

**Gallup-McKinley County Animal Control Authority**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes**  
**City Council Chambers**

The Regular Meeting of the Gallup-McKinley County Animal Control Authority was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Cherry Menapace.

Upon roll call, the following were present:

Cherry Menapace  
Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD  
Patty Holland  
Dorie Rowberry

Upon roll call, the following were absent:

Tommy Nelson

Presented to the Chairwoman and Authority Board Members for their approval were the minutes of the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. Board Member Palomo motioned for approval of minutes as presented. Seconded by Board Member Rowberry. Motion Carried.

Upon roll call, the following votes were:

Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD (Yes)  
Dorie Rowberry (Yes)  
Patty Holland (abstained- did not attend 10/8/19 meeting)  
Cherry Menapace (Yes)

**ITEM ONE: Annual Open Meetings Act, Resolution #RA 2020-01**

Clyde (C.B.) Strain, Planning & Development Director began by explaining how this item was the Board's annual review in regards to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. It requires entities that hold open meetings to adopt a resolution establishing dates and times of their meetings as well as notice time frames. CB explained how nothing had changed from the last Open Meetings Act Resolution that was approved in 2019. The Board will continue to meet on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October at 1 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Regular meetings will require a ten (10) day notice, special meetings three (3) day notice, and emergency meetings twenty-four (24) hour notice to the news media. The notices will also include information regarding disability accommodations and other special requirements. CB informed the Board that if they would like to change the meeting times now would be the time to do so. If there

were no changes, the Board could approve the resolution as presented and adopt the same quarterly meeting time of 1 p.m.

Chairwoman Menapace asked the Board Members if they had any questions or changes. There were none.

Chairwoman Menapace stated that the item was closed.

Motion to approve or deny Resolution # RA 2020-01. Board Member Palomo motioned for approval of Item One. Seconded by Board Member Rowberry. Motion Carried.

Upon roll call, the following votes were:

Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD (Yes)

Dorie Rowberry (Yes)

Patty Holland (Yes)

**ITEM TWO: Quarterly Financial Report**

Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer began by explaining how the Animal Control Quarterly Report (Pages 2-1 & 2-2) included data from the first quarter of fiscal year 2020 (July 2019 to September 2019). With the timings of the meetings the quarterly reports are a few months behind. Board Member Holland stated that Animal Control's total budget at that time was \$659,773.00 whereas \$168,378.00 had been spent, which showed that they were right on track spending about twenty-five percent (25%) of their budget. She continued by stating that there wasn't any many major surprises or emergency items in their budget. There was however a couple of modifications because of a slight increase in the rent of the building, which has been reflected in the quarterly report. Board Member Holland reiterated how Animal Control's spending was right on track and was exactly what they had anticipated.

Chairwoman Menapace asked the Board Members if they had any questions. There were none.

Chairwoman Menapace stated that the item was closed.

Motion to accept or not accept the quarterly financial report. Board Member Palomo motioned to accept Item Two. Seconded by Board Member Rowberry. Motion Carried.

Upon roll call, the following votes were:

Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD (Yes)

Dorie Rowberry (Yes)

Patty Holland (Yes)

**ITEM THREE: Present Animal Control statistics from January to December 2019**

Cosy Balok, Animal Protection Supervisor began by explaining how they keep track of their statistics throughout the year. She referenced Page 3-1 where it breaks down the annual number of animals spayed/neutered, adopted, transferred, reclaimed and euthanized. They also show where animals are received from; City, County and Navajo Nation. Cosy went on to state that in 2019 they had a total of 5,004 animals come into their shelter and in 2018 4,808 which was an increase of 196 animals. She referenced the Incoming Animals 2 Year Comparison graph on Page 3-2 where the Board could visualize the number of increasing animals coming from the Navajo Nation. She went back to Page 3-1 where the total number of incoming animals for 2019 from the Navajo Nation was 1,990, the County was 1,175 and the City 1,839. On the bright side the McKinley County Humane Society has been able to transport out a total of 3,723 animals meaning that they don't have many to euthanize. Cosy stated that within the City and County they've adopted out 337 animals and released several wild animals such as, snakes and skunks back into the wild.

Cosy spoke about the trap, spay/neuter and release program, which has been doing very well for the community. She explained how they work with people in certain areas where there are several cats who don't have a home. These people either bring them in or they help trap them so they can spay/neuter, vaccinate and release them back to the same area. The people are okay with those cats living in their neighborhoods as long as they've been fixed and they also take the responsibility of occasionally putting out food for them and taking care of them. Cosy explained how a lot of people like to do this because the feral cats can't be placed into a home and people also use them for barn cats, which the shelter does provide for free. The spay/neuter release program is popular throughout the country and they're just now getting into it and thus far has been a success. Cosy stated that people really do appreciate the program because it helps keep the numbers down and those fixed cats will keep new cats from coming in being that they're territorial.

Cosy then went on to state that their euthanasia rates were pretty good where they only put down 242 animals for 2019. These euthanized animals were unadoptable meaning they were too feral to rehabilitate or too sick/injured to fix. She pointed out how they don't euthanize animals just because they're not wanted, which was where the McKinley County Humane Society's transfers come into play. Cosy ended by speaking about how they had 10 animals for rabies watch throughout 2019.

Board Member Holland asked if any of the rabies tests came back positive. Cosy responded that none were positive and that they've never had any positive except about twenty (20) years ago from a bat. Cosy stated that bats were one of the most likely animals to have rabies so they tell everyone not to mess with bats. Board Member Palomo stated that the last rabies case he knew about in our area was in 1964 for a dog.

Board Member Palomo stated that according to Page 3-1 the number of animals euthanized by City residents was 115, which was almost twice as much as the reservation and county and wondered why. Cosy stated that they have euthanasia by owner

requests separated out on the report so she wasn't sure why that number was higher in the City. Cosy thinks it may be because of injured animals that were hit by cars or sick animals within the City that officers picked up.

Cosy informed the Board that the problem with the incoming reservation animals has continued to increase. She heard that the Navajo Nation was building a new shelter in Crownpoint, New Mexico, but hasn't seen a decrease in their numbers. Cosy stated that their shelters continue to be full with mostly reservation animals and wasn't sure how much longer the City could afford to do so. She didn't think that it was fair that their kennels were full with reservation animals whereas they turn away several City and County animals. Cosy stated that as of today they were again full and not accepting any animals. Yesterday they took in 42 dogs and most were from the reservation. She explained how without the help of the McKinley Humane Society they wouldn't be able to handle all these animals because they do an average of three (3) transports per week. There was a discussion between Board Members and staff about how animals are dumped in the City and it was a hard position for the Board to act on reservation animals. Cosy stated that they needed to encourage the reservation to contribute to help take care of their animals.

Cosy informed the Board about their first hoarding case of 2020 where they had 57 animals (47 dogs and 10 cats) housed in Thoreau, New Mexico. She explained how the animal owners were cooperating with Animal Control and how all the animals were in pretty good condition. Animal Control has already taken 23 animals and will continue to take more every week until they're down to their limit of four (4).

Board Member Palomo asked if there was any way Cosy could work with Cibola County when one of their shelters doesn't have space. Cosy responded that she wasn't sure how much their facility could hold or if that would even be an option.

Board Member Holland asked about the Livestock 2 Year Comparison graph on Page 3-5 and wanted to know what type of livestock animals were being dropped off. Cosy responded that it was mostly horses that people could no longer take care of. She also spoke about how cows have been coming into the City to get water and how they've been having recent problems on the east end of Gallup.

Chairwoman Menapace asked the Board Members if they had any additional questions. There were none.

Chairwoman Menapace stated that the item was closed.

Motion to accept or not accept the Animal Control statistic report. Board Member Holland motioned to accept Item Three. Seconded by Board Member Rowberry. Motion Carried.

Upon roll call, the following votes were:

Patty Holland (Yes)

Dorie Rowberry (Yes)  
Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD (Yes)

**ITEM FOUR: Animal Control Address Change**

Cosy Balok, Animal Protection Supervisor informed the Board that the Animal Control facilities address has changed from 1315B Hamilton Road to 1273 Balok Street.

Chairwoman Menapace asked the Board Members if they had any questions. There were none.

**Open Floor:**

Clint Balok, Veterinarian for the City of Gallup approached the podium and introduced himself. Mr. Balok explained how he wanted to ask for the Board's support for a new animal care facility for about 12,000 square feet. He spoke about how several animal care facilities throughout New Mexico have been built with state support such as, Farmington, Grants, Bernalillo, Hobbs and Las Cruces. Since 1988 he's fought the battle for housing animals and with the statistics just presented it proved how full their shelter was. Mr. Balok gave an example of how 5,000 animals could fill up a gymnasium or a semi-truck. He spoke about how Bernalillo recently got a new animal facility about 17,000 square feet with 14 animal control officers whereas Gallup only had 4. Bernalillo's new facility also has surgical rooms and the director is paid \$150,000.00 annually. Mr. Balok informed the Board that in Gallup they do about 3,000 surgeries per year. He claimed that Bernalillo hasn't done any surgeries in their new facility yet, but holds 3,500 animals per year. He thought that there was some disparity being that the total number of animals housed in Gallup was about 5,000. He wondered if it was because it's Gallup or if they just don't know the right people to help make the new shelter happen. Mr. Balok emphasized how they really needed a new animal facility and how he's been fighting for it for 40 years. What he really needed was for the Board's support in lobbying. Mr. Balok stated that Senator Munoz has pledged 3 to 4 million dollars to go towards a new regional animal care facility. The architect estimates the new building to cost about 6 million dollars; so there's a shortfall. He reminded the Board how they also have the County, the Tribe and other senators and representatives in the state that could get funding to use discretionary funds. Mr. Balok stated that if they were going to get a facility this was the year to make it happen because he believes there will be the funds this year. He encouraged them to talk to City Councilors, County Commissioners and Council of Governments because there were a lot of people who could add their input and influence the whole region. Mr. Balok spoke about how the current shelter was not only full with animals, but with supplies and equipment. For years a Gallup animal facility has never been a priority, but the statistics make it clear and thinks Gallup deserves a new place for their animals. Mr. Balok stated they've been doing so much for so long with very little and that's now what's expected of them, which was not right. He reiterated how the Board needed to support the new facility and take the opportunity to ask their leaders to step up.

Board Member Rowberry stated that it would be very helpful if Mr. Balok could provide the Board copies of the statistics and the proposed building plans that way they're well informed when they start soliciting these politicians.

Board Member Palomo requested Mr. Balok send them a list of all the people he would like them to contact.

Mr. Balok stated how he was unsure which politicians to go to. He then spoke about he discussed the new animal facility with the mayor and he said they needed to get with the senator to develop a game plan. However, Mr. Balok was frustrated because everyone was too busy and certain leaders couldn't get along. There was a brief discussion between Board Members on how the Council of Governments was going to Santa Fe next week to discuss issues for the Gallup area.

Board Member Holland explained how capital outlay projects were directed by the City Council's request whereas 5 to 8 items were listed, but normally only funds 1 item that's Council's top priority. As far as discretionary funding it's an open ball game where you can speak to leaders and possibly obtain commitments, but it varies. Board Member Holland asked Mr. Balok if the facilities he mentioned earlier were all funded by the state or grants. Mr. Balok stated that he assumed a majority was funded by state funding. Board Member Holland asked Mr. Balok what the current square footage of their facility was. Mr. Balok responded that it was about 6,000 square feet.

Mr. Balok mentioned how the facility has been through some tough times. For about 20 years they had to heat the building with 4 wood and coal stoves and they had to ask for wood and coal donations. He stated that was the past, but still needed to improve for the future. Mr. Balok stated that anything the Board could assist with would be greatly appreciated and thanked them for their concerns.

Motion was made by Board Member Holland to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Board Member Palomo. Motion Carried.

Upon roll call, the following votes were:

Patty Holland (Yes)  
Dr. Oscar A. Palomo, MD (Yes)  
Dorie Rowberry (Yes)

Authority Board meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

## GALLUP MCKINLEY COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY

*Cherry Menapace*

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CHAIRWOMAN CHERRY MENAPACE

ATTEST:

*Clyde Strain*

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CLYDE (C.B.) STRAIN  
SECRETARY TO GALLUP MCKINLEY COUNTY  
ANIMAL CONTROL AUTHORITY