

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, September 13, 2018**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2018 in the County Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting a Work Session.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Smrkovsky called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

ROLL CALL: Deputy Clerk Pilar Salcido called roll. The following Commissioners constituting a quorum were present:

**Barbara L. Reedy, District 1
Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chair, District 2**

SERVICE AWARDS: Luna County Detention Center Director Chris Brice presented an award for five years of service to Javier Gallegos.

PRESENTATIONS:

Commissions' Report on Ruff Ruff Sanctuary Complaint: Charles C Kretek, County Attorney submitted a written report and attached timeline of activity in response to a formal complaint by Alan Edmonds regarding Ruff Ruff Animal Sanctuary.

PUBLIC INPUT: Sandy Hastings, Director of Humane Society Robert Floyd, Michelle Whitehurst, John Whitehurst, Pat Danser with Deming Animal Guardians, Matt Robinson, Seth Delanoy, Jamie Holingsworth, Julia Granado, Sharon Miller, Board Member and Director of Deming Animal Guardians Mike Reitz, Alberta Morgan and Jackie Nobel came before the Board and provided public input regarding the ordinance for animal control and the situation with the Ruff Ruff Animal Sanctuary. The following recommendations were brought forth by the concerned citizens who spoke.

- Spay and neuter very important
- The need to have more places to put animals is urgent
- Put restrictions on amount of animals for first year facilities
- Define the amount of animals per caregiver
- County should be responsible to oversee sanctuaries
- Background check should be required for anyone starting animal sanctuaries
- Spay and neuter before taking animal from Humane Society should be required
- Luna County needs someone in charge of animal control
- There is a problem in Luna County with dogs being overbreeding
- Many complaints were made regarding animal abuse at the Ruff Ruff sanctuary

- Bring together Commission, Sheriffs and local veterinary as part of the Ordinance structure
- Transparency and accountability is key
- Licensee should be held accountable
- Inspections should be done by third party i.e. Dr. Wetzel was inspector for Army
- Breeder should have license fees, large fines applied if license fees not paid
- Intact dogs should have to pay extra fees to have them intact
- 501C3 non-profit should be part of the rescue
- Fines and fees should be applied to pay for inspectors, County wouldn't have to pay
- Existing ordinances are inadequate and the revision as proposed is also inadequate
- The County is in need of well-defined ordinances, similar to Santa Fe's or Dona Ana's
- Those in charge of inspections should be held accountable, if not the licensee then the Humane Society for issuing a license after knowing the background of licensee

ADJOURN: Upon motion made by Commissioner Reedy and a second made by Chair Smrkovsky adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

ATTEST:



 Andrea Rodriguez, Luna County Clerk

**LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF
 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

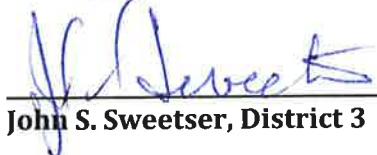


 Barbara L. Reedy, District 1

Approved: 10/11/18



 Chair, Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2



 John S. Sweetser, District 3

