This meeting was held as a conference call due to social-distancing requirements of Covid-19. Meeting called to order. Pat Mihalic, Kenneth Mullen, and Suzanne Grubbs have an excused absence.

A motion was made by Ms. Clark to approve the minutes for the September 11, 2019 and February 18, 2020 meetings. Ms. Colletti seconds the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Leath: Perfect. Thank you for that. The next point that we wanted to bring up to everyone is Michael Rodriguez, who everyone was able to meet in prior agenda meetings, is no longer with the county. He's actually accepted another position. So we will be getting a new attorney assigned to our division. They're working through the specifics on who that will be. But we'll definitely make sure everyone is made aware of that as soon as we become aware of it. This is a very recent development, but wanted to make sure everyone had the opportunity to be made aware of that situation.

The next one was the discussion that I wanted to bring up in front of everyone, because I know, it's a really important topic for all of you. And it certainly is top for us at Animal Services. And that's the status of our ordinance revisions. As you all remember, from the last meeting we had, we had requested Dr. Pizanno, from the shelter medicine program at the University of Florida to review our ordinances as they're doing a lot of developmental work with some of our local shelters. She has provided that feedback and incorporated some of the topics for discussion for us. And then COVID happened. So we want to be able to have this brought in front of Council. But it's going to be challenging in order to get public hearings met. So what we'd like to offer to the animal control board is an update. And that is we're really just looking for when we can get this for a public hearing. And for the updates in front of Council. I don't have an exact date for you. But I can tell you just as soon as we can possibly get it on there, we will definitely do. I know that it will happen in this calendar year. But I don't have a date specific. But I didn't want you to think for a minute that it wasn't on our radar and we weren't trying to push that forward, especially with all of your valuable input.

Ms. Clark: I do know from talking to Debbie prior to our meeting that she was concerned about, in the update, about having something go from a misdemeanor to a felony. And she would like to say something about that when it's time to bring it up.

Mrs. Darino: When we're done with the meeting with what Adam has to say then I can you know, bring it up.

Ms. Clark: Well, I would bring it up at the meeting because it's important.

Mrs. Darino: Right when he's done with all the talking points. And at the end.
Mr. Leath: We have a new business coming up in just two more bullet points. Thank you for that. I appreciate that. The next is something that I wanted to bring to the board for you guys to think about and mull over and consider because it's something that we're going to need your help with. And our next big task that we want to take on. And one of the challenges that we've experienced, and I've heard it a number of times, from concerned citizens in our community. And I've also heard it from our officers and our city agencies as well. And that is trying to report animal cruelty in our county is not an easy process to do.

As you know, 16 different municipalities, all with the exception of one with its own separate Animal Services Division or animal control department, it's really challenging for someone who wants to report cruelty. And one of the long term goals that Animal Services has, and we'll go over this in the performance measures here in just a moment, is we would like to make this process as easy as possible. And I know I don't need to tell all of you how important it is for us to make sure that we're serving the citizens, both four legged and two legged in our community. But certainly when it comes to reporting animal cruelty, I find it hard to find a more admirable task and a more important goal for us to aspire to, to ensure that animals are not being neglected in our community.

I hope what I was able to portray to all of you is how important animal cruelty and the response to animal cruelty and neglect is for our division, as I know it is for all of you. So what we'd like to try to propose is an idea that has worked in many other counties and other states. But I don't know how well, we could make that work here. And I wanted to get your thoughts all of you live here. You've been here and have a great deal of experience in animal welfare, certainly here in Volusia County. So we wanted to sort of propose the idea of developing a 1-800 number. One of the challenges that most experience is they don't really know what number to call when it comes to cruelty and neglect. And if they call the wrong one. So I live in the city and I happen to call the county number, or I live in the county and I called the city number, or I'm not even sure what number to call, so I just picked 911 is not a great solution. The concern is dispatch calls for all the cities and not all the cities wants dispatch to do their dispatch for them.

Mrs. Colletti (inaudible)

Mr. Leath: Yeah, and that's a really big concern we have Mrs. Colletti, is if you need if you get frustrated, if you called in and got frustrated, because you didn't get to the right person. And you just said, Well, you know what, I don't want to call anymore. I had a bad experience. That's an animal that we should, we need to make sure that we're being the voice for.

Mrs. Colletti: I usually get their name. And they'll give you the name and they asked you everything except your blood type about the animal. And then yeah, they're gonna call and then you call in five hours later. Oh, we didn't get the call.

Ms. Clark: Is there a three digit number that's open to that?

Mrs. Darino: Those dispatch calls are recorded or documented.

Mrs. Colletti: Well, one lied to it and the other swears to it because nobody knows nothing.

Mrs. Darino: They just had an incident down there in Port Orange, I'm sure you guys know about the cat over from Rossi's. And then the animal control officer said they never got a call. Yet I have two reports and two voice dispatch messages with the entire conversation. I addressed it with the video over there, but just FYI, they're recorded.

Mr. Baird: So what happened to the cat?

Mrs. Darino: That's the million dollar question. Supposedly the maintenance guy took it somewhere and getting him to tell anybody where is the question so that's why I reached out.
Mr. Baird: Well it's somebody's pet.

Mrs. Darino: Well, it was going to be, it's not a feral cat, but it was going to be adopted out to somebody that day.

(Inaudible-many speaking at once)

Mr. Leath: What I was hoping to try to pose to the group is 1-800 number is something we have priced out and it's quite reasonably priced. I mean, we're looking at, you know, $50 or less per month. The question is that I want the group to sort of think about is, do we think that this is something that we should pursue? And, you know, as Animal Services, knowing that there are people that are within the city that would call this number, there are people who would be, you know, all over the county? And, you know, I think it's important to not for Volusia County Animal Services that even though it's not, you know, within our jurisdiction, you know, we should be able to route those calls to the appropriate people. And yes, we're not going to discourage people from calling dispatch, but they should be able to find one number to call, and then you know, they would capture that information. So do we think that this is something that the advisory board would support? And do you think that this is something that we could ask for your help, and not only getting out, but also for your contacts within the cities, as well as our contacts to really come on board, to be able to not only encourage people calling this number, but heck, I'm even envisioning, you know, a billboard, and advertisements and all those other sorts of things. If we want people to get the information to the right people, it first starts with the complaint. And I want that, I would like to see us to be able to step up to the plate, and get all of that information going to one location.

(Inaudible-many speaking at once)

Ms. Clark: Is it possible that calling that number, you could have your identity, not on record cause usually, maybe retribution or other people, if they knew if it was made so that you didn't have to give up their name, if I was anonymous, that would be fine. I don't see anything wrong and your advertising and billboards you could use co-op advertising, where there's a lot of law firms out there and other people that have billboards, and we may get a third of their billboard, to show the animal abuse and in question marks call this number. It would save the county money. I like I love the idea.

Mrs. Colletti: Well, you know, I'll get on the phone a lot of times for just a wellness check. Well, is it abuse? I mean, here's the question I'm getting, is it abuse or is it neglect? I say tell me the difference.

Mrs. Darino: Who's going to be on the other end and where do they route those calls once they get them?

Mr. Leath: It's a great question. And one idea that's been proposed, and one quote that we received, this is a company that that just handles phone calls. That's all that they do. And so it doesn't mean that we're with anyone, we just wanted to get a quote from someone to see how much that might cost. So this would be a 1-800 number that a private company would answer the phone 24-7, and they would just retrieve the information that we asked them to retrieve. And certainly the point of remaining anonymous is an option that everyone should have, regardless of what the type of complaint is. So I absolutely hear you there, Karen. But they would receive information based upon the questions that we asked them to ask. And they literally would just send all of that text to animal services. And then we would get that information and decide, okay, that's Port Orange, do we need to make sure that Port Orange gets this call? Or this is Ormond Beach, we should get it to Ormond, or it's unincorporated. We're going to get an officer on that. And they're going to respond tomorrow and see what's going on.

Mrs. Darino: When animal control is closed on the weekend like Ormond or some of the cities, where are those where those calls gonna go? Are they gonna sit in a queue till Monday, or is somebody's going to be able to address it since it's maybe not your city, you know?

Mr. Leath: It's a great question. And I one of the challenges is, you know, I don't know what their response is now. They may not respond or they may respond. I would like to say, I would like to say that they would take
that information and respond. And I don't know what that response looks like when it's outside of hours. So I
would like to say that we would have those direct contacts, and we do have, you know, each of the ACOs and
all of the jurisdictions, but if they're not working 24-7, you know, maybe we look at, okay, it should be the PD,
and then we look at the watch commander and the number and how they would route it. We would definitely
have to make sure that the cities were prepared to respond. Who would be the point of contact? Am I emailing
am I phone calling? You know, what would that look like? I think we would have to work all of those things out.

Mrs. Darino: And maybe it would be a good ideal also if we could get all the cities together, you know, and,
and kind of coordinate some of this stuff. Because, you know, it'd be great if, you know, they staggered and
worked on weekends, because animal cruelty doesn't stop on Saturday and Sunday.

Ms. Clark: A while long time ago, Pat Mihalic went and tried to get a universal tag so that all other cities would
be together so that when you have a tag from Deltona, they may have different numbers than anywhere else.
And the only city that held out, which was awful, I think was Deltona at the time could have been Debary. And
with her contacts, and obviously they've changed, I think, the cities, and I don't know if they still have the
Volusia County cities or whatever organization it was where they all joined, where you can have a universal
animal abuse line. They would all be in on it. And right now everybody knows people are really picky about
their animals. So I think people pressure talking to their government officials, I think they would all be in on this
without a problem.

Mr. Leath: There were two things I wanted to bring up. One is, Bob has been trying to speak. I know he’s said
a couple of things. I wanted to take a moment to respond to that. He’s tried to have a couple of comments.

Mr. Baird: I was hoping the police department were handling it when animal control’s not around

Mrs. Darino: I get that. They don't. They're supposed to. I actually spoke to Chief Capri at one time and Sheriff
Chitwood about this. And I was told that when animal control is closed, they have to respond to those calls. So
when I have a problem, and I call them and they don't want to do it, I have to say I had this meeting with Sheriff
Chitwood and he said, you have to go and do a wellness check on this call. And then they do it.

Mr. Leath: One additional topic that may bring a little clarity to this is, we just recently as of April seventh, and I
don't expect that everyone is watching every council meeting. But on April the seventh one project that Animal
Services has been working on for about a year now is an interlocal agreement. An agreement that would allow
for Animal Services, the county agency, to go into the city and provide assistance to the city. It would also
allow the cities to in turn, provide assistance to the county if we ask for it. So one thing that I could certainly
add to this is with each of the cities, and there have been three now that are bringing it in front of their city's
council, I could have that same point of contact for enacting our mutual aid agreement, as would be the 1-800
number. And we could certainly build that in which may help.

Ms. Clark: If the county is willing to pay for it, the cities would probably go for it. God forbid they should give up
a percentage of their money into this thing. But if the county has the funding to do this program, start it off like
that, and maybe the others can chip in some money to help maintain it.

Mrs. Colletti: Well, if everybody took just a little bit out of their friggin raises every month, every week, or every
year it might work. Everybody's getting paid all this extra money and everything and everything is going less
and less. And it's for the animals. The things that are needed.

Mrs. Darino: have the county meet with those officials and maybe have them set aside, an allotment each
month.

Mrs. Colletti: you know, building good faith, you know, election comes and goes real quick.

Mr. Leath: I would like to say that we want to be the example, we want to step out front and say we know that
it's going to be a little extra work but we're willing to put that in, because it's that much of a priority to us. And
then even to some discussions about cost sharing. We’re not talking about a lot of money. And while it’s not a line out of my budget account, sure that I can I can find the opportunity, certainly with county support, to be able to find a way to make this happen. Of course, if you think that it's a worthwhile venture for us pursue.

Mrs. Colletti: it is wonderful idea. But it’s sad that we have to go to that extreme. The people who we supposedly have here that that have been dropping the ball. It's a shame.

Mrs. Darino: The biggest problem I see is the weekend. Nobody covers the weekend ceremony except the county.

Mrs. Colletti: The cities are a joke. Not even a good joke.

Mrs. Darino: The cities maybe figure out a way to help. I think if they could stagger and have, you know, maybe take Monday, Tuesday off and rotate your weekend, you know, and cover that way. That's pitching in to help with the problem. It shouldn't all fall on the county. These cities ought to take responsibility for what's going on in their towns. Also, in addition maybe a meeting with them to say, hey, we're trying to get this under control, get this stuff together, you know, what do you all think about rotating, you know, your shift, like that? And see what they say they may say, yeah, good idea.

Mr. Leath: And Debbie, I know with your connections and the abuse, going to jail billboards that I've seen spread all around with your work, that we could rely upon the members of this board to sort of help us any way that we can to get that message spread, if I can find a way to sort of make this happen. So that makes sense. Okay, well, I wanted to at least bring that up to everyone because it's something that, you know, we have really put on our long term goals that we'd like to see happen. But we haven't really started being able to make any steps in the direction to see it to an end.

Mrs. Colletti: as an example, I something I would like to share in that there was I mean, the cat was horrendously sick, and it was in the city. Okay, I mean, I know personally, I've worked there I seen it. I called and they told me because of the COVID virus. No one was going out. No one was picking anything up. Not even if it was dying. They were not going out. That is what animal control told me Adam.

Ms. Clark: What city?

Mrs. Colletti: Deland. Of course Deland.

(Inaudible-many speaking at once)

Cathy Driggers joins the meeting

Mrs. Darino: My suggestion to start before you do the phone service is to get with the other cities and see if they'll stagger their work schedules. It doesn't cost anything to do that. And every city would be pretty much covered over on this side. If they just staggered their work, their days off.

Ms. Clark: Yeah, because shelters, Halifax is open seven days a week, I think New Hope is open mostly seven days.

Mr. Leath: The next point of business I wanted to can bring up to the board is performance measures. And you may have heard us mention this a couple of times. But behind the scenes, I really felt like it was important for this group, to have a great understanding of what are our goals? What are we doing, and why are we doing it? And how are we doing? It's really easy for people to pat themselves on the back and say we're doing a great job. But at Animal Services we want to know and we want to be able to objectively look at what are the numbers, how are we performing and trend the data. What does the data tell us? We're very numbers driven when it comes to you know how we're doing our work. We want to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. And we want to ensure that the work that's being done is being done as efficiently as possible. So how do we do
that? And I’m actually directing your attention to the PowerPoint that was sent in a PDF to everyone. And I don’t necessarily need to read the entire presentation verbatim to everyone. But I do want you to know that we had logic models, and goals. These essential goals talk about what we hope to accomplish within a five year period of time. And then specifically, how are we going to break down those goals into alright, I’m showing up to work today, I know that my goal is in five or 10 years, what am I going to do today? And how am I going to get closer to that goal? So here’s how we’re going to do that. So our first logic model is that animals are valued by society, protected by its laws, and free from cruelty, pain and suffering. On top of that, we want to ensure that citizens in Volusia County are protected from the potential threats that animals pose to public safety. So that is a lot. But that’s one of our main logic model goals.

The second is we want to ensure widespread access to high quality, low cost, spay neuter and veterinary services is available to pets in need.

And then the third is we want to keep pets out of shelters. And I know that’s probably something very, very near and dear to all of your hearts. Because if we really want to make a difference, we need to ensure that our shelter space is really reserved for those pets that there are no other options for and have to come into a shelter.

Okay, so how do we how do we break this all down? And you can look I’m now on the third slide. You can look? What are we looking at? We want to look to see, are we getting?

(Many members state they are on their phone and are unable to look at the performance measures)

Mr. Leath: Okay, no problem. I’ll hit the high points for everyone. So looking at in general, we’re looking to see, are we available to the public? Are we getting the message on the programs and services that we have out to the public? So we’re really measuring how many people are coming to our social media accounts? How many times are we on the radio? Are we in TV or print advertising or media? How much of that equates to advertising dollars? You would be surprised at how much advertising Animal Services has been able to do to get out there that doesn’t cost the taxpayers anything. But we’re trying to be, you know, frugal, we want to ensure that we’re being very frugal and not frivolous with that money. So if we able to get these free advertising dollars, that’s money that the taxpayers aren’t paying, but we’re still getting the opportunity to get the message out there.

We also are looking at awareness activities, things that we're doing out in the public, with our school presentations, both with school board, but also civic groups. And we’re looking at the number of s.o.p.s that we have within our division, are we revising those? Are they current? Is there new data or trend out in the community that might be a little different than the way that we’re doing things? Or maybe it’s right in line. So looking at those types of things is something that we want to continue to focus on. And then we really would like going back to what we said a moment ago, one of our long term goals is to ensure through this that municipalities are participating in a single reporting system. What that looks like right now is the 1-800 number. But we want to make it easy for people to report to us. So you can look at the numbers and the percentages. But what I can tell you is that, you know, we have over 121,000 people visit our social media account during the last quarter for the last three months of this year. So the first three months of this year, the last quarter.

Pretty impressive that we were also able to, with our awareness activities, and the number of s.o.g.s. We actually had 31 of them that we’ve reviewed during this last quarter and are updating and revising.

Ms. Clark: What’s an s.o.g.?

Mr. Leath: Standard operating guideline and standard operating procedure. So what employees would follow when they do their job. That it’s written down each step that they’re supposed to follow up.

The next thing that I wanted to sort of bring out to the group is the number of trainings that we’ve offered. One of the things that you may not be aware of is that we’ve been offering training up until COVID. We were doing it
every single week for two and a half hours each Tuesday with the cities. So we're doing our in house training for our animal control officers, the things that they need to know the things they may not be aware of. And we've invited all of the cities to participate. And we've been pretty excited to see that we're seeing a trend of more and more. In fact, we've had as many as three or four cities at one time, and these routine meetings to provide trainings.

We're also providing individual training with our ACOs, how are we measuring that? We're looking at the number of hours spent in training. So we're not only providing training to our ACOs, but we're bringing that training to the local police departments, the sheriff's office, Daytona State College has invited us to start speaking at the detectives academy, coming up to all new recruits and new hires and new police officers that are going into police force within our county. So those are some of the things that we're measuring.

We also are looking at the number of agreements that we have with the cities. I mentioned earlier that we have an interlocal agreement. If you are interested, it was posted on the April 4, county council agenda. But we want each of the cities to be able to ask us for assistance, and we want to be able to provide it and that they can reciprocate for that. We also want city residents to have access for spay neuter at our clinic. A cat doesn't care whether it's coming from a city or the county. And honestly, we need to be servicing all the animals if we intend on having the biggest impact for Volusia County. So this agreement would enable citizens of the cities to come to bring animals to our clinic for spay neuter. And that includes TNR, including the cities who are providing TNR services can also bring cats directly to us. So that's in process. We have three now that have put it onto their city councils. And we hope that they will finish.

(Inaudible-many speaking at once)

Mr. Leath: So I want to take two questions I heard at the same time. One, Karen asked which cities currently we have Deltona, I don't have my spreadsheet in front of me, but I know that there were three. It was Deltona, Ponce Inlet, and South Daytona. We have several they're trying to put it on.

Ms. Clark: I can help you with Orange City and Debary.

Mr. Leath: Ok perfect. That would be super helpful. They all have the copy of the agreements. And it's a non-monetary so it doesn't cost them anything to do it. And it doesn't cost us or the taxpayers to do it. It's just us working together to solve a problem.

Ms. Clark: Has Port Orange been asked yet?

Mr. Leath: Yes, Allen Rosen, who is their city attorney has it, as well as the chief of police. They're just reviewing it now. And they have not yet put it onto their city council agenda. But they are reviewing it now.

Mrs. Colletti: So my question is, we still only have one vet, am I right or wrong?

Mr. Leath: That is correct. We have one veterinarian, and then we have a line item in our budget for a contract veterinarian to be able to help us with the additional workflow.

Mrs. Colletti: Yeah, I was gonna say, you only have one poor vet, and do all this and bring everybody else on board, which is fantastic but who's gonna do it. I mean, who's gonna be doing the surgery?

Mr. Leath: We are.

Mrs. Colletti: You? You're not gonna do it. We don't have a we, we have a me. One. We have one vet.

Mr. Leath: And we also have a line item for a contract veterinarian. Currently, we do not have those cities on board. And what we currently have for workflow we are able to maintain and keep up with. With the additional workflow, we will be enacting the contract line that we have for a veterinarian, and we'll be able to bring on
additional assistance as needed. But if you've got any additional funds Mrs. Colletti and want to fund us another one? We're happy.

(laughter)

Mrs. Colletti: I'm gonna let you do it because you're making more than me. I'm working right now and I'm still out there feeding them. I'm eat and live as we speak. I'm giving it to my cat.

Ms. Clark: Okay, what's our next line item, what's our next agenda item?

Mr. Leath: We haven't completely gone through the performance measures but what I can do is just direct you to that.

We are measuring a lot of the things that I just went over. But in addition to that, what I thought was probably the most dramatic is the number of spay neuters that we've been able to provide, and the number of distinct areas of high need that we are identifying throughout the county. Pretty important stuff, pretty amazing numbers, I would just encourage you all, it's the work that's being done. And in our division. And as a member of the board, I want you to make sure you have access to the data and the numbers that we're producing, so that you know what it is that we're doing and how we're measuring it. It's pretty exciting that we had 293 TNR surgeries, just in the last quarter, which was an additional 17% over what we projected of 250. We also were able to reduce our cost per surgery, we're also doing you know, the average time we're able to reduce the time it takes to do a single surgery. All those things are going to enable us to provide more lifesaving surgery to more pets. And it's an important goal that we all share.

And so the last point I wanted to make before we close out on this particular item, our second quarter alone, looking at the number of spay and neuters with dogs and cats, we had 79 dogs, and 337 total cats, if you look at the number of pets that that could have resulted in for reproducing a two and three litters a year, that's over 6319 pets that were not born, that did not have to go to a shelter that were not brought in when there weren't resources to care for them. On top of that, we removed 328 animals in this three month quarter as a result of cruelty and neglect. So as a total of 6647 animals saved just in the second quarter of this year.

Ms. Clark: And don't forget you were also closed to spay and neuter for a time period. So you actually did a lot in less time.

Mr. Leath: Right. I appreciate you saying so. That's exactly right.

Mrs. Colletti: I agree. But so my question when you're saying that, you know, you remove this and you remove the animals and God knows a lot of them do need to be gone. Thank God that you were part of that, a big part of that. Are we able to know what's going on with Florence and her animals?

Ms. Clark: That's not part of this meeting.

Mrs. Colletti: All right. Well, I just thought I'd ask.

Mr. Leath: Okay, so the next bullet point, Cathy's back on the line, I can certainly pass the gavel to you. But I think it's any new business. And then we have public participation and then selecting the date for the next meeting.

Ms. Clark: I have a question. When a person and I'm just using me for the past three weeks, I've been calling your dispatch about (inaudible) knows the Church family and 2020 Glenwood Hammock Rd. All the complaints, I have photos, but they're too big to email to (inaudible). They get out every day. And they're sitting on Grand Avenue and everybody who comes around here, no one does 35 miles an hour. And not one person in animal control has called me back. And that was one of the things for dispatch then. Would you like your name or
anonymous? I said no, it’s me, Karen Clark and here’s my phone number. And not once has anyone contacted me. (Inaudible).

Mr. Leath: If I could, I would like to ask Alicia Dease, she’s our field supervisor who I know is very familiar with the situation, be able to talk specifically about what we’ve done to respond to your concern.

Ms. Clark: Excellent. I can wait until another day.

Mr. Leath: Nope, she's on the line now and she can respond to that.

Officer Dease: Hi, this is Alicia. We have actually responded out there. Officer Richards actually responded and reported to me that she spoke with you last week.

Ms. Clark: I know, she didn't respond to anything. I happened to see her as she was doing paperwork in a parking area. But I couldn't email her all the video that I got of these dogs. I couldn't do it because the file was too large. But that was it.

Officer Dease: Okay.

Ms. Clark: I've been calling for three weeks.

Officer Dease: I'm not aware of you calling for three weeks, but I am aware of you contacting last week and she did respond out there. In fact, she reported that she was completing her report about the complaint when you approached her.

Ms. Clark: ok. Anyway they were still out. Everyday they're out. Every single day. And now they go down even further down Whipperwill behind me that the neighbors behind them say they look like little hairy Chihuahuas. One was white and one was black, and they're out again. And your office has been inundated with the Church family. You're well aware of it.

Officer Dease: Yes, ma'am. I am. I've been there myself. Each time that you see them out, please most definitely give a call into dispatch and make a report, our officers will be glad to respond accordingly. And I will also notify the officers to do some random patrols to proactively address this problem.

Ms. Clark: When charity was there and another person who was there for Charity, they came to my house or come to my house and got my phone. And somehow they transfer the videos and the photos onto their phones. For evidence and it was timestamped.

Officer Dease: Okay.

Ms. Clark: We don't need to do this at the animal control board meeting. I don't want to take up any more time. You have my number. Just call me another time.

Officer Dease: Okay, I can do that.

Ms. Clark: Yeah, I don't want to waste everybody's time on this.

Officer Dease: No problem. Thank you.

Ms. Clark: That was just an example of people getting frustrated.

Mr. Leath: Is there any new business, public participation and setting the date and time for next week?

Mrs. Darino: Okay, do you want me to go ahead and say what I have to say for you guys?
Mr. Leath: Absolutely

Mrs. Darino: Okay. So like I told the group, Adam, you weren't here yet, is an amendment to the misdemeanor statute. There's some wording in there that I want to move over to the felony side. And it comes from a lot of these cases that I've been contacted on where the animals are getting killed. And they shouldn't be. Bottom line. And it only amounts to a misdemeanor. Misdemeanor laws are not, there's no mandatory sentencing for them, right? But they can get up to a year in jail, $1,000 fine, a year of probation, but they're really not getting any of that. So what I'm doing, like I said, as I'm moving over some of the wording in particular, unnecessarily mutilating, killing an animal or causing the same to be done. Push that over to the felony side.

I also did a definition of what shelter is. And I took several different other states in the country have their definitions, and I found the one that was, I thought the most appropriate and non-confrontational, non-argumentative, to use and it basically you know, I can read it to you guys real quick, just so you know. So, the adequate shelter means provision of an access to shelter that is suitable for the species, the age, the condition, the size, and the type of each animal. Provides adequate space for each animal, is safe from protecting animals from injury, rain, snow, hail, direct sunlight, the adverse effects of heat or cold, physical suffering and impairment of health, is properly lighted, properly cleaned, enables each animal to be clean and dry, except when detrimental to the species. During hot weather it is properly shaded and does not readily conduct heat. During cold weather has a windbreak at its entrance and provide the quantity of bedding material consisting of straw cedar shavings, or the equivalent, that is sufficient to protect the animals from cold and promotes the retention of body heat. And for dogs and cats, provides a solid surface, resting platform pad format, or similar device that's large enough for the animal to lie on in a normal manner, and can be maintained in a sanitary manner. Under this chapter, shelters whose wired grid or slat floors permit the animals seats to pass through the openings, sag under the animal's weight, or otherwise do not protect the animal's feet or toes from injury are not adequate shelter.

Mrs. Colletti: Do we have where it has to be above the ground like they used to have it here? So that the rain, you know, got too high didn't get into the dog house.

Mrs. Darino: Right. That's in the middle part of that. It should be designed to protect them from all the elements that we have here in Florida. And I didn't want to get too detailed with it. I've already run this through the state attorneys across the state, most of them. The president of our state attorneys prosecuting Attorneys Association, they love it. I've got some of the animal organizations to review it, they like it as well. And so does my bill sponsor. So that's pretty much what I'm doing. Just need to tidy up and that will also help when some of these counties, not our county or some of the surrounding, but there's a lot of counties where their ordinances are just outdated. So what they can do, and, you know, if they're not going to update it, at least refer to the statute as part of their ordinance.

Mrs. Colletti: They told me one time that the dog was on a porch. It was pouring, pouring rain and hail. He goes, look, he's got shelter. I said, why don't you stand out there?

Mrs. Darino: That's why that's why we're defining what shelter is and what it is exactly. I've had them say, well, it's got three sides, (inaudible-many speaking at once)

Mrs. Darino: It just needs to be redefined. These people that don't have their ordinances updated. And a lot of these rural areas, they can refer to the statute and stats. I don't want the people that are just poor not knowing what a shelter is to be penalized for it. So you know, that's another way of saying, Hey, this is what the statute says. So this is, you know, a little education, and go ahead, and educate them on it, so it's there. And then they know they have to abide by that. It can't be just if you feel like it.

Mrs. Colletti: when we donated dog houses for the longest time, the Deacon put it in there for free. And people were donating their dog houses when my husband was alive. I mean, we re-did it, we attached it to a skid, we put everything in that dog house, and we put holes in the bottom so that the water wouldn't go. And we donated it. I have two here. If anybody knows someone who needs a dog house, let me know.
Mrs. Darino: And the other thing is, Adam, when you want to get something together? Yes, I have contacts with the Billboard. They did the Ponce's law billboard, actually, as a thank you, and whatever I need. So I do have that connection, if we need it.

Ms. Clark: We have a huge network on our board of all of our connections outreach. So Adam, the county is so lucky to have all of us put our heads together and get stuff done. At usually a lower cost. And the fact that you are at animal control is reviving everything at the same time.

Mr. Leath: Great idea. I think the last point was that we needed to identify and vote on the remaining date for the next board meetings for the next quarter.

Members discuss a date

Mr. Leath: Okay, so can we identify a date? I know that we've tried to do the survey monkey a few times. And I know that there are some has some concerns about it being on a specific day of the week, and others have concerns about it being on another day of the week. It would be really helpful if we can identify and vote on that date while we're together.

Mrs. Colletti: I work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. So I'm available Thursday or Friday and I have to work and that's if I go back. I don't even know if she's gonna let me go back.

Discussion regarding the time of the meeting.

Mrs. Driggers: Alternating is what we had talked about before. And I think that's best. You're not going to find that 9:00 is better for everybody and neither is 5:30.

The next date/time was set for August 20, 2020 at 9:00am***

Meeting Adjourned.

***This date was postponed. ***