Attendees:
Hannah Beaver, Animal Services Director
Michael Hull, Senior Animal Services Officer
Dr. Karen Miller
Robin Franklin
Diane Leatherman
Lindsey Houser, Animal Control Administrative Secretary
Doug Woods
Mark Connolly

Guest Attendees:
None

Opening:
Director Beaver handed out the minutes from 2/5/19 as well as a copy of the Draft Animal Ordinance in a more ordinance like fashion and an Operation Home flyer. At the absence of Chairman Oliphant, Vice Chairman Doug Woods opened the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Approval of Minutes:
Vice Chairman Woods asked the board if there were any suggestions or changes required for the minutes from the last advisory board meeting on February 5th, 2019. The minutes were approved with a motion from Diane Leatherman and a second by Dr. Karen Miller.
Ordinance Draft Progress:

Director Beaver handed out a more ordinance-like rough draft of the animal ordinance and asked the advisory board for any suggestions/comments.

Vice Chairman Doug Woods asked what the timeline was for introducing the new ordinance. Director Beaver stated that county management would like to present the new ordinance to the Board of Commissioners by December 2019.

Mark Connolly asked if the areas in blue on the draft were still in progress, to which Director Beaver replied that they were.

Director Beaver stated that when the new ordinance and dangerous dog protocol is introduced, LCAS will have a summarized version of this for the officers (for enforcement purposes) as well as the public.

Diane Leatherman asked if the Animal Services Advisory Board has discussed “Dangerous Dogs from Other Jurisdictions” on pg. 10. Director Beaver stated that this was something that animal services had been dealing with recently with a dangerous dog living in Catawba County that killed a dog residing in Lincoln County. This would cover bases in regards to neighboring county’s dogs behaving in a dangerous manner within Lincoln County.

Director Beaver mentioned changes to dangerous dogs and exotic laws that may be made by NCAF in the future. She states that these possible changes are relevant, but won’t get in the way of the ordinance progressing. If changes are necessary due to a change called for by NCAF, they will be made.

Mark Connolly asked what the current ordinance says about wolf hybrids. Michael Hull responded by saying that wolf hybrids have lived within Lincoln County with a permit from LCAS. Mark Connolly questioned how his business in Lincoln County would be affected if he chose to accept out of county wolf hybrids for training. Director Beaver stated that she would do further research into this matter.

Diane Leatherman asks about 92.17 (111) regarding the BOC appointing members to the ASAB. Director Beaver stated that she was still unsure of the answer to this question and would look into it further.

Director Beaver ended the conversation by telling the ASAB to email her anytime with further questions regarding the draft ordinance as this would not be the last time the draft would be discussed.

Animal Services Facility Update:

Director Beaver stated that a large scale renovation to the current animal shelter would be too expensive and that building a new shelter was in the plans for the next 3 to 5 years. A recent Department of Agriculture inspection brought to light the need to redo floors and kennels in the dog holding area in the back of the current facility. Director Beaver stated that these updates would be done simultaneously. These upgrades will change the shelter’s dog intake slightly, with the current dog adopt area to become a temporary dog hold area. Adoptable dogs would be moved to an offsite location for adoptions. The temporary shelter license requires hot and cold water, concrete floors and heating and air in the facility. Director Beaver stated that this temporary shelter would be needed for thirty days and that we were looking for places in the near future but not immediately.

Vice Chairman Doug Woods asked if we could work with neighboring county shelters during this time to house some of our animals. Director Beaver stated that this would not be an option.
Mark Connolly suggested using the old Lincolnton Animal Hospital building. Dr. Karen Miller stated that different areas in the building could easily be staged for different animals. Director Beaver stated that this was a good idea as it was not too far from the shelter and would be ideal for moving animals back and forth.

**Other Animal Services Business:**

Director Beaver mentioned the possibility of introducing a Euthanasia Policy and Protocol for the animal shelter. Medical euthanasia decisions are easier to make than behavior euthanasia decisions, and with recent issues in the shelter, this would be beneficial. She stated that euthanasia for behavioral reasons had been had for newer employees to handle and that there were misunderstandings about with LCAS was supposed to do- not just save all animals, but also protect the public from dangerous animals. She suggested possible meeting dates in the future for creating policies and protocols for euthanasia decisions. Vice Chairman Doug Woods stated that from a trainer’s perspective, dogs with unpredictable aggression to humans are the hardest to train. Mark Connolly stated that euthanasia for behavior reasons was a hard decision to make. Dr. Karen Miller stated that you can’t trust an animal that is a liability. Mark Connolly stated that sometimes trainers have to recommend euthanasia because trainers are the last resort for a dog with behavior issues before euthanasia. Director Beaver referenced the recent issues with staff regarding the euthanasia of Diesel on 4/29/19. Diesel was surrendered with a long history of animal control violations and severe dog aggression. This was a prime example of issues with the current lack of euthanasia protocols and staff members. She stated that the ASAB would begin to address euthanasia protocols on the next meeting on July 2nd. Robin Franklin asked if every dog with behavior issues could be successfully trained if money wasn’t an issue, to which Doug Woods and Mark Connolly both replied “no”. Mark Connolly stated that aggression can be an addiction to dogs. Director Beaver also mentioned that a mother dog’s pregnancy can influence a puppy’s behavior in the future. Dr. Miller echoed the sentiment, stating that socialization is vital in the first 12 weeks of a puppy’s life.

Director Beaver mentioned the 1st felony cruelty case in her tenure of Director at Animal Services. LCAS and the LCSO worked together in the dog starvation case in Lincoln County.

Director Beaver also mentioned the Community Cat program, which has successfully altered over 1,000 cats and purchased a new transport to van with the first $100,000 installment of the grant. She also mentioned that TNR as a shelter outcome would be coming up for consideration at the state level.

Director Beaver stated that LCAS would be beginning a Veterans Program, with assistance from animal caretaker McKenzie Cook. This program will assist veterans with finding long lasting matches. Animal services will be working with Lincoln County Veterans Services to do this. There is a possibility that something like this may occur in the future with senior services.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting dates for the advisory board will be Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019 and Tuesday, August 6th.
Public Comments:
None

Motion to Adjourn:
A motion was made to adjourn by Mark Connolly, with a second by Robin Franklin. The meeting ended at 7:28 PM.