases, strays taken in for mandated hold periods, or animals that must be quarantined.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gregory Harris

Supervisor John Knight
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

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Please retain the project funds for the project, proceed as promised on Phase 1 and recognize the essential public safety functions carried out by the Animal Services Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dominick & JoAnn LoFranco

Thank you,

Kitty Miller, Supervisor's Assistant
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
District II, Ray Nutting
530) 621-5651

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

animal shelter

JoAnn LoFranco to: bosone

04/07/2011 10:42 AM



JoAnn LoFranco letter to supes April, 2011 #1.docx

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

In support of Animal Services / new shelter

Jamie Hartshorn to: bosone

04/07/2011 10:47 AM

Dear Supervisor Knight,

The Animal Services Division carries out many vital duties, responding to thousands of calls and providing essential and mandated services that not only benefit public safety but add to the overall environment some of us moved to El Dorado County to enjoy. That they have performed many of these tasks with an inadequate and temporary shelter for many years makes their accomplishments all the more admirable.

I urge you to retain the Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose -- to complete the permanent shelter this County so desperately needs -- and recognize the essential public safety functions the Animal Services Division carries out on a daily basis.

Both my husband and I are involved as volunteers and realize there is no way a nonprofit can step in to provide these services, nor should it be expected that the fees charged cover them. This is a County responsibility and an appropriate use of public resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jamie Hartshorn
Placerville, CA

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

Animal Services

Jeff Lee to: Bosone

04/07/2011 11:24 AM

Supervisor Knight

Being somewhat familiar with animal welfare issues and as a volunteer for the County at the temporary West Slope Shelter in Placerville, I urge you to move ahead and complete the permanent animal shelter at the Y. It will only be a matter of time that the temporary shelter will need to be relocated. Either from action of the City of Placerville or by request of the landlord who is currently soliciting for new tenants. The cost of another temporary facility and continued rent of three separate facilities would be a waste of precious funds, not to mention a continuing escalating cost to the County.

Also worth noting, is that in El Dorado County there are at least sixteen volunteer Animal Welfare organizations and over ninety-five animal related businesses. To my knowledge none of these organizations or businesses have voiced any opposition to building the permanent facility. Most have publically endorsed the new shelter. All of these business owners, their employees and families benefit from adoptable animals from our shelter. Other businesses such as Raley's, Food for Less, Bel Air, Nugget and Holiday Markets devote a substantial amount of space to their companion animal food, supplies and medications as well

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lee

515 Hwy. 49

Placerville, CA 95667

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

Animal Shelter

Karlyn Shepler to: bosone

04/07/2011 01:13 PM

I am not in your district, but wish to indicate that I am very much in favor of proceeding with the Animal Shelter, phase one. Please give serious consideration to keeping this in the budget.

Thank you.

Karlyn Shepler
2630 Baker Road
Placerville 95667

----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 04/07/2011 02:44 PM -----

Animal Shelter

penny humphreys to: bosone

04/07/2011 01:49 PM

John:

The animal shelter has been in leased temporary facilities for its entire existence. Every time the lease expires there are multiple additional costs to the tax payer to create a new temporary shelter in a different leased facility.

It isn't like establishing a new office space where you can move in desks, chairs, a phone and computer system and then employees. An animal shelter has special needs. It needs kennels, special heating and air conditioning units to filter diseases, it needs to be easily cleaned to prevent diseases with a special drainage system. It needs an isolation area for all of the new arrivals to be kept separate from the healthy cats & dogs. It needs a large exercise area to keep the dogs healthy and sociable. It needs an adoption area where prospective families can interact quietly with a potential family pet. It needs acreage for the large animals, horses, cows, goats, etc. that are picked up by the officers and those animals need a barn or other shelter. In other words it is very expensive to establish an animal shelter, to keep the equipment updated and constantly move to another leased building.

The funds have been set aside especially to build a county owned animal shelter on county owned property. The \$6 million is one time money and should not be used for anything other than construction of a shelter.

Please stop delaying the process and approve the building of an animal shelter. It is more cost effective. I would appreciate your support for this issue.

Thank you,

Penny Humphreys 677-1925



Special Meeting April 11
The BOSONE to: Cynthia C Johnson
Sent by: **Loretta M Featherston**

04/07/2011 04:20 PM

Animal Shelter

Chris Navratil to: bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive

04/07/2011 03:58 PM

Adding my voice to the many.

I respectfully suggest that the funds (voted on and approved by the citizens of our community) for the construction of a permanent animal shelter be maintained for it's intended purpose, and that measurable progress to that end commence in the very near future.

If not, please provide what you would consider to be the alternative as to what we should do with our community's neglected and abused animals.

Chris R. Thomas-Navratil
Nickers Horse Sitting
530-391-6445
Diamond Springs CA



In support of Animal Services / new shelter
Jamie Hartshorn to: bosfour

04/07/2011 10:49 AM

From: Jamie Hartshorn <jamiehartshorn@gmail.com>
To: <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Dear Supervisor Briggs,

The Animal Services Division carries out many vital duties, responding to thousands of calls and providing essential and mandated services that not only benefit public safety but add to the overall environment some of us moved to El Dorado County to enjoy. That they have performed many of these tasks with an inadequate and temporary shelter for many years makes their accomplishments all the more admirable.

I urge you to retain the Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose -- to complete the permanent shelter this County so desperately needs -- and recognize the essential public safety functions the Animal Services Division carries out on a daily basis.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Jamie Hartshorn
Placerville, CA

Please retain funds for the Western Slope Animal Shelter

Lynnee Boyes

to:

bosfour

04/07/2011 08:54 AM

Hide Details

From: "Lynnee Boyes" <lboyes@prodigy.net>

To: <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Supervisor Briggs,

I am writing to ask you to retain the Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds to complete the permanent shelter. In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction. I agree with that decision and am hopeful it will be completed soon. There is no other shelter on the Western Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years. Taking these project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap will not solve the ongoing budget shortfall but will create another problem - the need for a permanent El Dorado County Animal Shelter on the Western Slope.

Please retain the project funds for the project and proceed as promised on Phase 1. Thank you for your hard work for our wonderful county and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynnee Boyes

El Dorado County

Reaffirm Shelter Decision and Protect Vital Animal Services

Michael Damer

to:

bosfour

04/07/2011 07:37 AM

Hide Details

From: Michael Damer <mjdamer@gmail.com>

To: <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Dear Supervisor Briggs:

I am writing you to encourage your support of board's previous decision to provide our community with a permanent animal shelter. Likewise, I encourage your support of Animal Services, which performs a vital and necessary function for our county, its residents and animals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Damer

Animal Shelter
Michael Kenison

to:

bostthree, bostwo, John Knight, Norma Santiago, Ron Briggs
04/06/2011 09:58 PM

Hide Details

From: Michael Kenison <mikejken@yahoo.com> Sort List...

To: bostthree@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, John Knight <bosone@edcgov.us>, Norma Santiago <bosfive@edcgov.us>, Ron Briggs <bosfour@edcgov.us>

I support the following three suggestions,

1) retain shelter project funds to complete the much needed permanent Western Slope Shelter; 2) recognize that the need to temporarily shelter animals is driven by the mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers - these essential services result in animals in their custody; and 3) complete Phase 1 construction as approved by the Board last July.

Mike Kenison

April 11 Workshop on Animal Services department

Mary Lou Giles

to:

bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive

04/06/2011 05:02 PM

Hide Details

From: Mary Lou Giles <mlgiles18@yahoo.com> Sort List...

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Dear Supervisors Knight, Nutting, Sweeney, Briggs, and Santiago,

I see that you're about to have your third workshop on Animal Services. I won't be able to attend, but I do want to speak up on this topic.

Regarding Animal Services:

- The total budget for AS is about \$2 million. Fees charged cover about 50% of that budget, leaving a total cost to the county of \$1 million. Compare this to the approximately \$40 million cost of the Sheriff's Department. In my opinion, you've spent far too much time "studying" a relatively low cost department with very little fat to trim. One wonders if there is some hidden agenda.
- The duties of Animal Services are largely mandated by law. I have in front of me a list which cites examples from the Penal Code, the Civil Code, the Food/Ag Code, the Health/Safety Code, and at least four County ordinances. One wonders why anyone would question the need to perform mandated services.
- Sheltering quarantined, abused, and abandoned animals is not just "nice to do". It is a basic and important public service, a county responsibility, and an appropriate use of public resources. One wonders why any reasonable person would question the need to provide this service.
- Animal Services shelters about 3,000 animals annually. **There is no nonprofit in this county that is in a position to take on this responsibility. This point has been made over and over!** One wonders why this notion keeps surfacing despite its obvious impracticality.

Regarding the Animal Shelter Project:

- The BOS recognized some time ago that there would be a need for a permanent, central facility for Animal Services, and, wisely, set aside the money to build such a facility. The need is now

10-1235.4E.23

urgent, as the lease on the current two locations is coming to an end.

- The county has already purchased property, done an environmental assessment, and paid for a design. The county has also incurred an obligation to build an access road regardless of whether it builds on the property or not.
- We are now experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years.
- Using project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap is fiscally irresponsible. The gap will resurface within a year, and there will still be no Animal Shelter, and no hope of ever building one. The most objective and fiscally savvy folks in the county--two successive CAO's-- have supported using the project funds as intended, and have warned of the folly of raiding them to put a band aid on the budget. One wonders why this is so hard for some folks to understand. It's not rocket science.
- Last summer, after a very thorough review of the project, and much discussion and debate, the BOS voted 3 to 2 (Thank you Supervisors Knight, Briggs and Santiago!) to move forward with the Animal Shelter project. One wonders why there is any discussion at all at this point.

Regarding the hidden agenda:

It's not about the budget. It's about pandering to a small but vocal and persistent group of anti-government extremists. My message to them: You have a right to your opinions. You have a right to be heard, and you have been--over and over! Your arguments have been refuted by fact and reason--over and over. Now sit down, be quiet, and let the rest of us do the best we can to build and maintain a civil and humane society. My message to the BOS: Please get on with implementing the decision you've already made to build a much needed Animal Shelter with the funds that have been set aside expressly for this purpose. Please let the hard working Animal Services staff do their very necessary work without further harassment.

In conclusion, I realize that the County has serious budget issues to contend with, and there are difficult decisions to make about the best use of slim resources. However abandoning any of the county government's responsibilities is not an option. I expect my government to **be** a government. And I, for one, and willing to pay my fair share to ensure that it can be.

Very truly yours,
Mary Lou Giles
Cameron Park

Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Elizabeth Sorensen

to:

bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive, edc.cob

04/07/2011 05:27 PM

Cc:

"Elizabeth Sorensen"

Hide Details

From: "Elizabeth Sorensen" <critterswelcome@comcast.net> Sort List...

To: <bosone@edcgov.us>, <bostwo@edcgov.us>, <bosthree@edcgov.us>, <bosfour@edcgov.us>, <bosfive@edcgov.us>, <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cc: "Elizabeth Sorensen" <critterswelcome@comcast.net>

El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

April 7, 2011

Dear Honorable El Dorado County Supervisors, Et al:

I address each of you because I have grown to love all of El Dorado County and have volunteered in more than one district. I am also "still" seeking a service dog utilizing all districts of El Dorado County; therefore, this plea goes to each of you.

I urge you to retain Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose – to complete the permanent shelter. Further, I urge you to recognize that the need to provide shelter for animals in custody arises, mostly, from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers. The public calls upon them to respond each year to thousands of calls, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints, among many others. In some cases, these calls result in an animal coming into the custody of the Animal Services Division, including potentially dangerous dogs, animals involved in court cases, strays taken in for mandated hold periods, or animals that must be quarantined.

Animal Services receives a great deal of volunteer support for sheltering duties that can be provided by volunteers, not to mention all the foster families housing and caring for animals at their homes, to provide care that's not possible at the County's facility. But the division's field services activities are appropriately performed by trained Animal Services Officers, authorized to enforce a variety of County ordinances and State Codes. And enforcement of those codes and ordinances results, at times, in animals in custody. This is a County responsibility and an appropriate use of public resources.

10-1235.4E.25

In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction – the site improvements, while retaining the remaining funds. I have seen no progress and hope the commitment will be carried out soon.

Regarding project dollars collected for this express purpose: My mother used to say, “If you rob Peter to pay Paul, there will surely be consequences”. Well, Peter still needs completion and the souls that will benefit from this project are not only animal but also HUMAN. I have heard mumblings FROM OPPOSITION: “What is more important, animals or humans”? Researchers all over the world are finding that Pet Therapy offers a “human” person healing recovery and love. Pets provide help with: Alzheimer’s patients, Children who suffer from Attention Deficit Disorder, Mentally ill patients, Depressive disorders, Social interaction, Touch. Pets are a source of expectation, hope and communication.

Organizations that benefit: Hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, mental institutions, the Military, Sheriff, Search and Rescue, Home bound persons, families. And then, of course, you have just plain old single people like myself who want to love an animal and share that love with others.

Please make the humane decision. Allow the shelter to go forward so we have a local source to utilize, donate to and draw from.

The attached picture is my Molly at a fundraiser in Cool. She was adopted from your shelter in 2002, trained by me and was in service to me and many others until she died in my arms in 2009.

“The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them but to be indifferent to them: that’s the essence of inhumanity”. George Bernard Shaw

Please retain the project funds for the project, proceeded as promised on Phase 1 and recognize the essential public safety functions carried out by the Animal Services Division.

Since I am without a service dog, I am unable to attend the BOS meeting. If I can find a “service person” to take me, I would be honored to address each of you regarding this matter. Please let this be read into the record.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sorensen
3057 Secret Lake Trail
Cool, CA 95614
530 889-9049
critterswelcome@comcast.net

Attached: one picture



Animal Shelter

Chris Navratil

to:

bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour, bosfive

04/07/2011 03:58 PM

Hide Details

From: "Chris Navratil" <nickershorsesitting@comcast.net> Sort List...

To: <bosone@edcgov.us>, <bostwo@edcgov.us>, <bosthree@edcgov.us>, <bosfour@edcgov.us>, <bosfive@edcgov.us>

Adding my voice to the many.

I respectfully suggest that the funds (voted on and approved by the citizens of our community) for the construction of a permanent animal shelter be maintained for it's intended purpose, and that measurable progress to that end commence in the very near future.

*If not, please provide what **you** would consider to be the alternative as to what we should do with our community's neglected and abused animals.*

*Chris R. Thomas-Navratil
Nickers Horse Sitting
530-391-6445
Diamond Springs CA*

Animal Shelter
penny humphreys

to:

bosfour

04/07/2011 01:52 PM

Hide Details

From: penny humphreys <penny4@directcon.net>

To: bosfour@edcgov.us

Ron:

The animal shelter has been in leased temporary facilities for its entire existence. Every time the lease expires there are multiple additional costs to the tax payer to create a new temporary shelter in a different leased facility.

It isn't like establishing a new office space where you can move in desks, chairs, a phone and computer system and then employees. An animal shelter has special needs. It needs kennels, special heating and air conditioning units to filter diseases, it needs to be easily cleaned to prevent diseases with a special drainage system. It needs an isolation area for all of the new arrivals to be kept separate from the healthy cats & dogs. It needs a large exercise area to keep the dogs healthy and sociable. It needs an adoption area where prospective families can interact quietly with a potential family pet. It needs acreage for the large animals, horses, cows, goats, etc. that are picked up by the officers and those animals need a barn or other shelter. In other words it is very expensive to establish an animal shelter, to keep the equipment updated and constantly move to another leased building.

The funds have been set aside especially to build a county owned animal shelter on county owned property. The \$6 million is one time money and should not be used for anything other than construction of a shelter.

Please stop delaying the process and approve the building of an animal shelter. It is more cost effective. I would appreciate your support for this issue.

Thank you,

Penny Humphreys



Animal Shelter
Karlyn Shepler to: bosfour

04/07/2011 01:18 PM

From: Karlyn Shepler <karlyn_shepler@sbcglobal.net>
To: bosfour@edcgov.us

Please continue to give support to the new Animal Shelter for El Dorado County. We have all working hard to keep this important item in the county budget.

Thank you for your support during this extended process of establishing funding for a new shelter.

Karlyn Shepler
2630 Baker Road
Placerville 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Joel Williamson

to:

bosfour

04/07/2011 12:59 PM

Hide Details

From: Joel Williamson <joel_williamson@yahoo.com>

To: bosfour@edcgov.us

Supervisor Ron Briggs

El Dorado County

330 Fair Lane

Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

Dear Supervisor Briggs,

I urge you to retain Western Slope Animal Shelter project funds for their intended purpose – to complete the permanent shelter. Further, I urge you to recognize that the need to provide shelter for animals in custody arises, mostly, from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers. The public calls upon them to respond each year to thousands of calls, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints, among many others. In some cases, these calls result in an animal coming into the custody of the Animal Services Division, including potentially dangerous dogs, animals involved in court cases, strays taken in for mandated hold periods, or animals that must be quarantined.

Animal Services receives a great deal of volunteer support for sheltering duties that can be provided by volunteers, not to mention all the foster families housing and caring for animals at their homes, to provide care that's not possible at the County's facility. But the division's field services activities are appropriately performed by trained Animal Services Officers, authorized to enforce a variety of County ordinances and State Codes. And enforcement of those codes and ordinances results, at times, in animals in custody. This is a County responsibility and an appropriate use of public resources.

In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction – the site improvements, while retaining the remaining funds. That was the right decision. While we've seen no progress yet on Phase 1, we are hopeful that commitment will be carried

10-1235.4E.32

out soon. The need for the permanent shelter has not diminished. There is no other shelter on the West Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years. Taking the project funds to temporarily close an operating budget gap does not solve the ongoing budget shortfall but does create another problem – the permanent shelter will continue to be needed and if project dollars are taken, there is no prospect of saving them again.

Please retain the project funds for the project, proceed as promised on Phase 1 and recognize the essential public safety functions carried out by the Animal Services Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel W. Williamson
2630 Baker Road
Placerville, CA 95667

ANIMAL SHELTER COALITION FOR EL DORADO COUNTY

April 7, 2011

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: April 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Animal Services

Members of the Board,

On behalf of the hundreds of supporters of the Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County, I urge you to consider the following as you review, again, Animal Services functions and the long overdue permanent Western Slope Animal Shelter project.

First, In July 2010 your Board authorized the permanent shelter to move ahead and directed staff to complete Phase 1 construction – the site improvements. That was the right decision. While we've seen no progress yet on Phase 1, we are hopeful that commitment will be carried out soon. The need for the permanent shelter has not diminished. There is no other shelter on the West Slope for the number and variety of animals housed. Shelter operations remain in an undersized, worn out rental building, four years after moving to this stop gap location. We are experiencing the best bidding climate public agencies have seen for years, your current lease will expire in 2013, and even if the building did not have clear shortcomings, the temporary shelter simply cannot remain in that location long term.

Secondly, we know that the need to shelter animals in custody arises in great part from the essential services and mandated activities carried out by Animal Services Officers as they enforce a variety of State Codes and local ordinances. They respond to thousands of calls each year, including loose animals, animal bites, aggressive dogs, and neglect complaints. Many of these calls result in animals in the custody of the Animal Services Division including mandatory stray/hold animals, potentially dangerous dogs, animals in protective custody pending court cases, and animals that must be quarantined.

Third, the Animal Services Division receives thousands of hours of volunteer support each year. We believe that should be recognized and valued. We also ask you to recognize that: 1) in order for these volunteers and the multiple non-profit animal welfare organizations to make their contributions to this County service, an adequate, appropriately sized and designed permanent shelter needs to be in place; and 2) the Division's field services, enforcement, and mandatory sheltering activities are appropriately carried out by trained Animal Services Officers and shelter employees.

Page 2 - April 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Following this latest review of the Animal Services Division, we trust there will be a better understanding of the essential public safety services provided and the resulting need to shelter animals in custody, driven by those field services activities. Finally, as the need for the permanent shelter clearly remains, we hope to see progress soon on Phase 1 construction, as directed by the Board in July 2010, and we urge the Board of Supervisors to retain the project funds for their intended purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, for
Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County

Animal Services

Jeff Lee

to:

Bosfour

04/07/2011 11:19 AM

Hide Details

From: "Jeff Lee" <jefflee@hughes.net>

To: <Bosfour@edcgov.us>

Supervisor Briggs

Being somewhat familiar with animal welfare issues and as a volunteer for the County at the temporary West Slope Shelter in Placerville, I urge you to move ahead and complete the permanent animal shelter at the Y. It will only be a matter of time that the temporary shelter will need to be relocated. Either from action of the City of Placerville or by request of the landlord who is currently soliciting for new tenants. The cost of another temporary facility and continued rent of three separate facilities would be a waste of precious funds, not to mention a continuing escalating cost to the County.

Also worth noting, is that in El Dorado County there are at least **sixteen volunteer Animal Welfare organizations** and over **ninety-five animal related businesses**. To my knowledge none of these organizations or businesses have voiced any opposition to building the permanent facility. Most have publically endorsed the new shelter. All of these **business owners**, their **employees** and **families** benefit from adoptable animals from our shelter. Other businesses such as Raley's, Food for Less, Bel Air, Nugget and Holiday Markets devote a substantial amount of space to their companion animal food, supplies and medications as well

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lee

515 Hwy. 49

Placerville, CA 95667

Supervisor Ron Briggs
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Animal Services Division Essential Functions and Western Slope Shelter Project

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Please retain the project funds for the project, proceed as promised on Phase 1 and recognize the essential public safety functions carried out by the Animal Services Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dominick & JoAnn LoFranco