

Minutes approved 10.8.26



Health Services Committee Meeting

Tazewell County Health Department Board Room

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Jay Hall, Vice-Chairman Greg Sinn, Greg Longfellow, Tammy Rich-Stimson, Jon Hopkins, Mark Goddard, Eric Schmidgall, Cathryn Stump

Committee Members Absent:

Others Attending: Mindy Darcy, County Administrator
Libby Aeschleman, Animal Control
Melissa Goetze, Environmental Health
Stacy Thompson, Environmental Health

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER HOPKINS, SECOND BY MEMBER RICH-STIMSON** to approve the July 9, 2026 meeting and August 26, 2026 in-place meeting minutes

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ANIMAL CONTROL Animal Control Director, Libby Aeschleman, provided an overview of the May and June revenue, euthanasia, kennel services, bites, registration, officer call-outs, and expense reports.

Director Aeschleman stated that the first couple weeks of June are their busiest time of the year.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

Director Aeschleman stated that the animals have not yet been moved over to the new facility. She stated that they have been waiting for their computers and appliances to fully move to the new facility. She stated that the facility's capacity, in terms of raw numbers, is only 15% to 20% greater than the current facility can accommodate. She stated that the goal is to have higher adoption numbers, more public interactions, and move more dogs efficiently through the shelter at a higher speed.

Administrator Mindy Darcy stated that bills are still coming in; however, the project will come in under the contingency funds that were set aside.

MOTION BY MEMBER RICH-STIMSON, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD to recommend to Approve Service Agreement with Vonachen Group, Inc.

Director Aeschleman stated that they currently use Cintas for the cleaning services. She stated that currently they pay \$320 every two weeks to clean the bathrooms and floor mats. She stated that the cost of the service is \$500 per month. The company provides cleaning services three times per week and cleans a list of areas and items. She added that Vonachen was recommended by Mike Schone, whose facility they currently clean.

Member Rich-Stimson recommended closely monitoring Vonachen's service, noting that her organization uses the company. She stated that after Vonachen changed the staff assigned to their facility, the quality of service declined from excellent to poor.

Director Aeschleman stated that she purchases cleaning supplies from Atlas.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vice-Chairman Sinn questioned if any decisions have been made about what the County will do with the old facility. Administrator Darcy stated that no decisions have been made.

Member Hopkins stated that several people have recently expressed concerns regarding the hours of operation for Animal Control. He noted that the current hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. make it difficult for individuals who work during the day to access the facility. He asked whether there was a possibility of opening on Saturdays or extending business hours beyond 4:00 p.m.

Director Aeschleman stated that fewer than 1% of animal reclaims occur at 8:00 a.m. She explained that if someone is able to reach an on-call officer, staff have, in the past, allowed the animal to be left at the shelter so it can be reclaimed before the weekend. She added that staff always make a reasonable effort to arrange a time for owners to pick up their animals. Director Aeschleman stated that, without making significant changes to the shelter's business hours, she is unsure how the facility could accommodate individuals who work a typical 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule.

**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Environmental Health Director Melissa Goetze stated Amy Fox and Stacie Ealey are in Green Valley passing out meals for kids. She stated that every Thursday through Tazewell County Sun Meals, meals can be picked up for kids, ages 0-18. She stated that each

week, 14 meals are provided (7 breakfast and 7 lunches). She stated that in the first three weeks, 464 children received meals which totaled 6,496 meals. She stated that the average cost to feed a child breakfast and lunch per week is \$50.00 when they are out of school. She stated that it takes about 10 volunteers per week and they would appreciate the help.

Member Rich-Stimson questioned if this is for any child and Director Goetze confirmed that any child can receive the meals, regardless of income.

Administrator Darcy questioned why Green Valley was selected as a pickup location. Director Goetze explained that the location had to be in a rural area that demonstrated economic disparity.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Environmental Health Supervisor Stacy Thompson stated they just hired a new Environmental Health Specialist and they found out this week that their Food Program Manager, Adam Bazzetta, is leaving for an IDPH job.

Supervisor Thompson stated that there has been four positive mosquito pools in Tazewell County, including Pekin, Tremont, Morton, and Hopedale. She stated that they also recently did a tick drag in Manito and several ticks were sent off for testing.

Supervisor Thompson stated that they have implemented their new Environmental Health software (CDP) and recently had training on that. She stated that their current program is sunseting at the end of 2026.

Supervisor Thompson passed around a plaque that Tazewell County received from the 21st Century Schools Washington Extended Day Program.

DISCUSSION: **Changes for Body Art Ordinance**

DISCUSSION: **Sewage Ordinance Changes Regarding Annual Effluent Testing**

SOLID WASTE Environmental Health Director Melissa Goetze stated that they held a sharps take back event on May 1, 2026 and they filled three 50 gallon containers.

Vice-Chairman Greg Sinn recessed the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)