

Commissioners Minutes

July 26, 2024 – 3:04 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.

FY2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP NO. 2 FOR THE WEST VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek

COO Greg Rast

Clerk Rick Hogaboam

Controller Kyle Wilmot

Senior Systems Analyst Steve Onofrei

Nick Lippincott from the Best Friends Animal Society (via teleconference)

Caleb Smith, WVHS Board President

Tyler Byers, WVHS Secretary

Dr. Rosenthal, DVM

Facilities Director Rick Britton

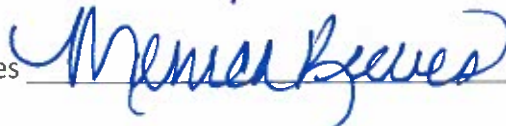
Constituent Services Director Aaron Williams

Deputy PA Zach Wesley

Deputy PA Laura Keys

Other interested persons

Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves



FY2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP NO. 2 FOR THE WEST VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

The Board met today at 3:04 p.m. for the FY2025 Budget Workshop No. 2 for the West Valley Humane Society. Present were: Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek, COO Greg Rast, Clerk Rick Hogaboam, Controller Kyle Wilmot, Senior Systems Analyst Steve Onofrei, Nick Lippincott from the Best Friends Animal Society (via teleconference), Caleb Smith, WVHS Board President, Tyler Byers, WVHS Secretary, Dr. Rosenthal, DVM, Facilities Director Rick Britton, Constituent Services Director Aaron Williams, Deputy PA Zach Wesley, Deputy PA Laura Keys, other interested persons, and Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves. At the beginning of the meeting there was a brief discussion about the financial information that was required but has not yet been received so the Board took a break at 3:04 p.m. to wait for WVHS to re-send the information via email. The meeting resumed at 3:17 p.m. Caleb Smith, Tyler Byers, and Nick Lippincott responded to questions from the Board with regard to the financial records and operation of the shelter which is summarized as follows: The WVHS Treasurer has resigned and the WVHS Board voted to engage with an outsourced accounting firm rather than having it run through a volunteer board member. The board has voted to part ways with the Executive Director effective August 2, 2024. There are some discrepancies in their QuickBooks records that they want to fix, and they are also going over staffing issues with their HR director who has been acting as the executive director since she went on maternity leave. They have been working with Best Friends Animal Society who will provide an executive consultant who will assist in making sure there isn't a decrease in the coverage or care for the animals and they will also look at the polices and bookkeeping and provide guidance to the

WVHS board. The person who will fill that role will have the ability and capacity to work as the executive director who will assist in recruiting a long-term executive director. Board members are new to their roles and their focus is making sure they have the right leadership in place and making sure they understand what's been happening with the finances up to this point. Their focus for the last couple weeks has been to make sure the doors stay open, focus on the lease and figure out what it looks like to have a good relationship with the County. They have three permanent board members plus Nick Lippincott who is filling in as a nonvoting member due to his status with the Best Friends Animal Society. They hope to adopt bylaws at a board meeting next week. Commissioner Van Beek said there is interest in the community to look at how the shelter is operating and to look into a request for proposals (RFP) process. The County is the owner of the building with a tenant trying to provide a service and we need a functional shelter with good financials. Commissioner Brooks said WVHS does not have stable leadership, or an executive director and former employees and board members have provided information about the shelter burning through cash. He said the board members should have presented a business plan with financial information but none of that has been provided. Tyler Byers said they are fighting multiple battles on multiple fronts, and they are working with a nationwide organization dedicated to ensuring the animals get the services they need and they will bring in a professional to tell them how to operate a shelter while they search for a fulltime replacement, and they are trying to obtain grants so they do not have to ask the County for emergency support. As a new board member, he has not received the financial information, but Caleb Smith has met with an accountant who will review their financial records this weekend and provide an update and a quote on how to get financial statements in order. There are two veterinarians on staff, and one relief veterinarian for contracted services. The Best Friends Animal Society provided a temporary relief grant of \$67,000 to make sure core staffing levels are maintained and services continue to be provided. The primary account has just over \$50,000 pending the May and June payments for services. Commissioner Holton expressed concern that the City of Nampa and the City of Caldwell are not paying their proportionate share while the County is paying a much higher rate. Mr. Smith said they plan to speak with both cities and make sure the contracts reflect the appropriate level of service being provided. Mr. Byers said Canyon County provides 56% of their contractual revenue and he doesn't think it's an equitable distribution based on services, and feels they are inadequately supported by some of the cities as well and they're hoping to address it with them. Mr. Lippincott noted that the City of Nampa's FY2025 funding commitment is \$83,300. Commissioner Brooks said they need an executive director who has a financial interest and is willing to solicit the funding. He and Commissioner Van Beek are in favor of leaving the status quo amount in the budget and said it should be re-evaluated on a more regular basis to ensure it is functioning as it should. Commissioner Holton wants legal counsel to review the lease agreement and considering how poorly the County is being treated proportionately, he wants to look at the contract to make sure we are protecting the taxpayers. He agreed to leave the amount in the budget. Clerk Hogaboam said the request from WVHS was \$300,000 and the ongoing contribution with \$100,000 to the shelter, which is a \$100,000 increase over last year. Deputy PA Wesley said the original contractual agreement was for the remainder of the maintenance budget to be paid at the end, but that

changed several years ago when the County retained any maintenance holdover. COO Rast said there needs to be County representation on the WVHS board so we can have access to financial records. The Board is supportive of budgeting \$200,000 to WVHS and up to \$100,000 for the facility. Mr. Smith said they will commit to 90-day reports for the next year. The Board would like to see all information as soon as it's available, via email is fine, a meeting will not be necessary. The meeting concluded at 4:25 p.m. An audio recording is on file in the Commissioners' Office.